



## A September to Remember

September was a busy and exciting month for LAU and the New York Headquarters and Academic Center. On September 12 and 13, LAU held its Board of Trustees meeting at the building for the first time. Also, two other significant events occurred on September 13: LAU inaugurated the Center and held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraising Gala. And, if that weren't enough, LAU also held its first GOAL conference on September 13 and 14. **(For more about the GOAL conference, check out page 3).**

Over 250 people attended the Gala, and the event raised over \$100,000. "This year's money raised at the Gala will go to the Institute for Women's Studies in

the Arab World (IWSAW)," said Wadih Jordan, Chairperson of the Advancement Committee of LAU's Board of Trustees. "This program honors our roots as a school created for women. The university has transformed into a co-educational institute that is now the first American university to come back to the United States." At the Gala, Dr. Samira Aghacy, interim director of IWSAW, made a presentation about IWSAW and LAU's history of educating women and men from Lebanon and throughout the Middle East. She also discussed IWSAW's future goals and plans including turning Al-Raida, IWSAW's academic research journal, into a double-blind peer reviewed journal, research projects, and IWSAW

new Master's Degree in Women and Gender Studies, one of the few women and gender studies masters programs in the region.

The Gala also honored three prominent Lebanese figures in the United States: Dr. Edgar Choueiri, Ray LaHood and Judge Jeanine Pirro. Dr. Edgar Choueiri is a plasma physicist at Princeton University and president of the Lebanese Academy of Sciences. Ray LaHood was U.S. secretary of transportation from 2009 to 2013 and represented Illinois' 18th congressional district in the House of Representatives from 1995 to 2009.

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# Opportunities **Abound**



*We received a letter from alumnus Georges Rahayel showcasing the importance and prestige of an LAU degree in North America. Georges is a graduate of the School of Engineering at LAU. The school has degree programs accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the accreditor of college and university programs in engineering. ABET accreditation shows a program’s commitment to providing students with a quality education.*

Two things happened to me this week that made me realize how blessed I am to have graduated from LAU. First, I received a letter from one of Canada’s professional engineering organization this week saying that my admission request has been approved. I contacted LAU’s Alumni Relations Office to obtain an official document verifying LAU’s ABET accreditation. I sent the accreditation verification to the professional engineering organization as an additional document, which made them accept my membership without having to pass three tests usually required for immigrants who did not graduate from Canadian universities.

Second, I received a phone call today from an engineering consultant company. I explained to the HR director that my bachelor’s degree is ABET accredited. He replied: “LAU has a very good reputation here in the North America. I have heard very good things about it.”

I never truly estimated the opportunities that LAU has offered me until I tested it myself. I compare my case to my Canadian friends and colleagues; some have been rejected by a Canadian professional engineering organization, others accepted on the condition that they pass an engineering examination, and/or are considered to have obsolete engineering skills and are forced to go back to school. Now I understand why LAU invests so much in computer labs, libraries, research, smart classrooms, and pushes professors to publish scientific articles.

No words can express the gratitude and recognition I feel toward every single person who worked on building LAU’s reputation.



## 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 <http://campaign.lau.edu.lb/ways-to-give> to make a gift now.

## 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/ways-to-give](http://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 Headquarters and Academic Center 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: Drs. Joseph Jabbra and Paul Boulos cut the ribbon at the LAU Headquarters and Academic Center building inauguration event on September 13.



# Global Gathering

On September 13 and 14, LAU held its first Global Outreach and Leadership (GOAL) Conference at the New York Headquarters and Academic Center. The event brought together approximately 100 education and policy professionals from universities, NGOs and international organizations from around the world. Universities and organizations represented included: Georgetown University, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Policy Institute, American University of Beirut, Medical Bridges and the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. “The GOAL conference was a launching pad for future collaboration between LAU New York and local as well as international institutions,” said Dr. Elie Badr, Assistant to the President, Strategy Officer For External Projects and Related Entities, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Judith S. Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) gave the keynote address on September 13 and

discussed the trends and challenges of higher education, including pressures that could potentially change the academic landscape forever. Dr. Eaton emphasized that, in order to stay relevant, universities need to reconsider their use of technology, review quality assurance methods, and strengthen commitments to academic freedom.

