



*IC Newsletter
Summer 2008*

International College

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear IC Alumni and Community,

Greetings from a peaceful, calm, and joyous Lebanon! I wouldn't have been able to open with that sentence a few weeks ago, but am very pleased that I can now. We thank goodness that the events of a few weeks ago are but today's memory. Our school-your school once again demonstrated its vibrancy and resiliency in the face of some traumatic times. However, we have bounced back and are now in the full swing of end of year exams and activities. It's an exciting time.

One of the things that is most exciting about IC is the commitment to the future of our students and of Lebanon. This commitment is led by our Board of Trustees. I just returned from a meeting of the Board and was once again reminded of their dedication to the school. During the recent meeting the Board approved a master plan for the development of IC's campuses in Ras Beirut and Ain A'ar. Not only did they approve the program, but they also have donated their considerable personal resources to the completion of the dream.

Of course, this plan is an ambitious one and the Trustees cannot finance it all by themselves. This will take a concerted effort by our school's community; current students and parents, alumni, and friends. Please do what you can and contribute to your school. Please help us realize the dream for the sake of our students and Lebanon!

A special thank you to those who have sent in their contributions. This means a lot to IC.

Best wishes always,

John K. Johnson
President

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Crisis in Beirut (but IB students sit for exams)



That's not how it was supposed to be. The students should have been at home studying for their IB exams. Rasha Daouk, the IB coordinator, herself, should have been at home with her husband and son.

Instead, she and 12 IB students were huddled in the hallways of Fadlallah building – an apartment block just a half kilometer away from the Ras Beirut campus.

The windows rattled as militiamen fought their battles right below them. The building shook with every RPG fired. Bullets zinged by. If the students were petrified, they didn't show it. They talked. They joked. They berated the militiamen below them.

Daouk looked around the young faces around her. She was ultimately responsible for them. And she was responsible that every IB student sit for their exams scheduled over two weeks and an a half.

"I should have been worried but strangely I wasn't," said Daouk. "I felt strong. I felt I had to protect them."

It was pure instinct that drove her to suggest allowing students to sleep at the Fadlallah building on May 6th. Not that she anticipated a battle. But she did anticipate road blocks preventing students from arriving to the campus. There would be a demonstration and a strike the next day and road blocks were bound to be erected. Altogether there were 23 students.

As the demonstration was underway, the students made their way to the campus and took their exam as planned. But trouble was brewing and it seemed safer to spend another night. On May 7th, the students sat for their second exam. In the afternoon, some students (who didn't have to take the exam the next day) went home. Twelve remained.

And the battles began.

In less than 24 hours, Beirut had become a battleground for militias vying for control. In the morning of the 9th, the battles still raged on. Meanwhile, Daouk's phone was ringing off the hook. All were worried. President John Johnson, VP Mishka Mourani, direc-

tor of secondary school, Youssef Korfali, and parents felt helpless.

Sitting in the hallways, Ibrahim Kaiss, 17, wondered about the safety of his family in Mazraa, which had taken the brunt of the fighting. But his parents "knew what to do, they've been through the civil war," he assured himself.

Going home didn't even occur to him. He had to take the exams or miss out on attending McGill University next year.

In a daze, Daouk called up the IB office in England.

"We can't reach the school," she said.

The IBO told her to postpone the exam until Sunday.

A short distance away at IC, John and Mary Johnson were in the Martin House listening in horror to the noises outside.

Towards midday, there seemed to be a lull in the battles and Johnson quickly invited Daouk and students to come over.

"I didn't think anybody would attack the school," said Johnson. "There was no reason to."

The couple had just arrived from their Easter holiday in the US and food in the house was scarce. As things seemed relatively calm, Johnson ventured out to the nearest open supermarket and lugged bags of food back to campus. To cheer up his guests, he made them lasagna.

"They ate it all, so I guess they liked it," he said laughing.

More students arrived the next day to prepare for the Sunday exam.

To accommodate everyone, the boys were relegated to sleep in the teacher's lounge in Rockefeller Hall while the girls remained at Martin House.

Among the arrivals was Michael Feghali, 17. He had gone home just before the battles broke out and drove himself crazy worrying about his friends hiding in Fadlallah. He managed to convince his parents to send him back to rejoin his friends.

"It was great being in the teachers' lounge, the forbidden area," he laughed. "We were the kings of the school."

Mattresses and pillows were quickly provided. The cafeteria was opened and a live-in chef summoned. Seven of the IB students, who live in the east side of Beirut, were relegated to take their IB exams at the Sagesse High School in Mansourieh.

Finally, on May 15th, the danger was deemed over and students were sent home. The exams continued uneventfully.

On May 16th, the school reopened its doors to all students.

It was over.

"The strength of IC as an institution is that we pull together when we need one another," said Johnson. "Making sure our students are safe and continuing their education are two things our school community does well."

