

LAU matters

The Quarterly Newsletter of LAU NY
Winter 2019



LAU Leads in Green Energy Solutions

Demystifying Electric Vehicles; The School of Engineering takes the wheel to promote road safety education and green energy in Lebanon

By Hoda Hilal

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In order to cut its carbon emissions in line with its 2030 commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Lebanon needs to move away from vehicles that burn fossil fuels and embrace cleaner energy.

LAU's School of Engineering (SOE) has been ahead of the curve in that regard, driving research and partnerships with various organizations to tackle the problem head-on. In concert with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Energy and Water, and the Ministry of Environment, the SOE is organizing the E-Mobility Summit, due to take place in Lebanon, at LAU, in March 2019.

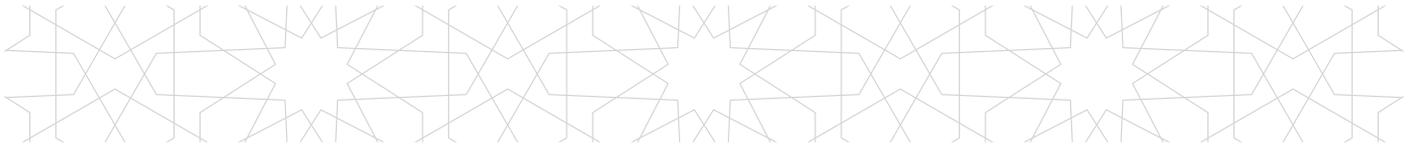
The summit aims at tackling the profound transformation that mobility is undergoing and its implications on emerging economies such as Lebanon. It will also prepare for a comprehensive roadmap – adapted for the local context – that outlines a holistic approach to the development of a mitigation portfolio for the different means of transport (mass transit, electrified mobility, shared cars, non-motorized transport). Furthermore, the roadmap will account for the need to enable measures with the appropriate policy framework that ensures a successful outcome.

“LAU has been very active through research and is committed to educating the public and spreading awareness on this issue,” said Assistant Professor Charbel Mansour, who has been conducting research on transportation and mobility with Assistant Professor Marc Haddad since 2011.

Ahead of the summit, the SOE's Industrial and Mechanical Engineering Department organized the first road tests of hybrid and electric vehicles in Lebanon to assess their performance under local driving and weather conditions, in partnership with the UNDP, the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Environment and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) – LAU student section. The launch of the road test was also preceded by an event titled Mobility Next: Lebanon On the Pulse of E-Mobility, held at LAU Beirut campus on October 31.

SOE students, under the supervision of Drs. Mansour and Haddad, tested six vehicles – the Mercedes GLC, Volvo XC90, Renault Zoe, Volkswagen e-Up, Toyota Prius and Hyundai Ioniq – on different routes over eight days in December 2018 and January 2019.

“We collected data on vehicle performance, which will be assessed to



Demystifying Electric Vehicles



determine energy consumption, emissions and mobility cost,” said Dr. Mansour, who, together with the students, will be providing technical advice during the summit.

“We will also derive answers to questions asked by the general public in order to demystify electric vehicles,” he added.

To educate the students on safe driving before they hit the road, a training session was organized on LAU’s Byblos campus in collaboration with Adel Metni Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes innovative and efficient road-safety solutions in Lebanon and the MENA region. The purpose of the session was “to introduce the students to the concept of defensive driving through innovative education to help them become proactive drivers,” said road safety expert and president of the foundation, Mr. Georges A. Metni.

Eighteen LAU mechanical engineering students who participated as drivers or

co-drivers in the road test received advice on ways to reduce human error behind the wheel, including eliminating distractions, gripping the steering wheel properly, and wearing the seat belt.

“Defensive driving means driving both smart and safe,” said Metni, asserting that road safety is a public health issue that requires urgent attention, as accidents claim 3,500 lives worldwide every day.

The theoretical session was followed by a technical one, where students practiced emergency braking and other exercises on the 100 percent electric cars Renault Zoe and Renault Twizy, which are environmentally friendly, low-cost and safe. “Training the students prior to the road test will help them anticipate the risks, increase their control, and use the right skills to prevent crashing,” commented Metni.

