

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of LAU,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you my annual report recounting LAU's achievements over the last academic year. Despite difficult national and regional conditions, our beloved institution continues to move from success to success, bolstered by the unprecedented support of the extended LAU family.

Throughout academic year 2015-2016, we triumphantly overcame economic and political headwinds, holding our own as a leading Lebanese institution of higher learning, continuing to increase enrollment, and placing ever higher on international rankings of university education. Our standing was solidified by our ever-expanding partnerships with industry, which provide students with hands-on work experience prior to graduation while also opening up opportunities for our faculty to engage in applied research.

I am thrilled to inform you that we completed our academically focused Strategic Plan (SP II) on schedule in 2016. SP II led to significant improvements in LAU's academic standards and standings, by means of a reengineered freshman program, the establishment of a unique Honors Program, a fully operational office of Graduate Studies and Research, and other achievements. We have already begun drafting its successor, SP III, based on the three core pillars of intellectual capital, pedagogical innovation, and entrepreneurial initiatives.

While each and every one of our milestones this past year is important in its own right, please allow me to emphasize here an acclaimed achievement: the completion of the coveted AACSB accreditation by LAU's Adnan Kassar School of Business. Meanwhile our School of Medicine attracted 55 new students, with the highest-ever average GPA for an entering class. They are drawn by LAU's cutting edge facilities, including the state-of-the-art Clinical Simulation Center on the Byblos campus.

Strong academic programs are impossible without highly qualified and well-supported faculty engaging in research as well as teaching activities. The past year witnessed a marked upsurge in research productivity in all seven of the university's schools. We have attracted over 20 new faculty members at various ranks and instituted a multi-track faculty ranking system in order to better manage faculty assets.

Both campuses are abuzz with capital improvements, as the Byblos infrastructure project is in full swing and the new building for the School of Engineering is nearing completion. In Beirut, we inaugurated the upgraded infrastructure in the spring of 2015 and proceeded with the renovation of the Gezairi building that will accommodate all the space needs of the School of Architecture and Design.

LAU's identity is closely tied to engagement with society at large. As always, our faculty, staff and students spent the 2015-2016 academic year engaged in a wide range of community service and outreach activities, from healthcare awareness campaigns, training local schoolchildren in the science, technology and math disciplines, to fundraising for charity through the Beirut Marathon, among many other examples.

Internationally, our students successfully organized the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) Global Classrooms at our Academic Center in New York (LAU NY), training high- and middle-school students in the skills of leadership, diplomacy, and peace making.



This success was mirrored at home, as LAU hosted the Model Arab League and introduced the Model European Union program, the first in Lebanon and the first worldwide to target high-school students.

When it comes to financing the beehive of operations that comprise LAU, it is my distinct pride to announce that our “Fulfilling the Promise” fundraising drive came to a spectacular conclusion, as we reached our goal of \$100 million a full year ahead of schedule, and in fact exceeded it, closing the campaign at \$103 million. We have also been fortunate in attracting funding outside the framework of the campaign, breaking the \$1 million barrier in American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) grants for the first time in LAU history. And yet again, we have received a grant through the USAID University Scholarship Program (USP), allowing us to recruit annually and for the next three years 57 students from Lebanese public high-schools; they are joined by the fourth cohort of students coming to us through the MEPI-Tomorrow’s Leaders scholarship program.

As LAU moves forward into an ever-more promising future, I invite you to carefully peruse the pages of this report detailing its most recent past. It is my deepest conviction that our beloved institution’s continued success is only possible with your unflagging support, for which I remain

Gratefully Yours,

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