



# Hariri-Gram

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Building the human resources of Lebanon through education since 1985.

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## Page 4

Gebran G. Tueni  
Fellowship Program

## Page 6

2009 Research  
Science Institute

## Georgetown University Dedicates Rafik B. Hariri Building

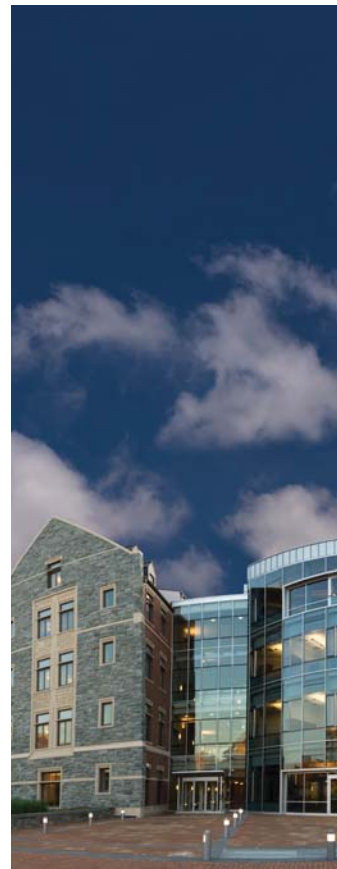
With Rafik Hariri's youngest son Fahad and an overflowing auditorium of guests looking on, Georgetown President John J. DeGioia officially dedicated the Rafik B. Hariri Building, the new home of the McDonough School of Business, on September 16, 2009.

Prior to the ceremony, the audience viewed a short film about Rafik Hariri in which Dr. DeGioia stated that Georgetown University was profoundly honored to have the name of Rafik B. Hariri forever associated with Georgetown and was deeply grateful for the capstone gift from Saad R. Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon and Georgetown alumnus. In making the naming gift of \$20 million, Saad Hariri sought to honor his father's support for education and to establish a lasting memorial to him.

In his remarks during the dedication program, Fahad Hariri stated that "For Rafik Hariri, education was the key to Lebanon's future as a prosperous and independent nation

united by a sense of shared history and destiny."

"He believed that education would help unlock the talents and abilities of his countrymen, and this outpouring of positive energy would help to repair the damages which years of war and violence inflicted upon his beloved Lebanon. Rafik Hariri's belief in education was an act of faith in all that is good and constructive in mankind, and his support of education through the



programs of the Hariri Foundation was the greatest expression of his hope for the future.”

In addition to his naming gift, Saad Hariri also endowed two new scholarship funds at the McDonough School of Business: the Rafik Hariri Graduate Scholarship and the Saad R. Hariri Undergraduate Scholarship. Georgetown will select the scholarship recipients according to its policies and procedures for awarding scholarships.

A major project of the university for more than ten years, the building became a reality thanks to the enthusiastic support of devoted alumni and friends of the university, as well as a number of major foundations and corporations. Dr. DeGioia noted that it was “the first major building on campus to be funded fully through the philanthropic support of our community.”

Dr. George Daly, Dean of the McDonough School of Business, spoke of the international orientation of the business school and how appropriate it was to have the facility bear the name of one of the foremost



*Fahad Hariri at podium*



*Fahad Hariri and Dean George Daly (right)*



*President John DeGioia (left) and Fahad Hariri (right)*

businessmen of the Middle East and the global economy. Dean Daly also heralded the building for its state of the art facilities which he believes will allow the school to achieve its full potential as a premier national and international school of business.

For the first time in the history of the McDonough School of Business, all of its components are housed under one roof. Thus united, the school of business can now assume a presence on the Georgetown



*Father Leo O'Donovan, Rafic Bizri, and Fahad Hariri (from left to right)*



*President John DeGioia, Simone McDonough, Fahad Hariri, Rafic Bizri (from left to right)*

campus that more truly reflects the prominent role it plays in the life of the university.

