

## Welcoming LAU's Newest Vice President: Marla Rice-Evans



In May, LAU welcomed its new Vice President for University Advancement (VPUA), Marla Rice-Evans. In her new role, Marla oversees and manages the Alumni Relations, Development, Marketing and Communications (MARCOM), Public Relations and Media and Advancement Services departments.

The Advancement Division plays a crucial role in the functioning and operations of the University. The Alumni Relations department serves thousands of alumni in LAU's 36 chapters in 16 countries. Development raises millions of dollars per year from individuals, corporations, alumni and government entities to provide critical support

to students, faculty and programs. MARCOM creates printed and electronic information to promote LAU. The Public Relations and Media department disseminates press releases and social media announcements, and Advancement Services manages LAU's database of thousands of alumni and friends.

"As a new employee to LAU, I am spending my early weeks taking the pulse of the Advancement Team's structure, programs and goals," Marla said. "I am making the time to spend with each employee to get feedback on elements they believe are working great and the challenges they face. I want to begin synthesizing this information to develop some new strategic approaches I believe

will be beneficial to the advancement programming for LAU."

Marla brings a wealth of experience and expertise to LAU. Prior to LAU, she worked for a variety of universities, schools and non-profits throughout the United States in development, fundraising and educational settings. She comes to LAU from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW), where she was Associate Vice Chancellor of Advancement and Campaign Director.

"I was campaign director for a \$65 million campaign at UNCW which doubled scholarships and distinguished

Continued on page 7



## Did You Know LAU Offers Federal Financial Aid?

U.S. citizens and eligible permanent residents attending LAU and enrolled in most degree-seeking programs are eligible to receive Direct Loans for their educational expenses which include, but are not limited to: tuition, fees, transportation costs and housing. Direct Loans are student and/or parent loans in which the U.S. government is the lender. They offer low interest rates and flexible repayment options, compared to private loans through banks.

U.S. military veterans attending LAU are also eligible to receive educational benefits through the GI Bill.

In order to apply, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) using LAU's school code (G41133). After your application is submitted, you will be contacted by LAU's Federal Financial Aid Coordinator, Linda Nicholas, to complete the process.

For more information please visit:  
<http://aid.lau.edu.lb/us-federal-loans>  
 or email [linda.strauss@lau.edu](mailto:linda.strauss@lau.edu)



### ON OUR WEBSITES

Visit the LAU Matters website for additional information on events, alumni news and updates:  
[www.laumatters.org](http://www.laumatters.org)

Check out the website for *Fulfilling the Promise: LAU Campaign for Academic Excellence*:  
[campaign.lau.edu.lb](http://campaign.lau.edu.lb)

If you would like to make a donation to *Fulfilling the Promise* please visit:  
[campaign.lau.edu.lb/ways-to-give](http://campaign.lau.edu.lb/ways-to-give)

The *Fulfilling the Promise* website includes:

- Updated information about the campaign
- Its goals and progress
- Additional information, profiles and articles not included in the newsletter

Be sure to visit often for the latest news and updates.

### LAU matters

*LAU Matters* is published quarterly by the New York Headquarters and Academic Center of Lebanese American University and distributed free of charge to friends and supporters of the university in North America.

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From top to bottom: 1) The LAU delegation, pictured with MUN Program Director Elie Samia, celebrate their success at the UN Headquarters. 2) MUN students with Elie Samia (center) and Linda Nicholas (far right) at LAU's New York Headquarters and Academic Center.



# Model Students

In May, six high school students from Lebanon came to New York City to compete in the 15th Annual Global Classrooms International High School Model UN Conference. After competing against 2,400 students from 130 educational institutions, the six students won six Best Delegate Awards, the highest award granted at the conference.

“Their exemplary diplomatic tact and representation, their superb preparation, outstanding performance and dedication to teamwork won them the applause and admiration of the entire international United Nations Association (UNA) USA secretariat. They were the talk of the conference,” said Elie Samia, Program Director of Global Classrooms Lebanese American University Model United Nation (GC LAU MUN) and the Outreach and Civic Engagement Executive Director at LAU.

For the past nine years, LAU has

facilitated the GC LAU MUN conference in partnership with the UNA USA. LAU participates annually in the Global Classrooms International High School Model UN Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Since 2005 LAU has produced more than 447,500 hours of training on peace building and diplomacy. In 2012, LAU was awarded the Secretary-General Award, granted to the delegation showing the best diplomatic and speaking skills, as well as an accurate portrayal of its country's opinion.

