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**FINAL**

***Khouri to NU-Q students: Don't be dazzled by change and fighting in the Middle East***

*Weeklong engagement with eminent Arab media veteran yields lifelong perspective for aspiring young journalists at NU-Q*

**Doha, Qatar, 14 October 2015** – Rami Khouri, a global voice, scholar and commentator on news, culture and politics in the Arab world, recently urged students at NU-Q to look beyond violence when evaluating the profound change underway across the Middle East.

Khouri, an internationally syndicated columnist who has worked in virtually every aspect of the media business in the Middle East for the last 45 years, recently concluded a short residency at NU-Q. He is a senior fellow and founding director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International affairs at the American University in Beirut. He currently serves as a member of NU-Q's Joint Advisory Board and has been a fellow and visiting scholar at Harvard University, Princeton University and Stanford University.

His keynote talk "Craft, Art, Entertainment or Activism: the role of the Journalist in the Middle East Today," captivated the NU-Q community. In it, he urged young journalists not only to focus on what he called the "most intense and profound moment of change since the Middle East became the modern Middle East," but also to pursue context and a deeper understanding of the more constant and enduring values in the region. This, he maintained, is central to the success of good journalists and to meaningful citizenship.

"I think it is important to note the immense changes but also the continuity in some areas, and not to be dazzled by the cacophony of change - the fighting and the war, explosions and armies, drums and all that," Khouri said. "To recognize that at the core of society, the most fundamental relationships of power, identity and the roles of people have not changed very much, impacts



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journalism in a big way.”

Acute awareness of often competing forces such as professionalism, commercialization, privatization, politicization, sectarianization and fragmentation, he said, give way to a fundamentally strong media landscape and are particularly important in the region.

Khouri, who is published twice weekly in Lebanon’s iconic Daily Star newspaper and syndicated globally via Agence Global in the USA, also gave a Workshop on Column and Opinion writing for students aspiring to write op-eds and blogs that are “credible, captivating and consequential.”

He is the latest in a growing list of influential regional and international figures imparting knowledge on topics central to the study of journalism and communication to students, faculty and Qatar’s media industry.

“Constant exposure and engagement with top thinkers like Mr. Khouri – a prominent scholar, go to source on Arab and Western media, and longtime friend of the NU-Q community – is a vital part of a Northwestern education,” said Everette E. Dennis, dean and CEO of NU-Q. “We are grateful, as always, for his time and insights, which have enriched us as students, educators, and citizens.”

Shortly after his visit, Khouri published a column for Agence Global discussing elements of his Doha trip and praising the power of Qatari women as social commentators in NU-Q’s recently launched *Her Majlis* exhibition at the Art Gallery of Hamad bin Khalifa University Student Center.

Khouri visited NU-Q’s campus from September 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> and was also the university’s first graduation speaker in 2012.

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### **About Northwestern University in Qatar**

Northwestern University in Qatar draws from its parent organization, [Northwestern University](#) (Evanston, Illinois), a distinguished history, famous programs and an exceptional faculty. Founded in partnership with Qatar Foundation, NU-Q provides a framework through which students explore the world and, ultimately, shape its future through its distinguished schools of [communication](#), [journalism](#), and [liberal arts](#).