



## LAU Health Foundation Gets \$1.3 Million Grant from U.S. Government

**T**he LAU Health Foundation (LAUHF) has received \$1.3 million from USAID’s American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program.

The grant was part of a \$3.5 million aid package for schools, universities and hospitals in Lebanon, and will directly benefit Lebanese American University Medical Center–Rizk Hospital (LAUMC-RH), providing supplies, rehabilitating a front-line primary trauma care facility, training medical staff, and ultimately, reaching more patients with lifesaving care.

“These initiatives enable Lebanon to remain at the forefront of scientific progress and continue its tradition of excellence in education,” said Katherine

Crawford, director of the ASHA program, who announced the grant during a visit to LAUMC-RH.

Dr. Sami Khoury, Chairman of the Board of the LAU Health Foundation, noted that this is the first time ASHA has given to the foundation.

“Only 34 applications were funded worldwide, with the average grant being less than \$700,000. Our grant of \$1.3 million was almost double that average,” he said.

Dr. Khoury expressed his appreciation for the support and encouragement of the board in the course of the application process, and also tipped his hat to LAU lobbyist Jay Ghazal and the foundation’s chief fundraising officer, Robert

Hollback.

“The grant is especially relevant for our hospital since it receives an inordinate number of trauma victims, including military personnel, because of its helipad,” says Hollback, who recently returned from a site visit. “Having this equipment is going to help doctors and nurses at the hospital save lives that otherwise might not have been saved.”

The hospital is currently embarking on a \$15 million renovation project, which some of the grant money will go towards.

“We will relocate our operating rooms, cardiac care unit, emergency room services and our intensive care unit,” says John Rhoder, CEO of LAUMC-RH.

*Continued on page 7*



# Welcome New LAU Employees



From left to right: Paige Kollock and Wendy Palmer.

The LAU New York Headquarters and Academic Center recently welcomed two new employees: Paige Kollock joined in December 2014 as the Director of Communications and Media, and Wendy Palmer started in September 2014 as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President of University Advancement, Marla Rice-Evans.

Paige serves as the primary contact for media requests large and small in North America. She works in tandem with the development, alumni and academics divisions to communicate the goals and vision of the university to both stakeholders and the general public.

Paige has a background in journalism and spent 13 years working as a television producer and correspondent at various networks such as Al Jazeera, Voice of America, FOX News Channel, CBS, Reuters, Bloomberg, and the Beirut-based NOW News. During that time, she covered the United Nations, the U.S. financial markets, and Capitol Hill.

Her journalism career took her to places like Ethiopia, the Congo, Guantanamo Bay, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon. In her free time, Paige is an avid hiker and her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday present to herself was a ticket to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Wendy works on various administrative tasks and assists on projects as needed with duties such as writing or research. Prior to joining LAU, she worked in U.S. Congressional offices on Capitol Hill, at a Democratic Party political media firm and a child advocacy non-profit. Most of her past work has focused on research, communications, administrative skills and project management. Wendy also spent a year teaching elementary school in Palestine.

When Wendy is not working, you can find her running in Prospect Park and she is currently training for the Brooklyn Half Marathon in May.

## ON OUR WEBSITES

Visit the LAU Matters website for additional information on events, alumni news and updates: [www.laumatters.org](http://www.laumatters.org)

Check out the website for *Fulfilling the Promise: LAU Campaign for Academic Excellence*: [campaign.lau.edu.lb](http://campaign.lau.edu.lb)

If you would like to make a donation to *Fulfilling the Promise* please visit: [campaign.lau.edu.lb/donate](http://campaign.lau.edu.lb/donate)

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 Headquarters and Academic Center of Lebanese American University and distributed free of charge to alumni, friends and supporters of the university in North America.

