

At the invitation of Berge Setrakian, Esq. and Mr. Ray Debbane, USJ strengthens its bond with the diaspora in New York

Wednesday, April 30, 2025



As part of the North American tour marking the 150th anniversary of Saint Joseph University of Beirut, led by the University's Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, an official delegation traveled to New York to strengthen ties with the Lebanese diaspora. The delegation included Prof. Carla Eddé, Vice-Rector for International Relations; Prof. Christian Makary, President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations; Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andréa, Director of *Fondation USJ*; and Mr. Dany Maalouly, Fundraising Director of *Fondation USJ*. This visit reflected a shared commitment to dialogue, engagement, and mobilization around the University's mission and values.

The visit officially began on April 30 with a dinner generously hosted by Mr. Ray Debbane and Berge Setrakian, Esq. A graduate of the USJ Faculty of Law (Class of 1972), Mr. Setrakian, together with Mr. Debbane, is a member of the Board of Directors of *Fondation USJ* and a long-standing friend of the University.

Bringing together around twenty alumni and friends of USJ, the evening was marked by a warm and convivial atmosphere, enriched by meaningful discussions and a strong sense of belonging centered on the University's vision and future ambitions. In recognition of their unwavering commitment and support, Prof. Daccache, SJ, presented Messrs. Debbane and Setrakian with the commemorative medal celebrating USJ's 150th anniversary, along with a numbered copy of the book *Heritage: 150 Years of Legacy and Excellence*.

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