Over 60 people died during the week long crisis. The IC family sends its deepest condolences to all those who lost their loved ones.



Enrich Yourself: go extracurricular

It's hard not to be envious. And Riad Chirazi admits it. As the Head of Activities and Community Service at IC, his main task is to create, run and supervise dozens of extracurricular activities in the middle and upper schools.

And as he put it, "I'm envious of what is offered to students today. If I had all these opportunities when I was growing up, I would have discovered my love for the theater much earlier in life."

Over 35 activities are offered to students in the elementary, middle and secondary schools including ballroom dancing, gymnastics, choir (junior, senior, boys), drama (French, Arabic, English), basketball, football, knitting, arts and crafts, volleyball, piano, archery, chess, folk dance, modern dance, music arrangement, art, guitar, fundamental of design, photography, band, Torch, the Makhouloutah (IC newspaper), Cine Club, MUN, etc. Some of the clubs were suggested by the students themselves.

"Extracurricular activities enrich your perspective in a way that you'll be able to choose your major," he said. "This is where you keep testing yourself until you find a talent somewhere."

No one was more taken aback then Jana Ballout when she discovered her talent for acting. The Lebanese Baccalaureate student never even thought about theatre before her friends signed her up for the Arabic drama club two years ago.

Before long, her friends decided that acting was not their thing and switched to another club. But Jana was hooked. Usually quiet and timid, Jana found herself coming alive on stage.

"I can be whoever I want to be," she said. "Acting is about focusing. I soon learned how to work well under pressure."

But a demanding academic schedule meant that somehow she had to juggle

both worlds. "I learned to start homework immediately as soon as it was assigned," she said. "That way I would free myself up for rehearsals."

IC is not new to extra curricular activities. In fact, the school – while still in Smyrna - is credited with establishing the first Boy Scout troop in the then Ottoman Empire. IC also held an interscholastic field day (the first in the Empire) in 1893 which attracted over 3000 spectators. Its success led to the formation of the Smyrna Schools Athletic Association and the Pan Ionian League in 1894. Historians refer to these events as the "prelude" to the first modern Olympic Games at Athens in 1896.

The tradition of activities continued when the school moved to Beirut in 1936. The first yearbook "Prep Year Book" in 1951 listed an Arabic, English, International, Orchestra, Spanish, Stamp, Ushers and Workshop Clubs.

Universities also look for extra curricular activities on applications – a point which Chirazi always repeats to students. Involvement in activities shows that applicants are making use of their spare time and are able to manage their time efficiently.

"If two people apply with the same grades, universities always choose the student who was involved in extracurricular activities," said Chirazi. "In fact, universities are now asking recommendations from us saying that students were involved in school activities."

Indeed, research has shown that students who take part in extracurricular activities are more likely to become leaders and have successful careers.

This may not be news in many countries, but for Lebanon – where few schools offer an array of activities – such research may be an eye opener.

"We are in a society where we want to produce only doctors, engineers or lawyers," said Chirazi. "So many parents tend to stress academics only and see everything else as a waste of time."

But according to Chirazi, enrollment in IC's extracurricular program has steadily increased over the years. Eighty percent of students signed up for the optional extracurricular program this year. The rest chose not to be involved.

"Years down the road, students may not remember their academic lessons," said Chirazi. "Their memories will be ones of singing in the choir, acting in a play, traveling with MUN, or competing in a chess tournament. This is what shaped their personalities and this is what they will remember."





For the Love of Arabic

It is the official language of 25 countries. It is spoken by almost 200 million people. It is the largest living member of the Semitic language family and has 27 sub-languages. It is the language used in the Holy Koran. And it is the mother tongue in Lebanon.

And yet Arabic continues to be ignored by many parents.

"We are receiving children who don't speak their own language," said Randa Khoury, the director of the preschool. "We tell them: speak Arabic. They answer: mommy doesn't let me."

Every year, the challenge begins: instilling the love of Arabic in their young charges.

Lucky for those charges, IC has completely revamped its method of teaching the language. The aim is no longer just to read and write but develop a love for Arabic. Today it's stories, games and more games.

In an unusually boisterous classroom in the third floor of the preschool building, the children are cheering and clapping. Their Arabic teacher, Nawal Hammoud, had just announced the winner: a little girl stood in the middle looking embar-

assed but pleased. She was presented with a large sticker: she was the quickest to jump when she heard the sound of a new letter. The class was soon dispersed around the room to find trinkets which began with this new letter.

"We play with the letters. We jump with the letters. We live the letters. We eat the letters (through culinary activities). We use the letters. We sing the letters. We circle the letters in newspapers. At the very end, we just open the book to read the letters in a different place," explained Ghada Maalouf, the assistant director at the preschool and PYP (Primary Years Program) coordinator.

