

LAU matters

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LAU Champions Pedagogical Innovation

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On Thursday, September 6, the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City hosted the LAU Chairman's Dinner, held in conjunction with the bi-annual Board of Trustees meetings. At this meeting, Chairman Philip Stoltzfus and Vice Chairman Mike Ahmar concluded their terms and were replaced by newly-elected Chairman Peter Tanous and Vice Chairwoman Cherilyn Murer.

The two dozen board members are the driving force behind LAU's third strategic plan, known as SPIII, which serves as the university's roadmap to the year 2022. SPIII provides a set of long-term goals intended to enhance LAU's build-up of intellectual capital, deploy an integrated program of pedagogical innovation and move in the direction of transforming LAU into a university without borders.

These strategic goals constitute the three pillars of SPIII and can best be viewed as main tributaries converging into a mainstream: namely the positioning of LAU as a leading regional institution of higher learning thanks to what would then be the increased quantity and quality of its research, the cutting-edge innovation of its delivery strategies, and its collective drive toward expanding its academic and professional footprint beyond Lebanon.

During the Chairman's Dinner, board members, administrators, alumni, and

friends enjoyed a full evening of cocktails and dinner. Special guest speaker, Senator George Mitchell, captivated the group with a memorable and inspiring speech. He spoke of the parallel between Lebanon and the United States, both being a homestead for refugee immigrants, offering his own immigrant Lebanese parents as an example. The senator grew up with a mother who worked in the dregs of a textile mill and a father who served as a school janitor. Both died penniless, yet filled with gratitude. Mitchell recalled the time his father had said to him, "I know you're going to do well. I want you to take a good look at your mother, and at me, and wherever you go, whatever you do, don't you ever forget where you came from." Mitchell has carried this adage with him throughout his life as he continues to use his platform as a revered politician to better the United States' relationship with Lebanon and to advocate on behalf of the downtrodden everywhere.

Similarly, LAU, stewarded by its Board of Trustees, endeavors to carry its mission to as many students and community members as possible, providing an American liberal arts education that is firmly aligned with the LAU values of hard work, integrity, and service to our fellow human beings.



Cultivating the Power of Volunteerism

Honoring LAU's mission statement which includes civic engagement as a staple, the Outreach & Civic Engagement unit at LAU organizes an annual Global Outreach & Leadership Development (GOLD 2018) conference at LAU New York beginning of August. This year's conference was organized under the theme *Power of Volunteerism*.

The theme explores "the multiple powers of empathy, creativity, judgment, planning, leadership, communications, problem solving and altruism," said Assistant Vice President for Outreach and Civic Engagement, Mr. Elie Samia. "[It] demonstrates the 'cognitive, psychological and experiential values of volunteerism.' Studies show that the soft skills of mindfulness, empathy, and inclusion are crucial to become an effective team player. Volunteerism is a

catalyst for the empathy required in order to make sound decisions.

During the five-day leadership conference, attendees hailing from Lebanon, the United States and China, among other nations, learned about high-impact entrepreneurship initiatives at The New School, experienced the Financial District, and volunteered at a community lunch organized by the non-profit organization Community Impact at Columbia University.

GOLD thoroughly trains participating delegates in the rules of procedure during a United Nations conference, which has proven valuable as many of the GOLD participants progress to international simulation programs such as Model United Nations.

Since 2005, LAU has been providing approximately 2,500,000 hours of training

and peace building, and engaging no less than 3,000 student leaders to train more than 30,550 students from all over Lebanon through its simulation models that grant more than 160 scholarships per year to distinguished and outstanding participants.

LAU has been entrusted by the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) with two large Model UN International Conferences that take place at the United Nations Headquarters every spring and are attended by thousands of global delegates. For the fourth consecutive year, LAU will take ownership of the Global Classrooms International (GCI) Model UN brand and looks forward to organizing the conferences in cooperation with UNA-USA this upcoming spring in New York City.

When You Give Back

by Erika Iverson



(R-L) Ali Choaib, Lynn Abou Hamdan and Jad Al Masri

In the summer of 2018, 12 LAU undergraduate students visited New York as part of the annual Global Outreach and Leadership Development (GOLD) Conference.

Three of the students, Ali Choaib (20), Jad Al Masri (18), and Lynn Abou Hamdan (20) sat down with LAU Matters to discuss their experiences as recipients of financial aid in the LAU classroom and community.

These students share one common thread: all received some form of scholarship as part of their admission package.