Linda Nicholas, Federal Financial Aid Coordinator, hosted a welcome breakfast for the group at LAU's New York Headquarters and Academic Center, which is walking distance from the UN. The students used LAU's classrooms to work on last minute preparations for the Conference. The students also met with Chris Whatley, UNA USA Executive Director; Tara Friedman, manager at

Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Angelic Del Castilho, former Surinamese Ambassador to Indonesia.

During the conference, groups of two delegates were placed on committees and debated the following topics: environmentally displaced persons and social vulnerability, expanding the role of women in governance and policy, and eradication of extreme poverty.

After their award-winning performance, the Lebanese students celebrated. “We went to the top of the Rockefeller building, with the best view of the city,” said Laeticia Kamel, one of the delegates. “We worked so hard and we deserved it. When we arrived, we discovered how well prepared and organized we were.”

# LAU events

From top to bottom:  
 1) The group on the rooftop bar at the Met.  
 2) Tony Faddoul and Maroun Kassab leading the group through the museum.  
 3) Dr. Jabbra and his cousin May Jabra '11, at the rooftop bar.



## Saturday at the Met

On June 14, the New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter, LAU staff, family and friends met at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan for “Saturday at the Met.” Dr. Jabbra, VPUA Marla Rice-Evans and around 35 people attended the event.

The group met for cocktails on the rooftop bar at the Met. LAU alumni and artists Tony Faddoul '96 and Maroun Kassab '99 led the group through the museum. The tour focused on the Phoenician and Lebanese presence in artwork and artifacts.

After the tour, the group had dinner at Trattoria Pesce Pasta, an Italian restaurant on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

## New York City



From top to bottom: 1) The New York Headquarters and Academic Center and the New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter hosted a lecture by Todd Fine on Ameen Rihani and Little Syria on June 26. Fine discussed the memory of Rihani and the “Little Syria” area in Lower Manhattan. 2) On July 24, the New York Headquarters and Alumni Chapter hosted a lecture by Dr. Marc Farha on the sectarian tide in the Middle East. Dr. Farha teaches courses on the history and politics of the Middle East at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and Qatar.

## Toronto



The Toronto Alumni Chapter held its annual Breakfast in the Park on June 8 at Centennial Park. Over 140 people enjoyed a special breakfast including fresh manakeesh, foul mudammas and eggs. A raffle helped raise funds for LAU’s Scholarship Fund.

## Houston



From top to bottom: 1) On June 9, the Houston Alumni Chapter gathered at the home of Tania Shaheen '98 and her husband Wissam El-Tayssoun for cocktails and dinner. About 30 people attended the event, including LAU’s pharmacy students doing their rotations at Methodist Hospital in Houston. 2) Dr. Jabbra, Tania Shaheen, and Ed Shiner.



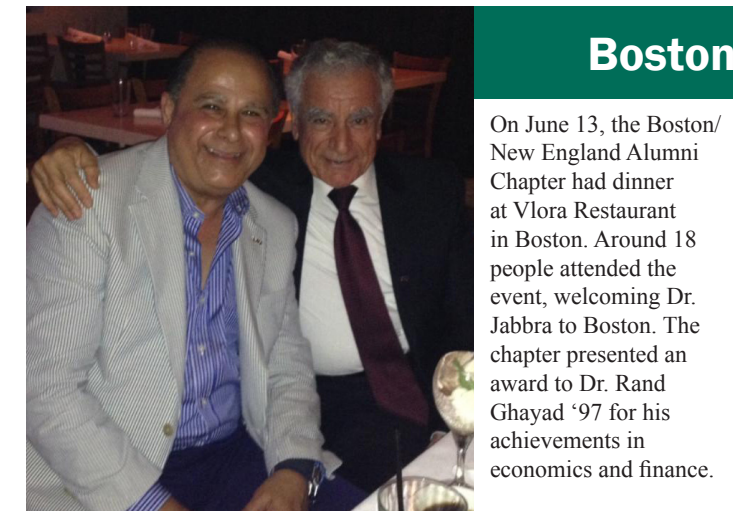
## Montreal

The Montreal Alumni Chapter gathered on August 10 at Parc Voyageur for a Family and Friends Fun in the Sun picnic. Around 14 families attended the event where they enjoyed swimming, face painting, backgammon and volleyball.