Fourth-year mechanical engineering student Sara Mezher agreed. “The training allowed us to test the vehicle’s anti-lock

braking system (ABS) and learn about the proper response in an emergency situation.”

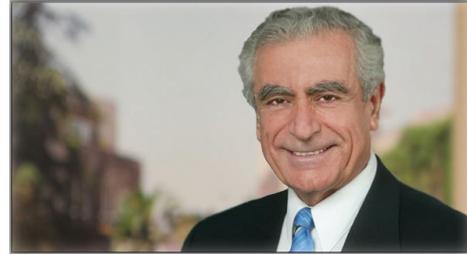
Although electric and hybrid vehicles are already available on the Lebanese market and are exempt from custom taxes, the Lebanese still lack basic knowledge of them.

“It is our responsibility to educate the public during this transition phase and prove to them that these technologies are sustainable on Lebanese roads,” said LAU alumnus Hussein Basma, who is pursuing a PhD in Automotive Engineering at MINES ParisTech, France.

Through collaborations and awareness events, LAU remains a pioneer in promoting road safety and green transportation in Lebanon. “LAU is known for its innovation and leadership,” said Metni, “and we are proud to collaborate with it to address the youth and develop responsible individuals behind the wheel.”



The President's Forum



It gives me great pleasure to send you all warm greetings from LAU, coupled with thanks and appreciation for your unwavering support of our great university. Thanks to your loyalty and trust, LAU continues to blend together the best of the U.S. and the Middle East at very challenging times and in ever more creative ways.

Our institution is now at a critical juncture in its recent history. Firmly established as a powerhouse of higher education in Lebanon and the Middle East, LAU is aiming even higher and working hard to move to the next level. We are half-way into our third strategic plan, very busy trying to make LAU a hub for 4th industrial revolution programs, involved in a great adventure to establish an Innovation Center, and getting ready to go public with our third capital campaign.

What I am particularly happy to announce are recent additions to our New York staff. Already blessed with a magnificent team in place there, we have just added further strength through two new appointments: Mr. Nadim Shehadi has recently joined as Executive Director of the NY Academic Center, and Nadya Mikdashi will join soon as the Assistant Vice-President for Development. Both are veteran professionals who will add immense value to our NY Center. Also, newly on board is Ms. Isis Al-Alam as our Student Services Assistant. It is also my pleasure to mention that Dr. Lina Abirafeh, Executive Director of the Arab Institute for Women (AiW) at LAU is now based at our NY Academic Center.

In the spirit of energy and innovation so characteristic of LAU, I am also pleased to share with you that our NY center will soon host a major workshop for North America alumni chapter leaders. The workshop is intended to galvanize alumni support for their beloved Alma Mater. We will also bring them up to speed on our many developments over the past couple of years. The event will also feature major speakers from Cornell and GWU.

LAU Matters is a very important medium for us to keep in touch with you, bring you our news, and learn about yours. Staying close to our multiple constituencies is a top priority for us, and a major pillar in LAU's roadmap to the future. This important newsletter is made possible through the dedication and hard work of our New York staff, particularly Elida Jbeili, Director of Communications and Media, who deserves every commendation for keeping us connected.

I so much look forward to keeping in touch with you, getting your feedback and suggestions, and joining efforts at all times to forge ahead into the great future that awaits LAU.

My warm personal greetings to each and every one of you.

Joseph G. Jabbara, Ph.D.,
President
Lebanese American University



To Aleppo with Love

By Elida Jbeili

On November 29, as part of the ongoing series of cultural events titled Thursdays at LAU NY, the Syrian Music Preservation Initiative and the New York Headquarters and Academic Center (LAU NY) presented the 1776 classical Syrian musical composition, *Isqi Al-'Itash* (Quench the Thirsty), with Takht Al-Nagham.

Takht Al-Nagham is a New York-based Arab ensemble featuring the sound of a traditional takht (Arab chamber music group). Following the vision of its founder Samer Ali, it is committed to performing classical Syrian repertoire with traditional acoustic instruments. "In tracing a chronology of Aleppan music," Ali remarked, "we aim to share a rich tradition with a U.S. audience who know Syria only as a site of a violent and destructive conflict. We want our music, as it so often does, to soothe and brighten; to help heal and reconcile."