On September 14, three panels brought speakers together to discuss global education, youth civic engagement and international diplomacy from a Model United Nations perspective, and civic advocacy and international NGOs. The four speakers on the global education panel spoke about online learning and global education, study abroad and student mobility, universities helping create global leaders and strategic thinking.

The second panel on youth and civic engagement had four speakers who discussed investing in youth, human dignity and youth partnerships. The speakers touched on the importance of

creating programs for youth to maintain stability, since half the world population is under 25. “We have never had so many young people, so when we talk about the future, if we don’t invest in this generation, we won’t be able to maintain stability and peace. They face tremendous challenges and offer a chance to boost our economies,” said Ahmad Elhendawi, Envoy on Youth to the UN Secretary General.

The final panel, focusing on civic advocacy, included four speakers who discussed the changing role of civil society and cross border perspectives. Civic advocacy is also present on LAU’s campus; thirty percent of LAU students do extracurricular and voluntary work.

At the conclusion of the conference, Dr. Badr observed, “LAU is an American institution operating in Lebanon and now has a footprint in the United States. It brings all of its expertise in the international domain to the door step of our youth in New York and the surrounding states.”



# LAU events



## Sail Away

Join LAU, alumni, family and friends on the **Alumni/ae and Friends Winter Cruise** from Thursday, February 27 – Monday, March 3, 2014. The cruise will start in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and sail for five days to Nassau, the Bahamas and Key West, Florida. Prices range from \$374.00 to \$559.00 per person and include ship accommodations, ocean transportation, most meals, some nonalcoholic beverages, and most entertainment aboard ship. A \$100.00 deposit is due at the time of booking. If you change your mind, you can cancel your trip up to 58 days prior to sailing with a full refund.

If you have any questions or would like to get additional information about the cruise, please contact:

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### Ottawa

The Ottawa Alumni Chapter met for a small dinner gathering with chapter officers on September 19 at Moxie's Restaurant in Gloucester, Ontario, a suburb of Ottawa.



### New York/New Jersey

The New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter met for "TGIF at the Met" on August 2. The group went for drinks at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's rooftop bar and went on a tour of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century wing lead by alums and artists, Tony Faddoul and Maroon Kassab.



(From top to bottom) 1) The Southern California Alumni Chapter hosted a reception at the House of Lebanon on October 19. (L to R) Alumnae Susan Qaqundah and Leila Blackstone coordinated the reception. 2) (L to R) Susan and Dr. Paul Qaqundah, Leila Blackstone, and Fouad and Laura El-Abd.



### New York

(From top to bottom) 1) On November 4, Father Timothy Scully, Director of the Institute for Educational Initiatives at Notre Dame University, and colleagues from the Institute visited LAU's NYHAC and discussed possible collaborations between LAU and Notre Dame. (L to R) Joe Cari, Fr. Scully, Ed Shiner, Drew Clary, Laura Smith. 2) On October 17, Houston oncologist Dr. Philip Salem presented a lecture on his life's experiences in treating cancer patients and his views on Lebanon. His presentation was a commentary on his book, "Cancer, Love and the Politics of Hope." Around 80 people attended the event.



### Boston

On September 22, the Boston Alumni Chapter gathered for a barbecue at the home of alums Robert and Varsenig Shafie in Newton, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston. Around 40 people attended the event. (From left to right): Sossy Mahdasian, Sossy Nercessian, Ed Shiner, Varsenig and Robert Shafie, Abdallah Alkhal, Executive Director of Alumni, Beirut, Reham Haddad, Tarek Chbaklo, and Aida Sarkissian.

### Montreal



The Montreal Alumni Chapter met on September 20 at Modavie Restaurant. Prior to dinner, a meeting of outgoing and incoming chapter committees was held with Abdallah Al Khal and Ed Shiner.



### Seattle

The Seattle Alumni Chapter met for a bowling party on October 18 at Lucky Strike Bowling in Bellevue, Washington, a suburb of Seattle. The bowling night began with drinks and appetizers, then finished with some enjoyable and humorous bowling. Close to 30 people joined the fun.







LAU giving

# Health Initiatives

In 2012, the LAU Health Foundation (LAUHF) was created as the U.S. fundraising arm of University Medical Center- Rizk Hospital (UMC-RH). In addition, it is also charged with securing funds, building relationships and creating outreach opportunities to assist the University’s health sciences to grow in size and quality. These programs include the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine, Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, and LAU’s public health programs.