Some basic facts about the Rafik B. Hariri Building give a clearer sense of its potential: 179,000 square feet, with five stories and a two-level parking garage, 15 classrooms, 15 conference rooms, 34 breakout rooms, 11 interview rooms, a 400 seat auditorium, 120 faculty offices, and two student common areas. Up-to-date



technology features such as data ports, Bloomberg terminals for monitoring and analyzing financial markets in real time, flat-screen monitors, and video-conferencing capabilities offer state-of-the-art resources to students and faculty.

The striking architectural design and finishing materials used throughout the building make it a stunning visual and spatial experience. During the day abundant natural light pours through the glass ceiling of the five-story atrium at the heart of the building which is dominated by the conical outer wall of the complex housing the Executive Business Program.

In the mind of Dean Daly the Rafik B. Hariri Building is both a home and a symbol: "It gives us a sense of place. It has tremendous functional capabilities, and, above all, it is a symbol of how a school and its supporters working together, believing in a dream, can make that dream a reality." ■



“The school of business can now assume a presence on the Georgetown campus that more truly reflects the prominent role it plays in the life of the university.”

## Gebran G. Tueni Human Rights Fellowship Established at Harvard University

### *Fellows Selected for Inaugural Year of Program*

In early 2009 the Hariri Foundation-USA joined with Harvard University in setting up the Gebran G. Tueni Human Rights Fellowship program at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy in the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The funding for the program will come from the Hariri Foundation-USA with Harvard providing access to its academic and research resources as well as office space and an assistant for each fellow.

The purpose of the fellowship program is to support the scholarship of human rights practitioners from Lebanon and Iraq. The program also seeks to honor the memory of Gebran G. Tueni, an outspoken advocate for Lebanese independence who was assassinated by a car bomb on December 12, 2005, just ten months after the February 14

assassination of Rafik Hariri. Finally, the fellowship program intends to foster the ideals for which both Hariri and Tueni sacrificed their lives.

Gebran Tueni was an internationally prominent Lebanese journalist who fearlessly spoke out for Lebanon's freedom from outside interference. As both a member of parliament and the editor of the daily newspaper An-Nahar, he fostered the vision of a united, progressive, and democratic Lebanon in which government served to safeguard human rights and dignity. Tueni had the ability to rally supporters to this vision, as he did when addressing hundreds of

thousands of Lebanese who were demonstrating for freedom in Beirut on March 14, 2005. In this famous speech he declared that "In the name of God, we, Muslims and Christians, pledge that united we shall remain to the end of time to better defend our Lebanon."

The fellowship program provides support to two human rights practitioners, one from Lebanon and

one from Iraq, for a year in residence at Harvard. While in residence, the fellows will research major human rights issues such as human trafficking, mass atrocity, state failure, genocide, and the ethics and politics of military intervention.

During their time at the Carr Center, the Tueni fellows will also participate in the Center's program of panels, conferences,

and presentations. At the end of their year in residence, the fellows will share the results of their research through writings and presentations with the academic community at Harvard as well as with the wider community.

The fellows selected for 2009/2010, Ms. Rima Merhi from Lebanon and Mr. Ali Allawi from Iraq, are intimately familiar with the theory and practice of human rights. Ms. Rima Merhi, a Lebanese journalist who has been an advocate for the disadvantaged and dispossessed through her articles and appearances in both the printed and the broadcast media, has stated



*Ms. Rima Merhi (left) and Mr. Ali Allawi (right),  
2009/2010 Gebran G. Tueni Human Rights fellows.*

that she will use her time at Harvard “by developing solid indicators to measure the effectiveness of the media in safeguarding freedom of the press and promoting human rights in times of crisis.”

Ms. Merhi has written extensively about the civilian casualties of the battle against the radical Islamist militant group Fateh al-Islam which initiated and conducted the prolonged fighting in 2007 against the Lebanese army from entrenched positions within the Palestinian refugee camp Nahr al-Bared. During the fighting, the civilian refugee population fled the camp, leaving only the Fateh al-Islam militants whose eventual defeat involved the destruction of the refugee camp. Ms. Merhi plans to research media coverage of this event to develop a model for measuring how well the media are able to safeguard the human rights of unintended victims of such violence.

