Dear Colleagues and Friends of LAU,

It is my pleasure to present you with our annual report. Once more, I am proud to recount LAU’s achievements on multiple fronts, as the university continues to forge ahead from one unparalleled success to the next. Over the past year, LAU has reached a number of new milestones, taking the university to new heights of excellence and consolidating our rightful place among the world’s leading institutions of higher learning.

Strategic planning has been a part of LAU’s culture for close to a decade now, together with an inflexible commitment to continual self-inquiry and internal renewal. The current academically focused Strategic Plan, a blueprint for the years 2011 to 2016, is being implemented with great success. It has guided our internal reassessment as we prepare for NEASC re-accreditation in fall 2014. Resolved to lift LAU to the cutting-edge of educational programming, we have added new curricular offerings in Fashion Design, Gender Studies and Actuarial Studies, as well as an LL.M. in Business among others detailed in this report. As the volume of research and scholarships by our faculty and students increases, we have instituted a new dean for Graduate Studies and Research, further strengthening our graduate programs.

We have been blessed historically with a double legacy, as a modern American university operating in a Middle Eastern country, that boasts millennia of experience in the formation of the educated mind. It is this marriage of deep-rootedness in culture and a forward-looking vision that, in fact, distinguishes us from our competitors. While we devote considerable resources to the renovation and expansion of our Beirut and Byblos campuses, the recent inauguration of our New York Headquarters and Academic Center appropriately symbolizes our American heritage and marks our establishment on the global stage.

As you know, LAU has thrown its cap into the arena of medical education with the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine and the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing. This summer, we graduated the first cohorts of medical doctors and nurses, marking yet another signal achievement for the university.

LAU’s expansion is all the more remarkable considering the major headwinds we face in terms of political instability and the endemic economic crisis both in Lebanon and abroad. Through responsible stewardship and rational allocation of resources, we have been able to steer the institution to the calm shores of financial sustainability. The university’s expanding list of donors has contributed to the great success of our fundraising efforts, in particular of the ongoing Fulfilling the Promise campaign.

The following pages shed light on some of the highlights of this banner year in LAU’s history. In all areas, I extend my personal gratitude to those who have made these recent successes possible, in particular the Board of Trustees and the Board of International Advisors, and look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with you as we continue to build our university’s future.

Sincerely yours,

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