Children are unknowingly introduced to the letters at the KGI level by seeing classmates' names written around the room. By the age of four, they recognize each other's names and by the age of five, most are reading and writing. And yet formal lessons have barely begun.

Down the hall in the same building, another Arabic class is underway. Three groups of children are playing bingo, puzzle and a matching game. Their veteran teacher of 36 years is watching them proudly.



Arabic bingo



“You should have seen how I used to teach Arabic before,” said Falak Reno. “There were dictations, recitations, memorizations. The children used to be petrified. They couldn’t wait for the class to end.”

When Julia Kozak, the director of the elementary school, joined IC six years ago, she was amazed to see the silent Arabic classes with one child or another reciting. She felt a sense of fear in the students. They just had to get the grammar or dictation right. There was no place for errors. The teachers were serious. The lessons were strict. She wanted to yell out: “just let go and have fun!”

Unbeknown to her things were about to change.

As PYP began to kick in in 2000, textbooks, including Arabic, in both preschool and elementary schools were slowly being phased out.

“In the classroom you will now find a lot more drama, singing, poetry, theatrical productions in Arabic,” said Kozak. “I don’t understand the Arabic but I can see how much the children are enjoying it. I get the feeling. They’re happy and they love it. That’s what’s important to me.”

The dramatic change meant that dictations and grammar no longer stand alone. When given, they are conducted within the transdisciplinary theme.

“It’s no longer a matter of just write something and get a grade,” said Sana Harakeh, teacher and the chairperson of the Arabic department at the elementary school. “We don’t just see one side of the child. We see him or her from all sides. We have continuous evaluations and weekly meetings to see how we can help the children improve their Arabic.”

In third grade, Manuela Asmar, 8, was pouring over a map with her group. Their task was to trace the life of Vincent van Gogh.

“He immigrated to London,” Yasmina Zamel, 8, a group member said knowingly.

After a brief look at the information given to them, Manuela objected. “Immigrated? It doesn’t say ‘immigrated’. It said he was sent to London. Then he ‘immigrated’ to Paris.”

The others nodded and traced Van Gogh’s journey on the small laminated map in front of them.

Their task completed, the students’ next job is to present their work to their classmates – all in formal Arabic.

A big boost to IC’s revamping of the Arabic methodology came about five years ago when Lebanon suddenly saw a sharp increase of Arabic authors writing or translating children’s books. For the first time, young readers have a wide choice of interesting Arabic books. Arabic book fairs are held at IC at least twice a year.

“All schools teach Arabic but they teach it in a very traditional way,” said Khoury. “IC is a leader in making teachers understand that they are only facilitators in the classroom and not THE source of knowledge. Teaching is shared by teachers and students.”



Learning Arabic through tracing the journey of an artist.

IC teachers often give workshops in Arabic methodology. If interested, contact the Education Resources Center at 01364016.



Children at Arabic book fair.



Preschoolers recognize most of the words in the daily morning message and read along with teacher Nawal Hammoud.



A Special Day



If they were nervous they didn't show it. If anything, the students looked as if they were working with children with Down Syndrome their whole lives. They high-fived winners, hugged losers, and listened intently to all their comments.

"I'm enjoying it a lot," said Reda Jammal, 17, who didn't stop playing ball with Maria Ashe, 11. "I love football to begin with but seeing them so happy playing ball is really something."

Maria and 16 other youth with Down Syndrome, aged 11 to 25, were invited by the IC high school class for a "fun day". The students have been planning for this day for the past month. They had it all: arts and crafts face painting, games, egg hunt, and all kinds of food. The class held a pizza sale a week earlier and used their earnings to buy the necessary supplies.

It was part of their Class Project. To graduate, secondary students must fulfill 90 hours of community service. This year, however, Rindala Abdel Baki, the Community Service Advisor hit upon a new idea: in addition to volunteering with various NGOs, why not have graduating classes plan and launch their own projects?

"By now they should be able to detect the needs of the society around them," said Abdel Baki. "The class project is the culmination of all the experience they have accumulated so far."

It is up to students to do a needs based study, come out with a suitable project, design it, finance it, secure the needed papers, lobby if necessary, and divide the tasks among themselves. Class advisors will do just that: advise

"This is a good exercise for them. It will prepare them to be active citizens once they are at university," said Abdel Baki.

This year's projects included cleaning up the Ramlet al Baida beach, raising funds for medicine and painting a dispensary, organizing book drives for public schools, and campaigning to limit the use of plastic bags in supermarkets (a project that was adopted by the AUB Environmental Health Department).

The high school class chose to invite the Lebanese Association for Down Syndrome (DS) to campus.

Most have never met people with DS and were surprised to get along so quickly.

"I've hardly been here, and they're giving me hugs," said Christelle Ghandour, 18, as she walked arm in arm with two of her guests.