Isqi Al-'Itash (Quench the Thirsty) is a musical composition that was written during a difficult drought in Aleppo and had nearly been lost to history. The composer Mohammad Al-Manbijji, in an eloquent adjuration to the Almighty, begs his maker's forgiveness to release his people from their struggle. As all

great works of art are a true reflection of people's trials and tribulations, hopes and aspirations, the lyrics to *Isqi Al-'Itash* were written by Abdel Al-Salam Al-Nabulsi and the music was composed by Mohammad Al-Manbijji during a difficult drought in Aleppo back in 1776. Al-Manbijji begs his maker's forgiveness to release his people from their struggle. The work then nearly disappears from the annals of music until the efforts of Syrian violinist Tawfiq Al-Sabbagh (1892-1964) brought it back into recognition by recording it at Aleppo Radio with Mohammad Khayri (1935-1981). In the late 60's, Sabah Fakhri's legendary recording secured its position as one of the Arab world's most memorable and beloved artistic masterpieces.

In order to familiarize audiences in the U.S. with the original structure of the musical traditions, takht al-Nagham presented the sets (called *wasla* in Arabic) in the same manner that they were originally performed over a century ago: without reading from sheet music and relying heavily on improvisation. Nagham means melody or tune in Arabic, and is also used as a synonym for the Arab Maqam system. The members of the ensemble are hence required to be

intimately familiar with an extensive repertoire allowing them to seamlessly perform complex phrasing without the aid of musical notation.

The event welcomed a surprise guest performance by ustaz Hamid al-Saadi, one of the last surviving Iraqi Maqam singers, meaning he has mastered the entire repertoire by heart. Hamid al-Saadi did a few pieces organized as a suite (*wasla*) in Maqam Hijaz Huwayzawi (part of the Iraqi Maqam Tradition). It starts with an instrumental prelude, a *Qasida* (classical arabic poem), then a song, *Foug al-Nakhal* (above the palm trees).

Johnny Farraj, the percussionist of Takht al-Nagham, enjoyed the energy of the packed room, seeing the faces in the crowd enjoying the songs made performing for him even more exciting. He commented that the feedback from the audience is "so essential in Arabic music because it is very improvisational and personalized, in other words, each musician is constantly creating and ornamenting. Nothing excites musicians more than having a responsive crowd."

Frantz Fanon, Decolonization and the Future of Middle East Politics

By Elida Jbeili



Psychiatrist, philosopher, revolutionary and prolific author, Frantz Fanon (1925-1961) is an instrumental figure in post-colonial studies. Often understood as a thinker who became a leader, Fanon's work would become the theoretical underpinning for many decolonization and national liberation movements worldwide.

On the occasion of the publication of the English-language translation of Fanon's previously uncollected writings, *Alienation and Freedom*, LAU's New York Headquarters and Academic Center hosted a panel discussion on the relevance of his work, with a particular focus on how his writings may – or may not – speak to contemporary politics in the MENA region.

Fanon was from the French colony of Martinique. He served with the Free French army during World War II; after finishing his medical degree, he was sent to work in a clinic in the then-French department of Algeria. Living in Algeria and working there as a psychiatrist, Fanon experienced firsthand the psychological effects of colonialism on its rulers and subjects alike. This turn of events caused him to support the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962) from France, and he became a member of the Algerian National Liberation Front until his early death at age 36 from leukemia. During his brief but productive life, Fanon published numerous books, including the seminal work *The Wretched of the Earth*.

On the panel were Anthony Alessandrini, professor of English at Kingsborough Community College-CUNY and of Middle

Eastern Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center; Muriam Haleh Davis, assistant professor of history at the University of California, Santa Cruz; and Bhakti Shringarpure, assistant professor of English at the University of Connecticut (Storrs).

The panelists maintained that Fanon's thinking remains relevant, is enjoying a vibrant afterlife and will most likely continue to do so in the future because many of the questions that he posed in his work are ones we are asking to this day, such as: How do we overcome racism – at the deepest psychic level where it lives with people? What does it mean to really change a society? Is it enough to just overthrow a particular regime or leader?