“Ms. Merhi...will use her time at Harvard ‘by developing solid indicators to measure the effectiveness of the media in safeguarding freedom of the press and promoting human rights in times of crisis.’”

Mr. Ali Allawi is a senior Iraqi statesman and prominent author who served variously as Iraqi Interim Minister of Trade, Interim Minister of Defense, and Minister of Finance between September 2003 and May 2006. He maintains academic affiliations with several distinguished universities such as Princeton, Oxford, and Exeter. In March 2007 Yale University Press published his book *The Occupation of Iraq* which was voted as one of the top ten non-fiction books for 2007 by the *Washington Post*.

As his research focus while in residence at Harvard, Mr. Allawi has stated that he will examine the foundations

“Mr. Allawi has stated that he will examine the foundations in Islam for an ethics-based approach to human rights”

in Islam for an ethics-based approach to human rights in order “to derive a set of axioms that could form the structure of an Islamic doctrine of human rights.”

Mr. Allawi explains that, “Balance is...one of the defining features of Islam: balance between the individual and the collective; between physicality and spirituality; between the private and the public domain; between men and women; between rights and duties.” When this balance is upset, injustice and the violation of human rights often follow, as for example in Islamic societies where there is an inequality between the status of men and women.

If it is possible to re-examine the foundations of Islam and derive a balanced system of human rights from them, Mr. Allawi believes that Muslim societies will be more receptive to restoring the full possession of human rights to those classes, minorities, and individuals who are now suffering from violations of their human rights.

The Hariri Foundation-USA is proud to partner with the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, and firmly believes in the potential of the Gebran G. Tueni Human Rights Fellowship Program to bring about positive change in societies which are struggling to safeguard the human rights of all its members, especially those who are most vulnerable.

For information about applying to the Gebran G. Tueni Human Rights Fellowship Program, please contact the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University.■

## 2009 Research Science Institute

### *Three Lebanese High School Students Attend*

The annual Research Science Institute (RSI) which takes place each summer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is not a typical summer camp experience. Instead, it offers its high school participants from the United States and abroad a unique opportunity to perform original research in science and math under the supervision of professors from MIT and other top universities. Staged jointly by MIT and the Center for Excellence in Education (CEE), the RSI attracts some of the brightest, most talented young scientists and mathematicians to be found in one spot on the planet.

Known affectionately as “Rickoids” in honor of CEE’s founder Admiral Hyman Rickover, the RSI alumni subsequently use their RSI research experience to capture the highest student awards and honors in science competitions such as the Intel Science Talent Search and the Siemens competition. Since the inception of RSI 25 years ago, its alumni have won the first-place award in the Intel competition 8 times, and 412 RSI alumni were honored as semifinalists. Over 80% of RSI alumni receive graduate degrees, many from MIT and similar caliber universities.

In addition to what they learn in classes and the lab, the young scientists also learn from each other during non-academic activities that make up a vital part of the RSI experience. Since a good number of the students come from abroad, exposure to different perspectives and educational systems allows valuable informal learning for all the students.

Since 1984 the international aspect of RSI has been enriched by the participation of Lebanese high school students sponsored by the Hariri Foundation-USA. In 2009 three high school students from Lebanon attended the RSI under Hariri Foundation sponsorship. These three students and abstracts of their research are as follows:



#### **Marc Atiyeh: The Ideal Extracellular Matrix for Teeth Regeneration**

**Mentors:** Dr. Pamela Yelick, Ms. Ivy Pruitt, & Dr. Samantha Traphagen, Tufts Univ.

**High School:** College Notre Dame de Jamhour, Beirut

Tissue engineers have always been interested in the study of stem cells since they play a crucial role in organ regeneration. The composition of the extracellular matrix (ECM) is vital for stem cells’ development because the ECM regulates the fate of stem cells into developing into any specialized cell. Our study involved finding the ideal ECM for tooth regeneration. The purpose was to create a decellularized scaffold with expressed ECM. After using different conditions of tissue decellularization, sectioning, and mounting sections, H-E staining was done to determine whether or not nuclei were present in the tissue. Our results have shown that the harsher the detergents used for decellularization, the less nuclei are found in the tissue. However, after analyzing 20X images of the tissue, the 1S1T2cy decellularization condition was the only condition able to get rid of a big number of nuclei in the tissue without directly disrupting the expression of the ECM in the tissue.