## Washington, D.C.

The Washington, D.C. Alumni Chapter met for a picnic at Burke Lake Park on June 22. Around 70 alumni, friends, family members and AUB alumni gathered for the day and enjoyed many great foods, especially several homemade saj varieties, as well as the traditional argeileh.



## Boston

On June 13, the Boston/New England Alumni Chapter had dinner at Vlora Restaurant in Boston. Around 18 people attended the event, welcoming Dr. Jabbra to Boston. The chapter presented an award to Dr. Rand Ghayad '97 for his achievements in economics and finance.



## Double Your Donation to LAU

Did you know that there is a way to make your gift to LAU twice as valuable? Many donors, in fact, are unaware that their employers often have programs that will match each employee's gift to a charitable institution.

Matching Gift Programs are fairly common, particularly in Fortune 500 corporations and even in many smaller companies. These programs will make an additional donation on behalf of the employee to the charity or educational institution of the employees' choice. Usually the match is dollar for dollar, but

some corporations will double or triple the employee's original gift. Taking advantage of the matching gift program is easy. Your organization's human resources office can tell you if your company has a matching gift program and how it works. Some companies will even allow you to make your charitable donation through payroll deduction.

Matching gifts from an employer are allocated to the same purpose as the employee's original gift. For example, if you are supporting student scholarships at

LAU, your employer's matching gift will be used for the same purpose – thereby doubling the effectiveness of your donation!

If you would like to learn more about matching gift funds, please contact the Development Office at the New York Headquarters and Academic Center at **(212) 203-4333 or gifts@lau.edu**

## Vice President for University Advancement: Marla Rice-Evans

Continued from page 1

professorships," Marla said. "The campaign team I directed reached its goal 11 months in advance and ultimately exceeded the fundraising goal. Although I was responsible for raising several million for the campaign, it took the whole team to achieve this result."

Marla says she became interested in working at LAU because of its passion and commitment to educate the world's future leaders in the face of extensive challenges in the region. "When I initially went to Beirut to meet campus leadership and staff, I was so profoundly heartened by their exuberance for their students and the future. I found so much commonality of spirit, with a central belief that all challenges in society can be addressed through education. I felt a deep connectivity at all levels with faculty and staff at LAU and witnessed a dedication that is extremely rare. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to serve LAU."

In her free time, Marla focuses on her family. Her husband, Dr. John Rice, is a professor of Sociology at UNCW. Their daughter, Jesse, lives in Seattle and is a professional writing consultant for a community college. "With both of them some miles from me," she says, "the rare spare time I have is often spent Skyping and Face Timing with them."



Marla Rice-Evans with LAU alumni at New York City Metropolitan Museum of Art during the New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter "Saturday at the Met" event on June 14.



### One Gift. Every Year. Any Amount.

Once a year, make a gift of any amount to the LAU Annual Fund. Every gift makes a difference—especially yours.

Visit <http://campaign.lau.edu.lb/ways-to-give> to make a gift now.

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## Dr. Raymond **Sawaya**

### Where do you live and what do you do?

I live in Houston, Texas and serve as a neurosurgeon specializing in brain tumors at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. I graduated from the University of St. Joseph, in Beirut, Lebanon, and have been a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center since the department was established in 1990. I am also the Director of the Brain Tumor

Center at MD Anderson and in 2005 I assumed the position of Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine. In addition, I am the Anne C. Brooks & Anthony D. Bullock, III Distinguished Chair in Neurosurgery at MD Anderson. I'm also the former President of the Houston Neurological Society and the past Chairman of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Tumors.

### How did you get involved with LAU?

I was invited to join the International Advisory Board of the LAU School of Medicine by the former Dean, Dr. Kamal Badr, five years ago. I was introduced to Dr. Badr by Dr. Youssef Comair, the current Dean of the LAU School of Medicine. I have known Dean Comair for over 30 years, and in 2006 I had

the good fortune of hiring him as my Deputy Chairman in the Department of Neurosurgery at the Baylor College of Medicine. He spent three years at Baylor.

### Are their future plans for projects between LAU and medical schools in the US?

It is through my close relationship with Dean Comair that I hope we will be able to develop joint projects with MD Anderson and Baylor College of Medicine to help provide opportunities for graduating LAU medical students. It has been a pleasure to be associated with LAU, and I look forward to many important accomplishments in the future.