Dr. Davis, who specializes in Algerian history, stated that, "Our reflections on the future of Middle Eastern politics have much to learn from Fanon's global, and relational, view of revolution."

During the Q & A session, an audience member asked about the failure of the Algerian revolution as viewed from today's standpoint, noting that what is happening in Algeria and the rest of the MENA region didn't develop the way the anti-colonial movement had hoped, and that decolonization failed to remove the clutches of the colonizers because people are suffering now more than under colonial rule.

Dr. Shringarpure noted that the term "decolonization" refers particularly to the dismantlement, during the second half of the 20th century, of the colonial empires established prior to World War I throughout the world. "Decolonization is usually a

very short and violent period, when the transfer of power takes place," she told the crowd. The panelists agreed that one should not look only at that period in history to measure whatever the anti-colonial project failed or succeeded in today's terms.

Dr. Davis added that "Frantz Fanon makes it clear that decolonization doesn't end with national sovereignty, but that it is an ongoing struggle that needs to usher in a new form of solidarity that can only take place by taking down the structural alienation inherent in the colonial system."

Dr. Alessandrini observed that he would have loved to see what Fanon would have written had he lived another 30 years. "As a psychiatrist, decolonization for Fanon also means a process of thinking, of decolonizing the mind. It is not simply the success or failures of the political process or measurable indicators of economic growth, but the actual transfer and equal distribution of power."

Fanon helps people understand, Dr. Alessandrini said, that the goal is to create a critical consciousness, "freed from colonialism and forewarned against any attempt at mystification or glorification."

Understanding Fanon also means understanding today's struggles as they relate to the historical forces that condition them. Dr. Alessandrini added that "this is especially important if we are to acknowledge that just as history has not yet ended, neither have the legacy and practices of colonialism."



LAU CHAT: Anne Dix

Since 2014, the LAU Health Foundation has received multi-year, multi-million dollar grants from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) to purchase life-saving equipment and support vital trauma care for the LAU Medical Center-Rizk Hospital. As an organizational unit within the USAID Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), ASHA administers a worldwide grant program that facilitates the creation of educational learning centers and promotes opportunities in foreign countries through institutions that incorporate America's highest education and medical research standards.

LAU Matters had a chance to interview Anne Dix, Director of the ASHA office at USAID, who oversees the partnership between ASHA and LAU. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

1. As the director of the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad office at USAID, can you tell us a bit more about what ASHA does in your own words?

The purpose of the ASHA program is to support partnerships between organizations founded or sponsored by US Citizens and civil society organizations

overseas. ASHA specifically provides assistance to overseas schools, libraries, and hospitals that showcase American ideas and practices, and that provide concrete and tangible vehicles to stimulate collaboration and mutual understanding between US citizens and citizens of other countries. ASHA partners are working in some of the most difficult environments around the world, and through their work in health and education they bring hope to people in need.

2. As someone who has spent most of her career working for the United States government in the international development arena, why do you think it is important for the United States government to support schools and hospitals abroad?

The goal of any good development professional is to eliminate the need for their existence. Schools and hospitals serve a transformational role in civil society, not only because of those they provide services to, but also because these schools and hospitals are investing in the future leaders of their countries. In order to become future leaders, they must have the tools to succeed. ASHA programs aim

to support institutions that, through their actions, are encouraging young people to engage proactively as members of society, be inclusive in their efforts and strive through hard work to build a better future.

3. In what way do you think the ASHA grant through the LAU Medical Center-Rizk Hospital serves the Lebanese community? Is there any room for improvement?

ASHA supported LAU's Rizk Hospital to purchase \$1.3 million in trauma care equipment for the Emergency Unit, the Operating Room, the C-Section Delivery Room, the Open Heart Operating Room, and the ICU at the LAU Medical Center-Rizk Hospital. It is also currently supporting the purchase of equipment to help medical professionals improve the quality of care they provide to treat complications at childbirth that impact mothers and infants. ASHA is particularly impressed with the efforts the hospital is making to reach out to underserved and marginalized populations in Lebanon.