Nour Arkadan on the other hand, admits to being nervous that morning. "What if I couldn't understand them?" she said.

But she did and found herself enjoyed their company.

They are, as Elias Nimr, 16, explained "just regular people, not that different."

One by one, the students got to know their guests. There was Tarek who loved to give and receive hugs, and Ali who was fascinated by cameras and hooking them up to computers, Maria who was incredibly self confident and immediately concerned if anyone got hurt and Sara who loved to play sports.

In fact, she had come in sixth in the swimming competition in the Special Olympics held in China last October.

Also in China, was Joy Jamal Eddine who was chosen from IC to represent Lebanon and the Middle East-North Africa Region at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai. She and 58 other international youth leaders were selected so they can learn what they can from the athletes and teach their own peers back home about people with intellectual disabilities. The aim was to abolish the "r" (retard) from youth vocabulary. But upon returning to school, Joy was teased mercilessly by some students about her mission. But she persevered. Six months later, she was standing among some of those same students who had teased her earlier about her mission.

"I'm really happy to see that deep down they do care," said Joy who helped organize the event. "At the beginning some (students) were uncomfortable and came up to me and asked me what do I do and what do I say. But at the end of the day, they were comfortable. And most of all they respected all the children."

As for their teachers, they couldn't be more thrilled.

"I'm seeing a maturity that I didn't really see before," said Patricia Hamra, social studies teacher and class advisor who was helping the class where needed. "They have suddenly grown up in front of me."



The Composers Club

It came easy to Christina Khayat. The 16-year-old was just fiddling with the piano when the melody popped into her head. The arrangement of her piece just fell naturally into place. Before long, she had composed an entire piece and called it “*Dandelion*”. She felt, however, that it needed another instrument to play along. Perhaps a violin?

Around the same time, Adel Ejeh, in the seventh grade couldn’t get a tune out of his head. He had made it up, even wrote the lyrics. But somehow, he couldn’t find the right accompaniment chords.

There was only one place to turn to: the Composers Club.

Not that it is easy getting into the Composers Club. But students keep trying.

“If they don’t have it, they don’t have it,” said music teacher, Tatiana Bondarovich. “I have to say no.”

Some do have ‘it’ and simply need guidance. Others have ‘it’ but are essentially weak in their musical abilities and need to learn the basics of rhythm, instrumentation, and note writing. Eventually, they may produce a piece fit to be performed during Composers Night concert.

Auditions are strict: the composed piece has to be complete, lyrics typed, tune and melody line clear and accompaniment in harmony.

“I listen to a melody that I may remember,” said Bondarovich. “If I can remember it, even if it has no form, it means it’s nice.”

Once students make it in, the work begins. Sometimes they work alone and sometimes in groups.

“Basically, we cannot write their compositions for them,” said Randa Sabbah, head of the music department. “We help them do the arrangements, put it together, and putting in the rhythm and suggest ways to perform it.”

The number of students auditioning every year is a far cry from the mere five students who showed up to the club in 2003 when Sabbah and Bondarovich first started it. The concert they gave that spring was a hit. The next year over 50 students from the middle and secondary school auditioned. Only 20 made it in.

Now in its fifth year, the club has become one of IC strongest features. There is no lack of students auditioning.

Fortunately, both Christina and Adel have “it” and made it in. As did 11 other students.

For many, it’s an emotional outlet. After the Israeli onslaught in July 2006, one student, Anwar Bizri, used his composition to express his pent up feelings:

*“Look outside my frosted window,
See the children dying, cold
I wake up one morning
I twist and I turn
Looking for a sign of life at the point of no return”*

This year, May Obeid, shared her fears – the fears of all graduating students – to a spellbound audience.

“We won’t forget our past, our memories will last, it’s hard to say goodbye. It’s hard to live alone, to manage on your own, it’s hard to say goodbye,” she sang.

Some students who found their feet at the Composers Club went on to record their own albums. Among them are Dana Hourani, Yasmina Sabbah and Tina Yamout (performed a duet with Chris de Burgh).

“It’s important for us not only to have interpreters (of music) but people who compose,” said Sabbah. “We’re very proud to have people who are so creative here at IC, it’s something.”





IC goes Tech

It's here, there, everywhere (as Dr Seuss may be aware). Only in this case those "funny things" are none other than the computer network spread in almost every aspect of the school. Ever so silently it has made its way into the classrooms, in the library, in teacher workshops, on the website, in the curriculum, in the career guidance office, "just everywhere," said Mahmud Shihab, the head of IT for academic Development and Web Master.

Shihab's office is a small room, barely 2.5m × 3m, with stacks of computer books and software on either side of the room. This is the hub of the computer world at IC. From here, Shihab and his team of seven computer teachers develop, monitor and apply applications to the curriculum and throughout the campus.