**Abdallah El-Bizri:** *The Role of Myosin II in Submandibular Gland Morphogenesis*

**Mentors:** Dr. Maria Kukurusinska & Ms. Meghan Bouchie, Boston Univ.

**High School:** Rafic Hariri High School, Saida

E-cadherin is a glycoprotein essential for cell-cell adhesion. It also performs a diverse set of functions related to the morphogenesis of the submandibular gland [SMG]. Myosin II is a protein that modulates E-cadherin functions. Deficiency in myosin II was shown to have adverse effects on the function of E-cadherin, such as its ability to organize stable adherens junctions necessary for proper morphogenesis, differentiation, and prevention of metastasis. Myosin II was also shown to be required for the recruitment of sufficient E-cadherins needed for the survival of ductal SMG cells through the E-cadherin/P13K Pathway. To further examine the role of myosin II, it was inhibited using blabbistatin and Y-27632. The resulting SMG morphogenesis was studied and the variance was examined for statistical significance. We found that the inhibition of myosin II did not reduce E-cadherin expression as expected, but instead caused rapid redistribution of E-cadherins away from the cell membrane. This redistribution weakened E-cadherin junctions leading to under-developed SMGs. These different lines of data show that myosin II plays an important role in maintaining stable E-cadherin junctions necessary for the proper morphogenesis of the SMG. In addition, after staining for ZO-1, the first tight junction protein, and F-actin, one of the major components of the cytoskeleton, when myosin II was active, we noticed that they both colocalized to form stable tight junctions. Further analysis of E-cadherin and myosin II will enable better understanding of SMG development. Collectively, our results indicate that myosin II plays an important and indirect role in maintaining stable adherens and tight junctions necessary for the proper morphogenesis of the SMG by regulating E-cadherin positions in the cells.



**Lina Fattah:** *Optimizing Neutron Reflection in Fast Breeder Reactors*

**Mentor:** Dr. Michael Driscoll, MIT

**High School:** Hariri High School II, Beirut

There is a tremendous interest in increasing energy yield from nuclear reactors. In fast breeder reactors, the core's reflector presents a possible area for optimization. We surveyed a number of materials for increasing the efficiency of a fast reactor core's reflector using ERANOS, a core physics design computer program. The most efficient material was found to be MgO, which is significantly better than the commonly used stainless steel, with a 33% longer burn-up lifetime. This longer burn-up lifetime increases the amount of energy produced by a fixed core fuel loading or reduces the initial enrichment, both of which cut the cost of electricity significantly.

More information about RSI can be found at <http://www.cee.org/programs/rsi>. ■



## Message from the President

I am happy indeed to announce that 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of Hariri Foundation-USA. Looking back over the last 25 years, we are truly thankful for having been given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of more than 3,500 Lebanese students who benefitted from our sponsorship programs in North America. Knowing that so many of our alumni are now able to contribute to Lebanon's development gives us great joy and instills in us a fervent hope for a brighter future for Lebanon.

Reaching this milestone makes us ever more mindful of the extraordinary vision and magnanimity of our deeply esteemed founder the late Rafik B. Hariri whose exemplary devotion to Lebanon continues to inspire and guide us. The same vision and example now inspire his family whose commitment to all that he tried to accomplish for Lebanon endures with unflagging fidelity.

The Hariri Foundation in Lebanon, our staff members, the organizations and universities with which we have been privileged to partner, the Hariri alumni who lend their support to the Foundation, and the many friends of the Foundation have all played a role in helping us to achieve our mission during the last 25 years, and for this we are deeply grateful.

To our benefactors, our colleagues in Lebanon, our alumni, our friends, our institutional and organizational partners we take great joy in wishing you peace, health, and prosperity in 2010. We fervently hope that this New Year will bring fulfillment in your work and abiding serenity in your life.

With warmest good wishes,  
Rafic A. Bizri



# Hariri Foundation

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