The education students receive from the LAU Medical Center-Rizk Hospital not only benefits Lebanon, but also professionals from around the world who



LAU CHAT: Anne Dix

come to LAU because of the quality of education it offers, from pharmacy, to nursing, to medical care. Together, LAU's Beirut and Byblos campuses provide nearly \$900 million to the Lebanese economy every year. More than \$200 million of this money is through the generation of jobs and employment opportunities for over 9500 people. However, LAU's retention rates have remained fairly stagnant over the past few years. I would like to see these retention rates improve and learn more about the efforts LAU is making to improve these numbers.

4. What are some of the unexpected hurdles with overseeing grants and what are some of the unexpected benefits?

The ASHA program is based in Washington and many of the places where we work are hard to travel to because of funding and travel restrictions. This means that sometimes we don't receive the full

story of what is happening on the ground in a timely manner, and have to rely on third party reporting and on partners to communicate proactively about issues they encounter before they become large problems.

However, the benefits of the program outweigh the risks. For example, ASHA funding has enabled hospitals to scale up and provide lifesaving treatment to more people with no access to healthcare, either through improved facilities and capacity, or through the provision of diagnostic equipment used to target treatment. Partnerships between American and local healthcare providers have enhanced our knowledge and ability to treat some of the world's most challenging health issues. From an educational perspective, our partners have enabled many young people to dream bigger and to aspire to becoming leaders of change for their countries by offering them learning opportunities they might not have had otherwise. The

relationships these young people are building at the institutions ASHA supports will become the building blocks for future development efforts in their countries.

5. Is there anything else you would like to add?

The funds ASHA receives come from the American people and are appropriated every year by our Congress and Senate, as they have for the past 60 years in Lebanon. The Lebanese Diaspora plays a critical role as an advocate for the people of Lebanon and the Middle East. Americans recognize the sacrifice and effort the Lebanese people have made historically – and are still making today – to be inclusive, and especially admire the spirit with which they welcome so many refugees in their homes.



On October 28, the Southern California Alumni Chapter of LAU welcomed AVP of Alumni Relations Abdallah Alkhal and Director of Alumni and Special Projects Ed Shiner on a beautiful Sunday afternoon boat cruise in Los Angeles.



On Sunday, October 21, the Washington D.C. LAU Alumni Chapter and friends gathered at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Annandale Va for the film screening of "Nour." The film was directed by LAU alumnus Khalil Dreyfus Zaarour, who came from Lebanon. A Q & A followed the screening and a reception allowed for more interaction with Zaarour.



On October 26, AVP of Alumni Relations Abdallah Alkhal and Director of Alumni and Special Projects Ed Shiner met with the Seattle Alumni Chapter of LAU gather for dinner and networking at Earls.

Upcoming alumni events:

Mar. 23rd - Dallas-Ft. Worth chapter alumni gathering

Mar. 26th - Houston chapter alumni gathering with LAU Pharm.D. students

Mar. 28th- 30th - Florida chapter alumni gatherings in Tampa and Miami

For more information, please contact Ed Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects at: ed.shiner@lau.edu 917-334-0711



On October 27, the Northern California Alumni Chapter of LAU in conjunction with World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) San Francisco Chapter attended a lecture on the Phoenicians at The Tannourine Restaurant.



On October 29, Abdallah and Ed meet with the Honorable Consul General of Lebanon in Los Angeles Mirna Khawly and offered her any needed support from the alumni community and the Academic Center in NY. She, in turn, offered her assistance to the LAU community in all the 15 states on the west coast that she represents.



On Tuesday, December 18th, the LAU Alumni Chapter of Washington D.C. held their annual Christmas Holiday celebration at Wilson Hardware in Arlington.