The overall curriculum is mostly based on the National Educational Technology Standards set by ISTE (International Society of Technology and Education), the Lebanese curriculum, the IB curriculum, and the French Baccalaureate curriculum.

But simply applying the standards across the school is easier said than done. The IC curriculum is a complicated one. Four study

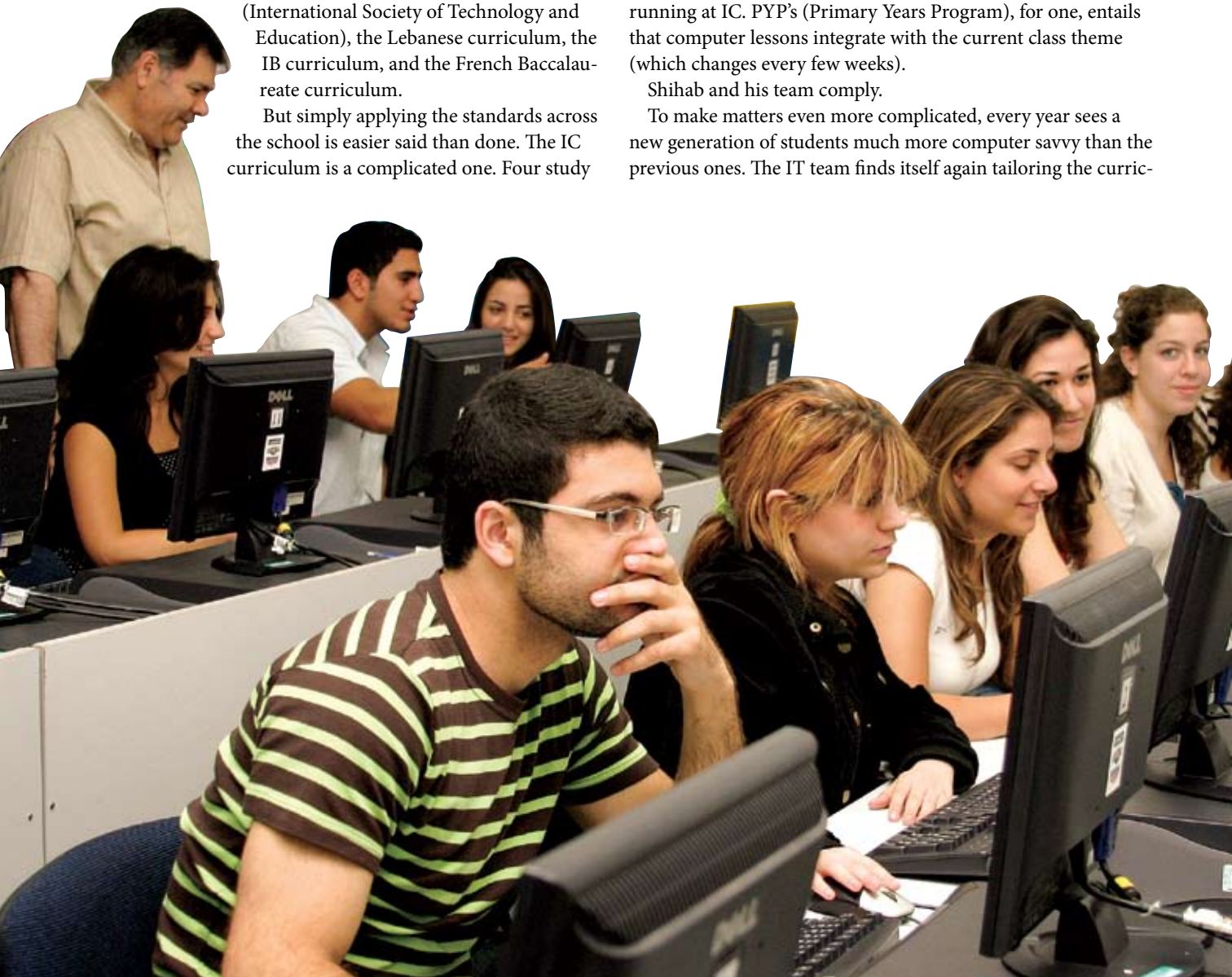
tracks in the secondary school alone require different standards. Shihab's job is to keep abreast of all standards and mix and match programs in a way that students in all four tracks are familiar with all the software – whether it is required by their curriculum or not. The French Baccalaureate students, for example, are required to know several software applications as part of their French curriculum. And so Shihab installed all the applications and made it available to all students and teachers in all four tracks.

"There is nothing that we have not implemented in our curriculum and in our school," said Shihab.

And this is but a small part of the educational technology at IC. There's more. Much more. Students across the school, of course, take weekly computer lessons. But again, lessons have to satisfy both the Lebanese requirements and other programs running at IC. PYP's (Primary Years Program), for one, entails that computer lessons integrate with the current class theme (which changes every few weeks).

