



Welcome Home

In early 2012, LAU purchased a building in midtown Manhattan, with the goal of creating a New York Headquarters and Academic Center. The Headquarters is located a few blocks away from the United Nations, various UN agencies, country consulates, and UN missions. LAU's Headquarters is now nearly completed, and its inaugural event, the Global Outreach and Leadership (GOAL) Conference will take place in September in conjunction with the semi-annual meeting of the LAU Board of Trustees and 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala.



The 30,000 square foot building houses

LAU's New York Advancement, Financial Aid and Investment offices. The academic area includes ten classrooms, large lecture areas, a student lounge and a library. The New York Headquarters and Academic Center will offer courses pertaining to the Middle East, including Arabic language classes, cultural studies, religion, peace and development, and Arab countries economics. These courses will be designed to attract students and professionals in the New York City tri-state area who want to enhance and expand their knowledge of the region.

"LAU is committed to academic

excellence, student centeredness, civic engagement, the advancement of scholarship, the education of the whole person and the formation of leaders in a diverse world," Dr. Elie Badr, Assistant to the President, Strategy Officer For External Projects and Related Entities, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering explained recently. "LAU's New York Headquarters and Academic Center can play a major 'bridging the gap' role between the West and the Middle East. The Headquarters will also play a role in facilitating the global experience of current LAU students who may choose to go for a semester abroad in New York with the same institution they are enrolled in," he added.

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3RD ANNUAL *Gala*

13 September 2013

THE PIERRE | NEW YORK CITY

On Friday, September 13, LAU will celebrate its 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. This year's Gala will honor Dr. Edgar Choueiri, the Honorable Ray LaHood and Judge Jeanine Pirro, three prominent Lebanese-American figures. Dr. Choueiri is a plasma physicist, President of the Lebanese Academy of Sciences, and professor of applied physics and aerospace engineering at Princeton University. Ray LaHood served as the U.S. Secretary of Transportation from 2009 to 2013 and represented Illinois's 18th congressional district in the House of Representatives from 2005 to 2009. Judge Pirro was the District Attorney of Westchester County for 12 years and is currently the star of the reality legal television show "Justice with Judge Jeanine" on Fox News.

"This Gala will be the centerpiece of several major events. The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, September 12 and Friday, September 13 at LAU's new Headquarters and Academic Center. In addition, the New York Academic Center will be inaugurated during the special Global Outreach And Leadership (GOAL) two-day conference," said Ed Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects. (See page 7 for additional details on the GOAL Conference).

During the Gala, the honorees will be introduced and presented with LAU's Sarah Huntington Smith Award, named after the founder of the American School for Girls which evolved into LAU. University President Joseph G. Jabbara, will give an address updating everyone on LAU's latest developments. The Alex Donner Orchestra will provide music for dancing during dinner and following the program.

Funds raised from this Gala will be allocated to the programs of the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW).

"We look forward to an exciting gathering of LAU's friends, contributors, and alumni, a successful fundraiser and a spectacular New York City Gala!" Shiner said.



LAU's 2011 2nd Annual Fundraising Gala in New York City.

ON OUR WEBSITES

Visit the LAU Matters website for additional information on events, alumni news and updates: www.laumatters.org

Check out the website for *Fulfilling the Promise: LAU Campaign for Academic Excellence*: campaign.lau.edu.lb

If you would like to make a donation to *Fulfilling the Promise* please visit:

campaign.lau.edu.lb/ways-to-give

The *Fulfilling the Promise* website includes:

- Updated information about the campaign
- Its goals and progress
- Additional information, profiles and articles not included in the newsletter

Be sure to visit often for the latest news and updates.

LAU matters

LAU Matters is published quarterly by the New York Office of Lebanese American University and distributed free of charge to friends and supporters of the university in North America.

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Cover Photo: Rendering of the façade of LAU's Academic Center in Midtown Manhattan. Courtesy of Snowdon LLC.



LAU's 2011-2016 strategic plan includes specific campaign goals for the School of Engineering (SoE) including upgrading its facilities, maintaining a commitment to assist students through financial aid and attracting distinguished faculty. These goals offer many opportunities for donors to leave a lasting mark on the program and university.

Facilities

SoE's key facility need is for a new \$18.5 million building that will be located on LAU's Byblos campus and will consolidate laboratory resources for civil, electrical, computer, industrial and mechanical engineering programs. Unique opportunities are available to donors to name:

- The new laboratory building for a gift of \$10 million.
- Existing laboratories for gifts starting from \$250,000.

Endowed Scholarships

More than 52 percent of SoE students depend on financial aid. Scholarships help us attract the best students, regardless of their financial means.

Endowed scholarships are valuable ways for donors to make a distinctive contribution to LAU's academic mission and transform the life of a student. An endowed scholarship, bearing the donor's name, can be created beginning at \$25,000. In addition, an endowed scholarship that fully pays the tuition of an undergraduate student on an annual basis can be established for \$300,000.

