A New Generation of Leaders

LAU’s educational mission includes a deep commitment to the formation of leaders for an increasingly diverse, interconnected and complicated world. The university offers innumerable opportunities for leadership training and practice, both to its own students and to aspiring trailblazers outside campus walls in Lebanon and abroad.

**LAU Students Taking Charge**

Indefatigable and dedicated, LAU students are constantly engaging outside of the classroom in activism, philanthropy, science and politics.

In May 2013, architecture students received first prize at the international iChange competition about climate change. Earlier this year, pharmacy students won third place for their treatment plan of a psychiatry case at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists’ Clinical Skills Competition in Las Vegas. Also in the field of science, a Department of Computer Science and Mathematics student took home first prize at the second annual New York University-Abu Dhabi International Hackathon for Social Good in the Arab World.

TEDxLAU, the university’s affiliate of the global movement Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED), has emerged as an especially effective vehicle for promoting the exchange of innovative ideas. Over the past year, this initiative facilitated numerous events in Beirut, focusing on concrete ways in which our students can positively affect the outcomes of continuing social turmoil.
LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND OUTREACH
In addition to blazing exciting trails themselves, LAU students, faculty and staff generously share their leadership expertise with others outside the university family.

For several years now, the university has hosted the Global Classrooms Model United Nations (GC LAU MUN) program. Since its inception in 2006, this initiative has grown by leaps and bounds and this year involved 1,750 students from 131 schools across Lebanon.

Another milestone was reached with the successful completion of Lebanon’s second annual Model Arab League (MAL), held on the university’s Beirut campus and involving 300 students from 35 schools across the country.
Civic Engagement

At LAU, we nurture not only academic talent but also excellence in service and a commitment to social connectedness with Lebanon.

OCE has undertaken a number of activities across campus aimed at raising awareness about the importance of individual engagement in social change. This past spring, the unit spearheaded the 4th LAU NGO Fair, bringing 78 NGOs to our campus and giving students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work of these stellar organizations.

Our schools responded enthusiastically to the call to serve, with the School of Pharmacy hosting civic education workshops for its faculty and students and the School of Business requiring all students enrolled in the B.S. in Business to participate in a civic engagement course involving several hours of community service. Student-driven initiatives included fundraising to benefit disadvantaged students from the MENA region and volunteer work amidst local migrant workers.
As an American university operating in perhaps the most open society in the Middle East, LAU is uniquely poised to serve as a platform for dialogue between cultures. This is of crucial importance in the context of the transformations being wrought across the region by the ongoing Arab Spring, where different visions of the Middle East’s future are being contested in both peaceful and violent ways.
REACHING
OUTSIDE THE
IVORY TOWER

Academic and Executive Knowledge-Sharing

As LAU makes its mark in the area of innovative academic programming, in 2013 we have entered into consulting agreements with a number of academic and non-academic institutions. Our University Enterprise Office (UEO) has been actively involved in assisting in the structural review of the College of Social Work at the Princess Noura University in Riyadh.

Also in the Middle East, our School of Architecture and Design continues to offer guidance to the Scientific College of Design (SCD) in Muscat, Oman. Since 2004, LAU has been engaged in monitoring SCD’s bachelor programs in Communication Arts, Interior Design and Graphic Design, providing both academic supervision and practical administrative advice.

Extending our academic exchanges, LAU’s architecture program has begun a collaborative project with Cottbus University in Germany to develop a ‘Green Curriculum in Architecture’ under the auspices of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
LAU’s student-centered educational philosophy extends naturally into assisting students in finding employment post-graduation. This year, Internship and Career Fairs on both campuses hosted dozens of local and international companies eager to recruit our students for jobs while still in college and beyond.

Exit surveys of the class of 2013 have found that 49 percent of LAU graduating students have already found jobs, a stellar achievement in a global economy still gripped by the after-effects of the 2008 financial crisis. Among other success stories, the entire 2013 School of Nursing cohort was fully employed only a few months after graduation.

As part of our commitment to the education of the whole person, we foster a campus environment with a lively student culture, offering a wide range of opportunities to develop their interests outside the classroom.

Our major theater productions continue to provide LAU students with an experience of professional standards within the realm of the university. The productions involve a maximum number of students and faculty members across departments, as well as our graduates, professionals from the community and students from different universities and institutes in Lebanon.

LAU student athletes had another banner year in competitions abroad, as well as many successes on the home field. Our players fared spectacularly in international tennis, martial arts, basketball and swimming competitions, conquering the heights of athletic prowess from Ibiza to Belgrade.

Student Culture

Ensuring our Students’ Future