“It’s amazing how you feel when you are helping them, when you are listening to their stories, how they live. There are many students who really need our help. They need our support.

- Lynn Abou Hamdan

Whether it is need-based financial aid, merit-based scholarships, or a combination of the two, 46 percent of students at LAU receive some form of financial assistance. For many, this assistance is what makes their attendance at LAU possible. Ali Choaib, an aspiring biology major, was not certain he would be able to enroll at LAU until he received a high score on his entrance exam, qualifying for the prestigious Honors Program and highly competitive affiliated scholarship for select students.

Sometimes, the desire to attend LAU is so strong that applicants will turn down full scholarships at other institutions. Jad Al Masri, a business marketing major, had the opportunity to receive a full ride to another university and still chose LAU. The spirit of philanthropy surrounding LAU was a decisive factor for Al Masri, who was supported by donors providing him with the quality higher education he was seeking. Although he only graduated this spring, he hopes to give back to LAU soon, in whatever way he is able. Al Masri understands the importance of donating to the scholarship fund for future students, as it had made his own education possible.

Lynn Abou Hamdan, a banking and finance major, never dreamed that she would be able to visit New York City thanks

to LAU. A recipient of financial aid and honors scholarships, she has been working hard both in and out of the classroom. Through the scholarship, Abou Hamdan has been able to enrich her LAU education by engaging in extracurricular activities such as traveling to NYC to attend the GOLD conference, a milestone she believes her family could never have afforded without assistance.

It isn’t only receiving funding that makes LAU scholarships so life enhancing for the students. According to all three interviewees, being encouraged to pay it forward within the academic community is one of the greatest appeals of the program. Last semester, Abou Hamdan volunteered with Moumken, a non-governmental organization in Lebanon that offers tutoring assistance to students in public schools. Through this experience, she learned that by volunteering in education she was adding inherent value to the lives of future leaders. “It’s amazing how you feel when you are helping them, when you are listening to their stories, how they live. There are many students who really need our help. They need our support.”

When asked why each of the students declined other opportunities in favor of attending LAU, all three echoed “LAU feels like home.”

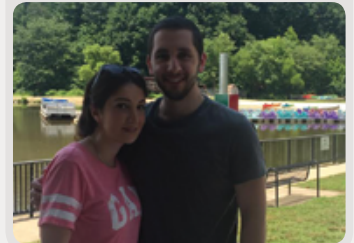


On Sunday, June 24th, The Toronto Alumni Chapter of LAU and their families gathered for the annual Breakfast in the Park, held at Adams Park in Scarborough. Despite rain in the forecast, the event was a huge success, complete with delicious Saj, and games of Tawla, or Backgammon.

On Sunday, July 1, 2018, members of the LAU NY/NJ Alumni Chapter and friends spent the afternoon kayaking on the Hudson River, followed by socializing with some refreshing food and drink. Everyone enjoyed this special event.



On Sunday, July 1, 2018, members of the Washington DC Alumni Chapter (LAU Alumni and Friends - DC Chapter) headed out to Lake Accotink Park for their 4th Annual Saj Picnic. It was an awesome day of fun and delicious food.



The LAU Alumni Chapter of Montreal (LAU Alumni Association Montreal), along with the alumni chapters of AUB, NDU, and USJ, got together at Angrignon Park on Sunday, July 8, 2018, for "Picnic in the Park." Great food and good times.



On July 16, 2018, Dr. Ray Hachem and his wife, Sandra, hosted a gathering at their home for LAU's Pharm D students who are in a four-month-long residency at Houston Methodist Hospital. Dr. Hachem serves as President of the American Lebanese Medical Association (ALMA), and is a long-time mentor to LAU's rotating groups of Pharm D students.

Residency Director, Mr. Mike Leibl was also present to see Pharm D students, Maya Kfoury and Vanessa Najem receive scholarships from the ALMA. Congratulations to Maya and Vanessa!

If your alumni chapter has an upcoming event, please notify Ed Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects, T: (+1) 646.255.1099 or E: ed.shiner@lau.edu



Ahmad Zaarouri (M.I.S '09) alumnus and active member of the Dubai & Northern Emirates Chapter of LAU was in New York for business. He visited with Edward Shiner, Director of Alumni and Special Projects, who gave him a tour of LAU's Headquarters and Academic Center. Our alumni are always welcome to visit their "New York Home" when they're in town.



On September 9th, 2018, The Toronto Alumni Chapter of LAU held their annual picnic at Lakefront Promenade Park in Mississauga, Ontario. This fun family event was complete with great food, games and a raffle.