Shihab and his team comply.

To make matters even more complicated, every year sees a new generation of students much more computer savvy than the previous ones. The IT team finds itself again tailoring the curricu-





ulum to digital native students who have mastered the workings of the network.

When IT teachers are not revising the curriculum and projects, they are training and retraining teachers. Every new program means a whole new round of training sessions for the faculty. The IT team has so far given over 400 hours of training in the past 12 years to faculty both in Ras Beirut and Ain Aar.

At the moment they have one dream: to equip all classrooms with computers and smart boards. Insufficient funds, however, have restricted each school to one smart board (usually in the library or shared workspaces).

"Students' experience of IT in this school is incredibly rich," said Shihab "IC provides a unique environment and as result our students are definitely more capable of adapting to any university program when they go worldwide. If they go to France, they can adapt. If they go the US, they can adapt. They have a little bit of everything. This is where we shine."



Some IT projects on campus

IT Classes: implemented throughout the entire school. In lower grades, computer sessions are part of the PYP (Primary Years Program) where IT is used to support the general theme of the unit. Computer and subject matter teachers work together to create the lessons in an interdisciplinary approach. In the Middle and Secondary schools, formal skills are taught in IT classes (word processing, spreadsheet, publisher, photo editing, database, visual basic, programming, etc). Content of classes is continuously changing as new and more computer savvy generations enter the schools.

Interdisciplinary Projects (part of the curriculum at grade level 10/Sec-onde and at the 6th and 7th grade level as part of library skills program): Projects which are often based around a theme to help students see connections across the curriculum. Technology is heavily used for library research and presentation (PowerPoint, video, computer graphics, etc.) of final projects.

French Math software applications have been installed in all computers throughout the campus. As part of the French baccalaureate requirements, students are expected to complete part of their math test on the computer. The software applications can also be installed at home. (GeoGebra, GeoSpace, GeoPlan, SketchPad, and Cabri Geometry)

Advisory and career guidance software (GPO - Guide Pour l'Orientation) helps French baccalaureate students choose a university study course and career. The software has been installed in all computers on campus as part of the French Baccalaureate requirements. Though in French, it is available to all students.

Smart Board: is a large, touch-controlled white board that works with a projector and a computer. The image is projected on the board and can be maneuvered with a digital pen or a finger directly on the screen thus allowing teach-

ers and students to interact directly with the content (ex: manipulate geometrical objects or a map in real time). Currently, it is still a pilot project with one smart board per school. The goal is to have a smart board in every classroom.

Atomic Learning: provides a large online library of short easy-to-understand video tutorials for staff, faculty, students and parents seeking "how to" IT questions. Examples include how to create a PowerPoint presentation, spreadsheets, blogs, wikis, use various software, etc. The online library is continuously updated and is accessible from school or home (passwords have been provided for the entire IC community).

Study Group Blogs: created for teachers to facilitate exchange and dialogue among them. The online journals are used for personal reflections and comments. Members of each blog can post new messages when they have learned something new, useful or interesting during their research. All of the IC's study group blogs are open to the IC community to read and post comments. There are currently six running blogs.

Libraries and the IT team work closely together to provide a wealth of digital resources for students. The entire library catalog is available online. Students may even search for their books online and pick them up later at the library. Various databases are available for students' research including Thomson Gale, NICI, EBSCO and web links to hundreds of newspapers and magazines. All are equally accessible from home (students have been provided with passwords).

IC Website gives access to students from their homes to library archives and all its databases. The website also includes links for projects required by teachers. The links are "hotlists of websites" that students must access to complete their work. The academic section provides links to teachers' blog and websites.



Farewell to Elie Kurban

Elie Kurban joined IC in August 1966. It is here that he met his wife, Elham, who was working at the time as a secretary. The couple married in 1970. They have a son, Anthony, and are grand parents to Axelle [5] yrs and Karl [3]. He is leaving the post of Vice President of Administration.



My saddest memory was when President Reynolds passed away suddenly in October '86 while he was living in a chalet in Maamelt-ein with Mr. Weaver. I had to cross through some dangerous check-points to handle the sad formalities.

Also during the war, we had a huge drop in student enrollment. One year the number of students

Q: You have been at IC for 42 years. What would you say were your most precious moments here?

Every year-end was a memorable moment when I close the books with no deficits and no errors! Even every month-end was a precious moment when we issued the payroll on time – no easy task in a war! But the most precious memory I have was in 1974 when after consulting with William Abdul-Karim (to whom I owe a lot for teaching me the job), President Schuller promoted me to Business Manager. I was 33 years of age with eight years of work experience.

Q: During the war years, what were some of the things that you went through that you will never forget?