“The primary purpose of LAUHF was to create a way UMC-RH could fundraise in the U.S. Because the hospital is not a U.S. institution, donors cannot make tax-deductible gifts to UMC-RH. LAUHF was created as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, permitting individuals and corporations in the U.S. to make tax-deductible contributions,” said Dr. Sami Khoury, Chairman of LAUHF and a physician.

As chairman, Dr. Khoury’s role is to organize and direct meetings of the LAUHF Board of Trustees. However, he has a more ambitious agenda in mind and became closely involved in activities ranging from public relations to fundraising. He has visited campus, toured the hospital and health sciences facilities, met with Deans and hospital administrators and discussed strategy with LAU President Dr. Joseph Jabbra.

Earlier this year, Dr. Khoury and Dr. Youssef Comair, Dean of the School of Medicine, met with top officials from the University of Washington’s Global Health Program to begin building a relationship between UW and LAU. A focal point of this cooperation will be LAU’s clinic in the Shatila Palestinian Refugee Camp.

In its fundraising role, LAUHF has special opportunities for donors interested in the health sciences and UMC-RH. These giving initiatives at the hospital

include a new operating room complex, as well as renovation of the emergency room, intensive care unit and cardiac care unit. Within the Health Sciences at LAU, giving opportunities include laboratories in the School of Medicine, breast cancer research at the School of Nursing, a Bioequivalence Center for the School of Pharmacy and operating funds for the Shatila Refugee Clinic. Scholarships are a need across the board, as are endowments and in-kind gifts of equipment. Donations to LAUHF are tax deductible according to IRS regulations, and donors can direct the foundation as to how their contributions are to be used.

“Our efforts are going to be focused on obtaining gifts that will assist UMC-RH in its highest-priority projects,” said Dr. Khoury. “However, as noted earlier, we’re also paying attention to the needs of the health sciences at LAU.”



(Top to Bottom)  
Drs. Jabbra and Paul Boulos present the Sarah Huntington Smith Award to 1) Ray LaHood, 2) Judge Jeanine Pirro and 3) Dr. Edgar Choueiri.



## Board of Trustees and Gala

Continued from page 1

Judge Jeanine Pirro was the first female district attorney of Westchester County in New York State, and currently stars in Fox News’ “Justice with Judge Jeanine.” Dr. Joseph Jabbra, President of LAU, and Dr. Paul Boulos, LAU Board of Trustees Chair, presented each honoree with LAU’s Sarah Huntington Smith Award, named after the missionary who established the American School for Girls in 1834, which later became LAU.

A few hours before the Gala, LAU inaugurated its New York Headquarters and Academic Center. Over 100 people attended the event, including former Lebanese ministers Nayla Mouawad, Ahmad Hariri, Mona Safadi, and Lebanon’s Ambassador to the United Nations Nawwaf Salam.

In the coming months, the NYHQAC will become the focal point of lectures, classes, exhibitions and other activities benefitting LAU alumni, friends and the broader community.

## Thank You For Your Generous Support

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# Dr. Sami **Khoury**

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

I live in Los Angeles, California and I am a physician. I moved to California in the 1970s to pursue my medical degree at the University of Southern California. I graduated in 1980 and was a founding partner of CareMore Medical Group. I was vice chair of the Group until 2006 when the company was sold to J.P.

Morgan Chase. In 2007, I became one of the founding partners of Nifty After Fifty, a physical therapy rehabilitation center and gym for older adults. We started with one location and now have 42. I am the Medical Director and part owner of the company.

## **How did you become involved with LAU?**

Two years ago, I started to get involved with LAU. I always knew about BUC during my time in Lebanon. Dr. Hanna

Shammas, member of the LAU Board of Trustees, helped me get involved with the LAU Health Foundation (LAUHF). Dr. Shammas and I knew each other from the American University of Beirut, where we were both students in their medical program. This year, Dr. Jabbra approached me and asked me to chair LAUHF.

## **What do you do as Chair of LAUHF and what are your future goals?**

I am working with Bob Hollback, Assistant Vice President for Development, on raising funds for University Medical Center- Rizk Hospital, and the three schools of health. We are the only entity that can raise funds for the hospital in the U.S. I'm also interested in helping UMC-RH raise its visibility in Lebanon and the Middle East.