On September 23, 2018, members of the Washington D.C. LAU Alumni Chapter (LAU Alumni and Friends - DC Chapter) came together for a day of fun and networking on the driving range at Topgolf.

Upcoming alumni events: "On the Road with Abdallah and Ed"

Oct. 21st - Washington DC

Film screening of *Nour* with the film director and LAU alumnus Khalil Dreyfus Zaarour

Oct. 25th - Chicago chapter dinner

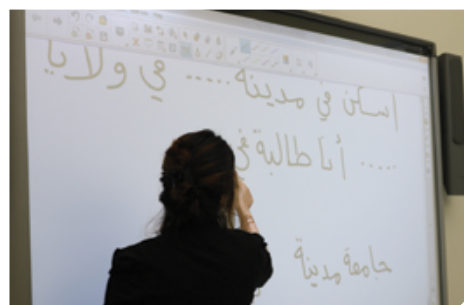
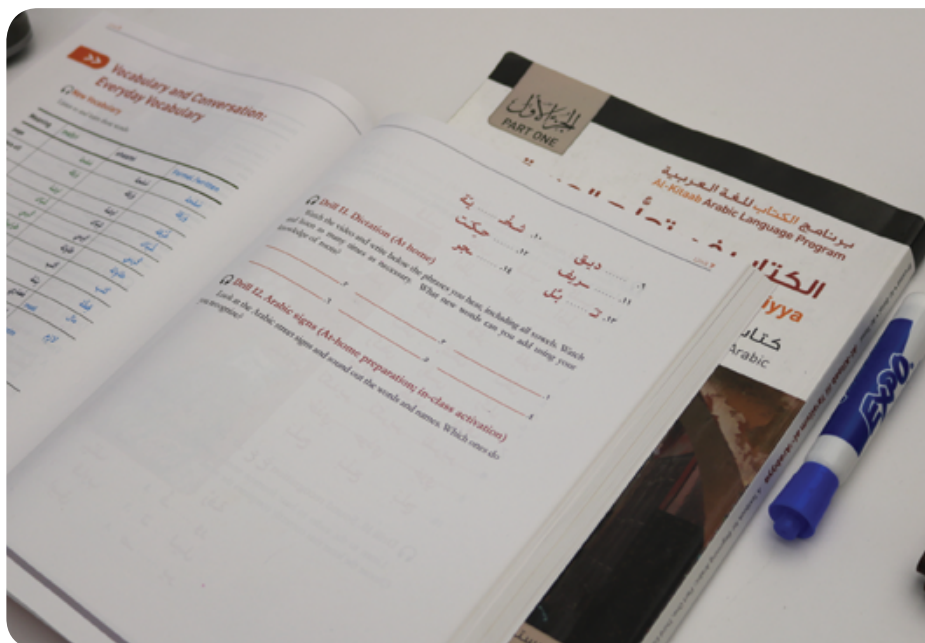
Oct. 26th - Seattle chapter alumni gathering

Oct. 27th - Northern California Chapter - Presentation on *The Contribution of Lebanese-Phoenicians to World Civilization Since the Dawn of Time* by Dr. Clovis Karam

Oct. 28th - Southern California Chapter - Sunday afternoon cruise from Marina Del Rey

Nov. 1st - NY/NJ Chapter - Theater District Happy Hour

Nov. 4th - Washington DC Chapter Presentation on UNESCO Heritage Sites of Lebanon by Ms. Nada Sara



Studying Arabic in New York

LAU's SINARC (Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic and Culture) launched its courses at LAU New York in January 2014. Since then, the program has offered a variety of courses at all levels in the curriculum, which includes Modern Standard Arabic, Levantine Dialect and Arabic Media.

SINARC New York brands itself on personality and flexibility. Its instructors are native speakers with years of specialized teaching experience in reading, writing, and verbal communication. Classes are held in the evenings, providing students and working professionals with convenient times to fit in their schedules. In an effort to accommodate its diverse student body, the university provides the option to either receive academic credit (transferable to all US institutions) or to waive credit in exchange for a reduced course fee.

"Studying Arabic at LAU New York offers a welcoming environment for students to explore the language at their own pace," says Dashiell Krempel, co-ordinator of the

SINARC classes in New York. "Our class sizes are small, and students come from a variety of backgrounds. Every semester, classes are made up of heritage speakers, undergrad and graduate students, and learners of all ages who simply want to be introduced to the language."