Those 15 years were the worst years of my life and my career. I was caught in many dangerous moments, living in one part of Beirut and working in the other. I was almost kidnapped three times, sniped at twice, and was exposed to bombing several times on both sides of the city. I had to sleep a few times in the office and several months in furnished apartments or faculty apartments or in the boarding department. I once counted the beds I had to change during those years: 22 beds!

I have a lot of stories to tell: during the Israeli invasion in June '82, I had to move the big computer discs with the help of Kifah Badreddine, my assistant, to where I live so as to prepare the payroll in the offices of our software provider. Then I had to convert my house into an office where I exchanged checks for cash for faculty and staff who could not reach the school. I am proud to say that throughout the war, the monthly payroll was never delayed. Another story I remember was when President Reynolds asked me to move some 12 foreign teachers from Ras Beirut. I had to house them in the mountains for a whole week and then take them to Jounieh to travel on board a ship to France.

dropped by almost half and several teachers could not come to school. We had to find replacement teachers and provide housing for teachers coming from different parts of the country and the political divide. Those years were the most difficult years of IC's history. Today I consider IC at its peak both financially and academically.

Q: What have you personally gained from your long association with IC?

I am proud to say that my association with IC taught me a lot: it taught me how to deal with people correctly and honestly on a basis of equity. It taught me not to differentiate between people and to respect each and every one's beliefs. It taught me not to care about what people say when they spread rumors that hurt, and it taught me that if you do your work with all dignity and honesty, you can succeed in your career.

IC is my life, my home, my family, my friend. It is where I learned the job, and it has been a second home for my wife and son as he grew up. I will never forget what IC offered me and my family. I want the best future for IC and its family. The Board needs the cooperation and assistance of each and every one associated with IC and all the Alumni around the world to succeed in achieving the target (of the Capital Campaign) they have set for the institution.

Q: What are your plans after retirement?

As for my retirement, frankly, I have no specific plans. I have been asked to continue next year as a consultant. I want to enjoy my retirement with my family, especially my grand children. And I would like to do some reading and writing, I will also travel, find the time to do some sport at last, and I will always be available to assist IC in any field needed.



Congrats to all award recipients.

Teachers' Day

I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well.
~Alexander the Great



Teacher's day dinner at Biel.

On Friday March 7, teachers from both campuses were brought together in celebration at the Biel.

After 25 years of service – a special recognition to:

Domiana Ayyoub
Nicole Bashour
Mohamad Al Khalil
Araxie Melkonian
Asma Steitieh
Mariam Farhat

After 35 years of service – a special recognition to:

Elias Aoun
Hamdi Houalla
Yusuf Sha'ya
Tanios Yammine

Recipients of the Albert Abela Distinguished Teachers Award

Arlette Tabet
Hanan Sabra
Celine Abou Rahhal
Charles Tabet
Ghada Jalloul Itani
Mahmoud Shihab
Malda Halawi Dirani
Mirianne Saba
May Skaff

Recipients of the George Debbas Staff Award

Elham Kurban
Afaf Tabanji

Recipient of the Edmond Tohme Distinguished Educator's Award

Mona Shbaklo

Retirement:
World's longest coffee break.
~Author Unknown

A fond thank you and farewell to:

Amira Abou-Ezzeddine
Feryal Irani
Renée Kurban
Abdel-Latif Mneimneh
Souheila Muhanna
Amal Naccache
Afaf Tabanji



Campus News



Reading Week

As part of reading week, elementary school students came to school dressed up as their favorite characters from the books they have been reading. Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Batman were only a few of the characters which paraded on the grounds of the school!

International Day

Dozens of students, parents and friends showed up to this year's International Day where grades across the elementary and middle school performed their much practiced songs and dances from various countries. The presentation comes after students studied their assigned countries intensively and even (with their parents' help) provided a selection of their countries' food afterwards. Included in this year's countries were Austria, Finland, Cuba, Philippines, Tahiti-French Polynesia, Armenia, Tunisia, South Africa, and Spain.



Campus News



Fun Day

Graduating students – and teachers – took part in Fun Day (in April) creating some last wonderful memories for graduating seniors.



Mabrouk!

♠ **Joy Jamal Eddine**, secondary student, was selected to be the Global Youth Summit Facilitator for Special Olympics in the next Winter Games taking places in Idaho, USA, in February 2009.

♠ **Carmen Saadeh**, in 5ème, won the first prize at the AUB Science and Math Fair held in May! Five out of seven IC projects won prizes at the Fair. One as the first prize for the category Technology and Invention and the rest distributed between second and third prizes!

♠ Four secondary students, **Nour Awad**, **Hana Zoghbi**, **Hind Kraytem** and **Rayane Zahreddine**, who participated in a world wide French Language on line competition ranked first in the Middle East and 21st in the world!