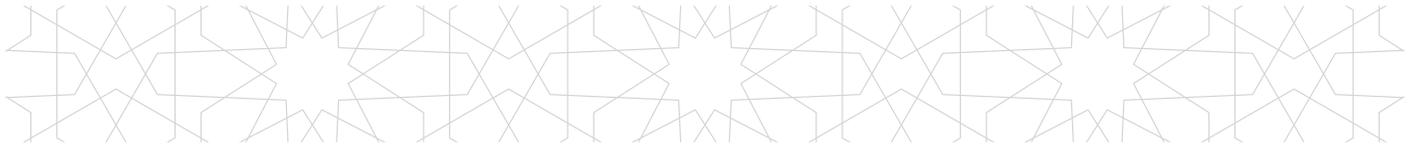
November 1, The New York/ New Jersey Alumni Chapter gathered alumni and friends for a happy hour at Castell Rooftop Lounge, the Theatre District's newest hotel.



The LAU Alumni Association Montreal Chapter along with friends and family celebrated Lebanon's 75th Independence Day on Saturday, November 24, 2018, at Restaurant Nuits de Beyrouth, Laval. Over 170 people enjoyed good food, live music, and shared their proud heritage. Special thanks to all who attended this commemoration of Lebanon's Independence Day!



On Sunday, November 4th, members and friends of the Washington DC Alumni Chapter of LAU gathered at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary for an informative presentation on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites In Lebanon by Nada Sara of New York.



The artist and her sculptures at the Brooklyn Museum. (Photo credit: Kolin Mendez)



LAU alumna Ginane Makki Bacho exhibits at the Brooklyn Museum

From October 13, 2018 to January 13, 2019, New Yorkers were privileged to experience the exhibit, Syria, Then and Now: Stories from Refugees a Century Apart, curated by Aysin Yoltar-Yildirim – Hagop Kevorkian Associate Curator of Islamic Art, Brooklyn Museum – as part of the Arab Art and Education Initiative in New York. The Brooklyn Museum is one of the largest art museums in the United States.

One of the artists exhibiting was alumna Ginane Makki Bacho, who has accomplished a great deal since graduating from LAU with a BA in 1982, and completing her MFA in Printmaking and Painting at the Pratt Institute, NY. She has taught Fine Arts for 15 years in Lebanon and the US, and has held several solo as well as collective exhibitions in Beirut, Washington, Dubai, Doha, and Alexandria, among others.

The Brooklyn Museum exhibit juxtaposed 13th-century Ayyubid ceramics unearthed in Raqqa, Syria, by Circassian refugees around the turn of the 20th century with artwork of current-day Syrian refugees fleeing their homes with a few essential

items. One of the mixed-media artwork displayed by Syrian artist Mohamad Hafez was a representation of a bombed-out building, stripped to the bone, rising out of a suitcase.

Bacho’s artwork, titled Refugees, was her contribution to the exhibition – scrap metal sculptures of Syrian refugees in motion on or off boats holding their few precious belongings as they fled their homeland. Bacho draws on her own experience of civil war in Lebanon and personal reflections on the Syrian refugee crisis in the region for her work. The collection, she explained, is meant “to drive home the plight of refugees, which weighs heavily on my mind and that of the world. As an artist, I consider myself a witness of my time. My work documents the news by criticizing the violence manifested in the displacement of refugees and reflects an engagement, a manifesto against war.”

During the Lebanese Civil War, Bacho created sculptures of the shrapnel and bombs that destroyed her home and



By Elida Jbeili

studio. She exhibited these pieces in 1983 at LAU (BUC at the time), along with five other graduates from the university. Bacho remembers her time at LAU fondly as a special period in her life, where she finished her BA in two years, and appreciated the nurturing support from the teachers of the fine arts department.

Ed Shiner, director of alumni and special projects at LAU NY, who visited the exhibit remarked that he was “very proud to see the exceptional achievements of one of our graduates. Having an LAU (BUC) alumna exhibit at the renowned Brooklyn Museum of Art is one of these special moments for all of us at LAU. We are proud of Ginane and of what LAU was able to offer her.”

In the last few years, as a mixed-medium artist, Bacho has shifted her artwork from the personal to the global, asserting that her purpose is to record events with the impartiality of a historian. “I want to be as authentic as possible, so that the sculptures would stand as testimonials of this time of our life, its ugliness and destruction,” she said.