Students take courses at LAU NY for a number of reasons. Many are working professionals, aiming to advance their careers with a better command of the Arabic Language. Desmond Butler, a Spring 2018 Middle Eastern Studies graduate of the CUNY Graduate Center, wanted to gain fluency in Arabic to facilitate his job search. "I am fascinated by the cultures and history of the MENA region," said Desmond. "My teacher, Rasha Arabi shared her passion for Arabic language and teaching, and was eager to discuss her opinions on traveling throughout the region, based on her personal experiences. This provided helpful context for those seeking to travel to the Middle East and speak the language."

Studying at LAU NY has helped Desmond achieve his goal of grasping Arabic. He plans to take more classes in the future.

Full-time PhD student Verónica Guimaraes focuses on research that traces aspects of Classical European Music to Andalusian and Classical Arabic roots. "I tried to learn Arabic a few years ago, because I needed to be able to comprehend Arabic sources, namely medieval literature on music," she says. "Studying at SINARC felt like a natural process, and I was always looking forward to class. I'm now more confident about using the basic Arabic I acquired through LAU than I ever was during my previous attempts at learning the language."

According to SINARC Director Nada Saab, the demand for Arabic language instruction has skyrocketed since 2008. "There are now countless reasons why people from all walks of life choose to study Arabic. It is our goal at SINARC to cater to all demographics, translating unanswered interest into meaningful learning opportunities."

WE ARE LAU



Dashiell Krempel, Student Services Assistant, represents LAU's Student Development and Enrollment Management (SDEM) department at LAU NY. Dash oversees several aspects of student life across multiple departments, including the SINARC Arabic Language program. He also serves as the point of contact for LAU students living or residing in the US. Dash works with the Office of Civic Engagement to coordinate the Global Classrooms International (GCI) Model UN and the Global Outreach and Leadership Development (GOLD) conferences. The GCI Model UN conferences, hosted biannually by LAU NY, draw thousands of students from over 150 junior high and high schools around the world.

Originally born in San Francisco, Dash is the proud son of two technology pioneers. His mother, Lynne Stiles, founded YO, a graphic design firm that streamlined the use of toolbars and dropdown menus in

web design. His father, Henry Krempel, was an esteemed software developer for NeXT Computer, the company that wrote the software for the world's first web browser.

The most important lesson Dash learned from his parents was that of humility. "I try not to speak of my accomplishments too often," he says. "When you cannot tell anecdotes, when you cannot reference an inside joke with old friends, who are you? True self-confidence stems from character, not qualification."

During his college years, Dash majored in International Relations and spent an entire year abroad. Through working at LAU NY, the May 2018 graduate looks forward to gaining experience in the field of International Education.

Dash aims to enhance LAU NY's imprint on the city by being a resource for students who share his passion for language and learning.

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* Denotes alumni donors.

Thursdays

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Thursday 11 October 6 - 8 PM

Panel: Frantz Fanon, Decolonization and the Future of Middle East Politics

Frantz Fanon is an instrumental figure in post colonial theory and Middle East studies. LAU NY will host a panel discussion with Prof. Anthony Alessandrini, Prof. Bhakti Shringarpure and Prof. Muriam Haleh Davis about the significance and relevance of Fanon's work today.



Thursday 15 November 6 PM

Workshop: Learn how to Dabkeh

Circle World Arts and LAU NY are happy to co-present a Dabkeh dance workshop with artists, Hadi Eldebek and Mohamad Eldebek. Dabkeh is an Arabic folk dance native to the Levant. All dancers and nondancers are welcome.



Thursday 29 November 6 PM

Performance: Quench the Thirsty by Takht Al-Nagham & Wajde Ayub

The Syrian Music Preservation Initiative presents the 1776 composition "Quench The Thirsty" with Samer Ali's Takht Al-Nagham featuring Syrian vocalist Wajde Ayub. Takht Al-Nagham is an Arab chamber music ensemble. It features the sound of a traditional orchestra with all acoustic instruments and aims to celebrate the luminous performing arts of Aleppo, Syria's musical capital.



STUDY ARABIC in BEIRUT or NEW YORK

SINARC offers courses in Arabic language and culture at all levels in the **Fall**, **Spring** and **Summer** semesters at the **Lebanese American University**.



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LAU NY ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Courses

January 14 - April 19, 2019:

All levels of Arabic Language Courses

For more info: sinarc.nyc@lau.edu / 212.203.4333



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