#### Editorial and Design

Paige Kollock and Maryam Zoma

Marla Rice-Evans, Vice President for University Advancement  
Robert Hollback, Assistant Vice President for Development  
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**Cover Photo:** A contingent of leaders representing LAU Medical Center – Rizk Hospital, LAU Health Foundation, Lebanese American University and the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon gather for a photo on the hospital’s helipad as part of the visit by ASHA Director Kate Crawford (fourth from the left). Director Crawford’s visit culminated in an announcement of a gift of \$1.3 million to the LAU Health Foundation for the purchase of medical equipment for LAUMC-RH.



Clockwise from left to right: 1. (right to left) Dr. Jabbara, Mr. Charbel Tagher, Nada Jreidini, Fatima Rkein, Ola Samhoury, Dina Ghosson and Rabih Al Kadi (2014-15 Fellows). 2. Mohamad Alama, current Fellow, with fourth grade students at Saida Generations School. 3. Cynthia Fakhoury, Fellow, and second grade students at St. Famille Ibrine School.



## LAU and Teach for Lebanon: Sharing a Common Goal

In 2008, Ali Dimashkieh, a former employee in the cultural affairs section of the U.S. Embassy, was working on a project to review the educational system in Lebanon when he noticed a surprising figure: 49% of elementary school children drop out before graduating from high school. That’s because children in rural Lebanon often lack the supportive environment, economic means and personal motivation to complete their schooling. The glaring educational gap motivated Dimashkieh to find Teach for Lebanon (TFL), an organization that aims to reduce educational, and in turn socio-economic, inequality by placing passionate, well-trained recent college graduates in underserved schools in Northern and Southern Lebanon. The teachers become agents of change for both their students, and for the members of the remote communities surrounding the schools, and in recent years, TFL has benefitted

from a fruitful exchange with LAU, a relationship built upon the mutual belief that education is the key to improving one’s future.

In step with LAU’s tradition of giving back, the university offers TFL alumni scholarships each year, enabling them to pursue graduate studies at the university, while TFL benefits from a pool of talented LAU graduates who become “Fellows,” teachers sent to work in schools throughout Lebanon.

With each batch of new graduates, the connection between LAU and TFL continues to grow.

“I was raised in a family where we were taught not to ask what our country could give us but, rather, what we could give to our country,” says LAU graduate Jennifer Al Sayyah, who earned her B.A. in Economics in 2014, and went on to work

for TFL.

Rima Sharkawi served as a Fellow for TFL, after graduating from the Lebanese University, and is now pursuing a Master’s in Education at LAU.

“As a teacher in training, I was able to see plenty of gaps in our country’s educational system,” she explains. “By joining TFL, I felt I would be able to make important changes in that system.”

Now run by Salyne El Samarany, a TFL Alumna, who in 2014 was awarded the UN Youth Courage Award for Education, TFL is a partner of Teach For All, a network of 35 worldwide organizations that base their programs on those developed by Teach For America over 20 years ago. TFL is overseen by a board that includes LAU President Dr. Joseph Jabbara.

*Continued on page 7*



# LAU events

## Donate your Art

For the past year and a half Midtown East in Manhattan has become the new home for Lebanese American University in New York. Its three-floor, 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility is most impressive and is a source of pride for the entire LAU family. However, we have noticed that it needs to be enhanced with some real art!

Recently there have been several decorative, cosmetic and informative additions to these floors, and we are ready to embark on a new project, which will provide our alumni/ae throughout North America with an opportunity to be a part of their alma mater's exciting new headquarters. So we invite you to get more closely connected with LAU NY and have a part of you enhance its walls.

If you are an interested artist, here are the details:

- You must be an LAU, BUC or BCW alumnus or alumna
- Provide a brief profile of yourself, your graduation year and degree, your current position and any other information you feel is pertinent
- All mediums may be submitted, except free-standing sculpture (wall sculptures and bas reliefs are acceptable)
- All pieces must be ready to hang
- Provide photos of three to five various works via email or snail mail; indicate medium and size of each work, the year it was produced and its approximate value
- An LAU committee will make the final decision on all artwork submitted
- You must be willing to donate this work to LAU and cover shipping costs; if you require a gift-in-kind acknowledgment for tax purposes, you will be responsible for providing the official appraisal
- The deadline for all submissions is May 1, 2015

In a future edition of *LAU Matters* we may feature some of the submitted art as part of a follow up article on this project.