Endowed Chairs

The School of Engineering is also striving to become the center for engineering research excellence in the Arab world. To realize this ambitious goal, SoE needs to attract an Endowed Chair in Sustainable Energy and an Endowed Chair in Construction Engineering Management. Each endowed chair created with a \$2 million gift will bear the name of the donor.

The School is also seeking donations toward at least one \$300,000 Endowed Lecture Series and a \$50,000 Endowed Research Fund that will enable faculty and students to fully participate in global research.

LAU campaign

Engineering Education

Campaign Update

The amount contributed thus far toward the "Fulfilling the Promise" Campaign from donors, alumni groups, and corporations and foundations is \$38,385,012.

"Fulfilling the Promise" is LAU's comprehensive campaign with the goal of providing the resources needed to implement our Strategic Plan. By securing the financial resources required to meet these goals, we will move to a new level of academic superiority and complete a substantial portion of our journey toward excellence. Success in this new comprehensive fundraising campaign will require us to find new reserves of dedication and resources within ourselves and to secure unprecedented levels of assistance from our alumni and friends.

To learn more about the campaign or if you would like to make a donation, please visit campaign.lau.edu.lb

Medal of Honor

On May 11, members of the New York/New Jersey alumni chapter, friends of LAU and special guests gathered at Al Bustan restaurant in Manhattan to honor two members of LAU's Board of Trustees, Dr. Hanna Shammass and Mike Ahmar, in receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for 2013. The award is given by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations annually to American citizens who have distinguished themselves within their own ethnic groups while exemplifying the values of the American way of life. Russ Ebeid and Jack Shaheen, friends of LAU, were also recipients of the medal and in attendance.

Dr. Hanna Shammass is a renowned ophthalmologist in Southern California. Mike Ahmar is an extremely successful businessman, entrepreneur, president of the House of Lebanon, and heads a prominent bank in Southern California. Both are very active and involved in the Lebanese community in Southern California.

Top to bottom: 1) (Right to Left) Russ Obeid, Ed Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects, and Mike Ahmar. 2) Mike Ahmar (Bottom left of photo) and Dr. Hanna Shammass (Top left of photo).



Detroit

The Detroit Chapter gathered on May 27 at the Kensington Metropark in Milford for a family and friends picnic. Over 100 people attended the event and they enjoyed boating, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, trail biking, swimming, a raffle and argileh!



Washington, D.C.

On April 20, the Washington, D.C. Alumni Chapter met for a family and friends table tennis event at the home of Naji and Gisele Azar, chapter president. Over 50 people attended the event and socialized over lots of good food and drink.

Did You Mean ALUMNAE?

In case you're wondering about all those terms for alumni, here's a guide:

Alumni: masculine plural; **Alumnus:** masculine singular
Alumnae: feminine plural; **Alumna:** feminine singular
 Alumni is generally accepted as a reference to men and women, but why not use the proper terms, especially for our women graduates?



New York/New Jersey

The New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter went on a tour of the "Little Syria, NY" exhibit presented by the Arab American National Museum in Lower Manhattan on May 22. The exhibit featured photographs, documents and artifacts from the Lebanese and Syrian community in New York City from the late 19th through mid-20th century. Afterwards a small group of the alumni committee met for drinks atop the W Hotel near the World Trade Center.

Toronto



The Toronto Chapter gathered on June 9 for their annual Breakfast in the Park at Thompson Park. Over 140 alumni, family and friends attended the event.

Northern California

(Top to Bottom) 1) The Northern California Alumni Chapter committee attended a tour of the Filoli Gardens in Woodside on May 18. 2) The chapter gathered again, along with the Lebanese American Association, Our Lady of Lebanon Church and World Lebanese Cultural Union at their Annual Spring Picnic on June 9 at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 25: Toronto Alumni Chapter - *Annual Family Picnic*

September 12-13: LAU Board of Trustees Meeting - *LAU New York Headquarters and Academic Center*

September 13: LAU 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala - *Pierre Hotel, New York City*

September 13-14: LAU Global Outreach and Leadership Conference - *LAU New York Headquarters and Academic Center*

September 22: Boston Alumni Chapter - *Bar-B-Que Party at the home of Alumni Robert and Varsenig Shafie*

October 17: New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter - *Book signing by Dr. Philip Salem, LAU New York Headquarters and Academic Center*

October 19: Southern California Alumni Chapter - *House of Lebanon Artists' reception, House of Lebanon, Los Angeles*

If your alumni chapter has an upcoming event, please contact:
Ed Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects
(646) 255-1099, ed.shiner@lau.edu



Annual Support

Many of our sponsors, alumni and friends have generously responded to our mail and email annual fund appeals to support important programs and initiatives at LAU. Donating to the annual fund allows alumni and other supporters to stay connected to the University, while at the same time providing essential scholarship and programmatic support.

