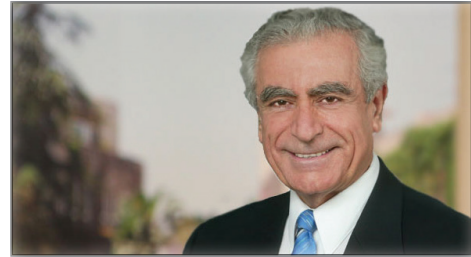




The President's Forum



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