If you have questions or need further information contact:  
**Ed Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects at LAU NY: [ed.shiner@lau.edu](mailto:ed.shiner@lau.edu), Office: 646-255-1099, Cell: 917-334-0711**

We are very grateful for your participation in this project and for any artwork that may be donated, and we welcome your visit.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 14:** *Potluck Get Together* - Southern California Alumni Chapter

**March 19:** *LAU Chairman's Dinner* - Roosevelt Hotel, New York City

**March 18-20:** *Board of Trustees Meeting* - New York Headquarters and Academic Center

**March 21:** *Spring Dinner* - Toronto Alumni Chapter

**May 11:** *LAU Annual New York Gala* - New York Athletic Club

**Watch your email for more information on upcoming events!**

If your alumni chapter has an upcoming event, please notify:

**Ed Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects (646) 255-1099, [ed.shiner@lau.edu](mailto:ed.shiner@lau.edu)**



## Washington, D.C.

LAU hosted a reception at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on November 24. His Excellency Ambassador Antoine Chedid, fourth from left, joined LAU for the festive occasion.



## Montreal

The Montreal Alumni Chapter met at the Putting Edge Spheredtech, an indoor mini golf course with a twist, in Saint-Laurent, Québec, on November 21. The chapter enjoyed a fun game on a course with glow-in-the-dark colors and images.



## Seattle

The Seattle Alumni Chapter celebrated Super Bowl Sunday on February 1 at Eques Restaurant at the Hyatt Hotel in Bellevue, Washington. Following the brunch a planning meeting for the upcoming year was held.



## Northern California

From left to right: Samira Baroodi, chapter committee; Ed Shiner; Hana Rustom Archbold, chapter president; Rabih Ballout, author; Dr. Tali Bashour, author; and Madeleine Biskantaoui, chapter committee. On January 31, the LAU Northern California Alumni Chapter, with the San Francisco Chapter of World Lebanese Cultural Union and the Lebanese American Association, held a lecture and book review, featuring: Rabih Ballout, author of "Homo Electrus," and Dr. Tali Bashour author of "The Broken Heart: Protect your Heart from Daily Stress and Emotional Upheavals." The lectures and reception were held at San Francisco Towers with approximately 50 people in attendance.



### One Gift. Every Year. Any Amount.

Once a year, make a gift of any amount to the LAU Annual Fund. Every gift makes a difference—especially yours.

Visit [campaign.lau.edu.lb/donate](https://campaign.lau.edu.lb/donate) to make a gift now.





## Lifelong Giving

One of the most overlooked ways in which individuals can make charitable donations is through a bequest in one's will.

Regardless of your age, you should have a will that specifies how your estate will be distributed in the event of your death. Wills can be amended to reflect your changing circumstances, and the fee you pay to an attorney to make (or revise) a will is an important investment in ensuring that your estate is distributed according to your wishes.

In addition to passing assets to your surviving spouse, children or other individuals whom you care about, your will can specify that a certain portion

of your estate be given to charitable organizations – perhaps organizations that you also supported during your lifetime. Depending on your financial circumstances, by donating a portion of your estate to a charitable organization you can reduce the amount of taxes levied against your estate.

Our experience here at LAU is that many people also find that they can make a larger charitable gift through their will than they could have comfortably made during their lifetimes. These gifts can leave a lasting legacy for the donor through such things as scholarships, classrooms or entire buildings in their name.

Tax laws regarding wills are constantly changing, and you should consult your attorney and/or financial advisor about the best way to structure your will to ensure that your goals are met. If you are considering a bequest to LAU, please feel free to contact us in the New York office. We'll be happy to discuss your plans with you and ensure that your charitable intentions are understood and followed.