WE ARE LAU



Marge Pfeleiderer joined LAU in March 2007 as Director of Operations for NY. At that time, LAU had a small Advancement office housed in The Interchurch Center on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The job involved office management, HR, and NY point person for the business office in Lebanon, keeping an eye on invoices and reimbursements. When LAU NY moved to the current location at 211 East 46th Street, Operations suddenly faced the challenge of managing a much larger space, including security, maintenance, cleaning, fire alarm systems, and various other safety concerns.

Prior to coming to LAU, Pfeleiderer had a varied career. After obtaining a degree in music history from Drew University, she moved to New York City to become a stage manager on Broadway. Finally deciding to move on to something else, she had the good fortune to apprentice as a cabinetmaker in several NY shops, learning along the way,

until she finally opened her own business: Shade Tree Woodworks. A back injury put an end to that career, but other doors opened, and Pfeleiderer became the office manager for a custom cabinet shop, honing new skills in HR, bookkeeping, and office management.

Missing the creative outlet of singing, Pfeleiderer joined the West Village Chorale (WVC) in the winter of 1991 – and met Ed Shiner. A long time friendship with Shiner meant learning about the Lebanese people and Lebanese cuisine. WVC has been the source of many long friendships, and it was there that she met her wife Ana Beranek 25 years ago. All these aspects of life kept overlapping: Pfeleiderer built the risers the Chorale still performs on, constructed chair dollies for moving furniture in the early days at 211 East 46th, and recently built sound baffles for the voice over studio Beranek now has in their Brooklyn apartment.

Once at LAU, Pfeleiderer was surprised to discover the earlier Lebanese influence in her life. Among the handful of woodworkers she had looked to for inspiration were L. and J.G. Stickley and Sam Maloof. Alfred and Aminy Audi ('61) kept the furniture of L. and J.G. Stickley alive and well, now under the name Stickley Audi. Sam Maloof inspired generations with his studio furniture, and is especially known for his organic rocking chairs.

When not at LAU, you might find Pfeleiderer in her basement shop, developing new skills as a hand tool woodworker, or still singing with the West Village Chorale. If this all seems very cyclical, it is. And Operations for LAU NY is very much like stage management: you keep the lights on and help everyone hit their marks.

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You are invited!

May 9, 2019



SAVE THE DATE - Gala Dinner 2019

Join LAU New York for our 7th Annual Gala

To honor LAU's legacy as a school founded by a woman, for women, the proceeds of this year's gala, as in several years past, will be earmarked for LAU's Institute for Women Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW), one of the first of its kind in the Middle East, established over 40 years ago.

Come celebrate this year's honorees with us: Joseph Audi, Chairman & CEO, Interaudi Bank and Nayla Moawad, Founder, René Moawad Foundation.

LAU's New York Academic Center (LAU NY) is an off-campus site serving as a platform for global educational outreach and cross-cultural dialogue. Adhering to a vision of building bridges between New York and the Middle East, the center regularly hosts public events with artists and leading experts on political, cultural, social, and economic issues.

BOARDING PASS

New York → Beirut

DATE: May 9, 2019

LOCATION: New York Athletic Club, New York City

SEAT: First Class

FOR MORE INFO: Ed.shanjar@lau.edu | 917-334-0711

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LAU is committed to environmental policies and practices. Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive the print edition of *LAU Matters* by contacting launy@lau.edu

LAU NY EVENT CALENDAR

February

Feb. 12th: *Glass Slipper or Glass Ceiling? Connecting the Fashion Industry and Gender Equality*

Feb. 22nd-24th: North American Alumni Conference

Feb. 27th: Book launch of *Sentence to Hope* and *Modern and Contemporary Political Theater from the Levant* with authors Robert Myers (AUB) and Nada Saab (LAU)

March

Mar. 28th-30th: GCI Model UN Middle School Conference:
Celebrate International Diplomacy

April

April 30th – May 7th: *Lebanese Heritage Through Photography* – a Bassam Lahoud Photo Exhibit of 1960s-1980s Lebanon

May

May 9th: LAU NY 7th Annual Gala Dinner at the New York Athletic Club

May 9th-11th: GCI Model UN High School Conference:
Shape the Strategic Development Goal

For more info: launy@lau.edu



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