Since our founding in 1924, LAU has experienced steady expansion and progress. Ninety-one years ago we operated small classes on rented premises. Today, the university is rooted in a thriving multi-campus community of thousands of students, faculty, scholars and staff. Armed with generous external support and efficiently shepherded financial resources, we effectively continue to rise to the challenge of running a large-scale operation with great success.

Renovation and building projects of an impressive scale are underway on both campuses. We are on the verge of achieving our goal of bringing all our classrooms, dorms and labs in line with international standards.

In Beirut, the Student Center has been entirely renovated into a state-of-the-art hub for the socialization and exchange of ideas that are so essential to a lively intellectual culture. The adjacent cafeteria has also been completely revamped and transformed into a modern and dynamic dining facility.

Renovation of Shannon Hall has been completed, providing modern offices for faculty and staff, as well as a home for the Department of Education’s revived ECC.

As LAU continues to spread its wings, the acquisition of additional property allows us to adapt to ever-growing needs for classroom and office space. The recently acquired Gezairi building, to house the School of Architecture and Design, reflects our dedication to harmonized expansion with cutting-edge accommodation. Meanwhile, plans are being developed for an entirely new structure for the School of Arts and Sciences.

Award-winning architecture firm Atelier Pagnamenta Torriani is finalizing the design for the new Byblos library, which is expected to be completed in 2015, while work continues on the School of Engineering’s labs and workshops building, which we anticipate will also open its doors in the same year.

Echoing our commitment to a “green” environment, we are building a new underground parking garage in Byblos, allowing us to dedicate substantial space to grass and landscaping that is expected to reach completion by spring 2014.

Finally, infrastructure upgrades are underway on both campuses. In Byblos, LAU is building new power and water facilities, a wastewater treatment plant and a spacious storage facility. In Beirut, the project consists of upgrading electrical systems and the construction of a new modern Data Center in the basement of the Faculty Apartment Building.
A Beacon for Middle Eastern Studies in Manhattan

The inauguration of LAU’s New York Headquarters and Academic Center in midtown Manhattan is a monumental achievement and a watershed in the university’s transformation from a regional to an indisputably international player in the field of higher education.

From hereon in, American students will have a unique educational opportunity to gain an insight into the Middle East with courses offered on such topics as Arabic Language, Culture Studies and Islamic Banking, among many others.

The expansion in Manhattan will be enhanced by a series of planned partnerships with top local institutions, such as Columbia University and New York University, involving cross-enrollment in addition to other types of academic exchange.
At LAU, we constantly seek out ways to bring the university closer to the society we serve. It is therefore fitting that as of this year, we established a new Executive Center in the historical quarter of downtown Beirut, helping to promote the area as a focal point of the capital’s urban life while expanding the university beyond the traditional campus model.

The establishment of the LAU Executive Center@Solidere has been made possible through the generosity of the urban development firm Solidere, which has provided the center’s location rent-free, and has financed the renovations necessary to prepare the space for educational purposes. The Executive Center is now equipped with three large modular classrooms, two studios and an executive training room, as well as faculty and staff offices. Currently, the university offers EMBA and CEP courses at this exciting new location.
Modern Facilities for Health Sciences Education

As of fall 2013, the Pharmacy, Medical and Nursing schools are housed in the new Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury Health Sciences Center on the Byblos campus, an impressive 15,500 square-meter complex that provides all the facilities and support needed for our students in the health sciences to develop into world-class professionals.

The acquisition of LAU’s University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital (UMC-RH) buttressed our expansion into the field of medical education. In order to maximize the potential of this healing and learning environment, the hospital is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment and re-equipment, to be completed by 2015. Even now, UMC-RH maintains standards of excellence in radiology, dermatology, dialysis and endoscopy. More specialized medical units – ophthalmology, IVF and cardiology – are planned for the near future.

Cutting-Edge Information Technology

The university’s success depends heavily on integrating the latest technology into the classroom, indeed, into every aspect of our operations. The past year has seen several breakthroughs in this area, from an exponentially increased number of “smart” classrooms and conference rooms to innovative smartphone applications designed to maximize the learning and research experience. Our IT office has developed the Portal Project, a system giving students access to personalized information in one easy step, with faculty and staff access following soon.

Meanwhile, the university introduced Single-Sign-On for web applications, automated processes for the CEP program and upgraded its Banner SIS and Blackboard e-learning systems, bringing standards of productivity and efficiency in line with global best practices. The introduction of a Health Care Simulation Management System allows our Medical and Nursing students to develop practical experience on multiple simulation platforms before testing their skills on patients.