*This article is not intended, nor should it be used, as legal or professional advice. Before making any gift described in this article, you should consult with a professional financial advisor.*

**To learn more about donating to LAU, please contact (212) 203-4333 or [nydevelopment@lau.edu](mailto:nydevelopment@lau.edu)**

## LAU Health Foundation

Continued from page 1

“Smart operating rooms’ specifically designed for treating trauma will be installed, so this is a very well-timed gift. Trauma care is essential in a medical school teaching hospital, so this will be a key improvement for us.”

The grant was the fourth-largest among the 34 awarded by ASHA in December. Awardees spanned 24 countries, from Cambodia to Honduras to Egypt, and LAUHF was one of only three recipients in Lebanon. Beneficiaries were chosen based on their ability to train future leaders in a wide variety of disciplines, promote advances in research and innovation, foster medical and academic professionalism, and build bridges between citizens of the United States and other countries.



Participating in the announcement of ASHA's \$1.3 million award to the LAU Health Foundation were (from left to right) Gladys Mouro, Dr. Yousef Comair, ASHA Director Katherine Crawford, Dr. Joseph Jabbra, Dr. Sami Khoury, John Rhoder, and Marla Rice-Evans.

## LAU and Teach for Lebanon

Continued from page 3

“I firmly believe in the power of education to open up opportunities for young people and make us all more civilized,” says Dr. Jabbra. “Teach For Lebanon, by its vibrant mission, is changing young peoples’ thinking and aspirations, and is even transforming the teachers themselves.”

Teach For Lebanon is proud to be collaborating with LAU, and hopes to continue to recruit Fellows from the university, while preparing and encouraging new pools of students to attend college, knowing that the future of Lebanon depends on the next generation being empowered with knowledge and skills.

For further information, [www.teachforlebanon.org](http://www.teachforlebanon.org)



From right to left: Salyne El Samarany, TFL CEO, N. Zeidan, TFL Executive Board Member, Dr. Jabbra, and C.Tagher, Board Member

## Thank You For Your Generous Support

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This list includes donors from North America who have graciously supported LAU during the fourth quarter of 2014.

\* denotes alumni donors



## Mazen and Gisele

# Nazzal

### Where do you live and what do you do?

We live in Los Angeles, California and work in real estate development.

### How did you get involved with LAU?

We met Dr. Joseph Jabbara and his wife over 20 years ago in Los Angeles and have been friends ever since. Our involvement with LAU began in 2004 when Dr. Jabbara became president of LAU. Having always valued higher education, and being fortunate enough to watch each of our three sons graduate from university, we are passionate about providing opportunities to students seeking higher education.

### Why did you begin the Mazen and Gisele Nazzal Endowment?

We thought creating an endowment

would be something special we could do for the students. We did not put any specificity to the scholarship as we feel every student deserves a chance for a higher education.

Our endowment provides a full scholarship for one student every year. Distribution from the endowment started in the 2010-2011 academic year, and so far five LAU students have received financial assistance from our endowment.

We are proud of the university and the guidance Dr. Joseph Jabbara has bestowed on the students. We are happy to be a part of the LAU community.

### LAU NY ACADEMIC CALENDAR

#### Public Events

**March 25:** Lebanese Diaspora, Remittances and Economic Development interactive panel discussion, 6:00 -8:00 PM

**April 7 – May 4:** The Arab-American Experience: exhibition and lecture series

**May 28:** Developing Community through Dance in Lebanon performance, 6:00 -8:00 PM

#### Courses

**March 14 – 18:** CROWDDESIGNING: Exploring Urban Spaces for Collective Action

**May 26 – June 2:** Middle East Uprisings and Islamist Radicalization

**June 3 – 10:** History of the Arab Peoples

**June 12 – 19:** Lebanese Politics and the Syrian Refugee Crisis

#### For more information, please contact:

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