

## AGENDA

LEBANON

## FILM

## 'Fish Tank'

*Metropolis-Empire Sofil,  
Achrafieh*

December 7, 5:30 p.m.

+961 1 569 400

The first of three films from this year's European Film Festival. A bleak but beautiful coming-of-age tale with great acting.

## 'Taxi Talk'

*Dardachat Café,  
Ain al-Mreisseh Corniche*

December 7, 7:30 p.m.

+961 70 178 956

A frank look at the concerns and dreams of present-day Beirutis through recorded conversations in service taxis.

# LAU marks third anniversary of Jawdat Haydar's passing

*Friends, family gather to remember late poet*



Friends and fans of the late poet attend the commemoration service at LAU on Friday.

Omar Katerji

Special to The Daily Star

**B**EIRUT: "Though he was a man from before our time," Jason Iwen remarked in his preface to the anthology "101 Selected Poems" by renowned Lebanese poet Jawdat Haydar, "he is also a man from ahead of our time."

Friday marked the third anniversary of Haydar's passing, and a commemoration service was held at the Beirut campus of the Lebanese American University to celebrate the life and works of one of Lebanon's most prominent poets.

The poet and humanitarian was honored many times throughout his life, receiving Lebanon's Order of the Cedars and the Ninth Medal from Pope John the 23rd.

"Though he deplored the violence and the rape of the countryside by property developers," guest speaker Dr. John Munro said at Friday's ceremony, "Jawdat's optimism never remained changed."

"Hopefully further generations will aspire to the values [Haydar] so earnestly believed in. I very much wish to shake his hand again."

Born in 1905, Haydar lived until the age of 102, writing throughout his life, publishing his last anthology, "Selected Poems," in 2006 and publishing numerous works in both English and Arabic.

Haydar has also received international recognition for his poetry, reflecting on many themes such as love, death, science and the philosophy of time and space.

*The Daily Star* has previously referred to Haydar's legacy as one that "breaks down barriers between the East and West."

President of the LAU, Dr. Joseph Jabra, said Haydar was "the embodiment of civilization coming from Lebanon."

The late poet was seen by many as instrumental in reviving the literary scene in Lebanon in the aftermath of the country's

**'Hopefully further generations will aspire to the values Haydar believed in'**

15-year Civil War. Haydar was a member of the Union of Lebanese Writers as well as founder of Wahat al-Adab (Oasis of Literature), a poetry society in the Bekaa Valley.

A copy of one of his famous poems, "The Temple in Baalbek," hangs at the Museum of the Temple of Baalbek and has even been incorporated into the official curriculum for the Lebanese national baccalaureate.

Earlier this year, a public garden and square named in Haydar's honor were opened in Baalbek in order to commemorate his passing.