“Universities rely first and foremost on tuition to meet their operating expenses, but annual fund donations provide a broad base to fund really important efforts, like LAU’s financial aid program,” said David Pengel, Senior Development Associate at the New York Development Office.

In addition, the annual fund allows donors to specify where they want their donation to be used. This can be done in the annual fund donation envelopes or online by indicating what school, program or fund donors want their contribution to support. “Annual appeals allow donors to direct their gifts wherever they want. LAU commonly asks for financial aid support in its appeal letters, but if a donor responds with a different direction in mind, we respect that donor’s wishes,” said David.

Another way the New York Development Office has reached out to potential and current donors is by using social media and email campaigns on platforms including Twitter and Facebook to

advertise and promote the annual fund and university programs individuals can support. Moreover, online donations have made it even easier and convenient for donors to contribute their gifts to the annual fund or any other program of interest to them.

“LAU gets a really good response from the mail, but an increasing number of our supporters are using electronic methods to communicate with us. We also give people a way to donate online, and that’s proving successful in getting new donors into the fold. Our next goal is to advertise that feature and bolster it, so that more new supporters can join us easily,” David added.

If you would like to make a donation to the annual fund, visit <http://campaign.lau.edu.lb/donate> or call the New York Development Office at (212) 203-4333

New York Headquarters and Academic Center and GOAL Conference

Continued from page 1

The first major event in the new facility will be the GOAL Conference taking place on September 13-14, being coordinated by Dr. Badr. This event will bring together global education specialists and scholars, study abroad and international exchange experts, NGOs and other related associations. The program will include panels related to global education, youth civic engagement and international diplomacy from a Model United Nations perspective, as well as civic advocacy and international NGOs.

“This conference is the perfect opportunity to bring together scholars from all over the world, and from the neighboring universities in the U.S. to strengthen the exchange of pedagogy for a better future,” said Dr. Badr.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Judith S. Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the largest institutional higher education membership organization in the United States. Dr. Eaton has served as chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Her keynote address will focus on higher education trends and challenges internationally.

GOAL Conference Program

September 13, 2013

- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Opening Ceremony
- Opening Remarks: LAU President Joseph G. Jabbara, Ph.D.
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Judith S. Eaton

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Reception

September 14, 2013

- 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM: Registration/Coffee Reception
- 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM: Panel 1
- 11:00 AM – 11:15 AM: Coffee Break
- 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM: Panel 2
- 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM: Lunch
- 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Panel 3
- 4:00 PM – 4:15 PM: Coffee Break
- 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM: Closing Ceremony
- Closing Remarks: President Joseph G. Jabbara, Ph.D.
- Presentation of LAU NY Academic Center Associates

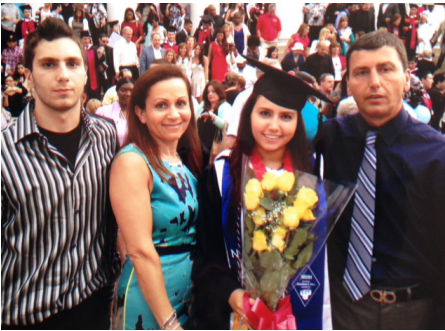
If you would like to attend this free event, please email goal@lau.edu.lb

For additional information on the GOAL Conference, please visit www.lau.edu.lb/news-events/conferences/goal2013/

Thank You For Your Generous Support

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This list includes donors from North America who have graciously supported LAU during the second quarter of 2013.



Gisele & Naji Azar

Where do you live and what do you do?

We live in the United States in Virginia, just a few minutes away from Washington D.C. Naji moved to the U.S. in September 1987 and Gisele followed in May 1988. We chose to emigrate to the U.S. because we wanted the opportunity to start fresh, and we are happy owners of a few gas stations.

How did you become involved with LAU?

We both studied and graduated from LAU, Naji graduated in 1983 and Gisele graduated in 1984, and have always said that our best years were spent there. When we were approached by Ed Shiner, LAU Director of Alumni and Special Projects, to start an alumni chapter in Washington D.C., we were very excited to help because we knew a good number of LAU graduates in the area. The chapter was officially started

in the summer of 2007, though we had started holding unofficial meetings, social events, and informal gatherings a few years before then. Through this chapter, we have created a network that supports and assists local alumni, new and old. We also wanted to build a community of alumni dedicated to strengthening LAU in Lebanon, and one way we have done that is through the establishment of a scholarship program.

What are your future plans for the Washington, D.C. Alumni Chapter?

Our future plan is to expand our membership of the D.C. Chapter. We hope to get members more involved in achieving some of our goals, which include: forming a larger network, looking for creative ways to continue our support of LAU students and alumni and aiding LAU's mission here and in Lebanon in whatever ways we can.