♠ **Tracy Bou Zakhem**, 4ème in AA, ranked first in “Le Plumier d’Or” competition (French language competition among schools in France and French speaking institutions abroad). The other finalist for the competition was also an IC student from

AA: Marguerita Nasrallah in 4ème. IC is the only Lebanese school where students came out among the 10 first finalists.

♠ **Sara Nassar**, 3ème at AA, won the first prize (trip to Paris) in the French Poetry Contest.

♠ The drawings of two students, **Rabih Arahli** (middle school) and **Grace Cheaib** (elementary) were selected for the UNESCO calendar commemorating their 60 years.

♠ **Haitham Haidar**, secondary student, was selected after a rigorous audition and performed with AMIS (Association of Music in International Schools) International Honor Band and Choir Festival held in London.

♠ Three IC art secondary students, **Adrian Muller**, **Jenna Balute**, and **Maria Doughan** are the winners of the Qatar International Contest 1st. The contestants were asked to draw their own understanding of success. The winners were invited to Hotel Gefinor Rotana for the distribution of cash prizes and to launch the second round of the com-

petition where the winner will be entitled to a 4- full year scholarship in Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar.

♠ **Lydia Sabra**, music teacher and conductor of the IC Boys Choir has been selected to conduct the AMIS Middle School Honor Boys Choir festival (85 to 90 boys from international schools) in October of 2009 in Prague. This the first time a conductor from the Middle East has been chosen.

♠ **Rayane Zbib**, in the secondary school, won the most valuable player trophy in the Basketball Tournaments (among six international schools) held in Amman.

♠ **Mahmud Shihab**, the Head of IT, received an award for IC in the 4th Pan Arab Web Awards ceremony that took place at Burj al Arab Hotel, Dubai, UAE. The Pan Arab Web Award Academy honors individuals and teams who have developed distinguished websites in the Arab world. Over 500 sites websites participated in the Awards competition and IC was the only school to receive an award.



Campus News

Performing Arts

Move over Star Academy and make room for IC secondary school students who put on a dazzling performance in May. Directed by Randa Sabbagh, the head of the Music Department, the spectacle showed off many outstanding voices, various music genres from rock to Broadway, and even a mother-daughter duet.



IC students with music teacher, Randa Sabbagh, in Muscat.



Festival of Choirs

Ten students from the upper middle and secondary school participated in the festival of choirs that took place in American School of Muscat in March. The theme this year was “I dream a world” composed by Andre Thomas after September 11.

Upon their return to IC, students were asked to write about their own interpretation of “I dream a world”. Their views were touching. All reflected the need for a united secure

country to live in. All dreamt of a united Lebanon.

“Standing on the choir risers, facing the audience, I saw people of every shape and size and colour and race looking up at us. I saw wildly coloured tunics, I saw shirweils, I saw knitted cardigans sitting beside embroidered saris, and I knew that just for that moment, I was surrounded by the world of which I—we—have been dreaming.” Thuraya Zreik Grade 9



The Junior Choir, directed by music teacher, Lydia Sabra, gave an amazing repertoire of songs in April which included English, French, Arabic and even a Japanese song!



Homologation de L'IC Par L'AEFE

C'est au cours du séminaire des chefs des établissements conventionnés et homologués du Liban, de la Syrie et de la Jordanie qui a eu lieu à Amman le 27 et 28 mars 2008 que M. Marion, Conseiller adjoint de l'Ambassade de France au Liban, a remis à Antoine Boulad, représentant l'IC, une lettre du ministère des affaires étrangères signifiant que tous les cycles d'enseignement de l'IC, de la maternelle au lycée, sont désormais homologués.

Mentionné dans la lettre, cette homologation est l'aboutissement des efforts du comité de pilotage - formé de Mesdames Hana Bekdach, Amal Charara, Gladys Haddad, Ghada Maalouf et M. Antoine Boulad - qui a conduit l'ensemble des collègues du programme français à élaborer un projet d'établissement engageant fortement l'IC à développer la conformité de l'établissement au système éducatif français.

"The Divine and The Insane" IC student releases his first book

Parents be warned: debate long enough with your teenagers and they may just end up writing a book.

Whether Ahmad Naji Bakhti's father was taken aback when his Lebanese Baccalaureate student began writing a book is unknown but according to Naji (as he prefers to be called), his father was the first to suggest printing it.

The Divine and The Insane was released in December. It's a story about a young man in his early 20's, Bader Baidar, searching for the "truth" - or whatever he considers the truth to be. Baidar meets up with an elderly former priest, Father John, and together they set out on an adventure.

Since the release of his book, Naji has become a local IC celebrity.

Still, he remains modest and credits his father with his thirst for a good argument. It was Sleiman Bakhati, who instilled the love of debate in his son at an

early age. A journalist for the An-Nahar newspaper, Bakhati would spend hours discussing and arguing about all kinds of controversial subjects with his son until "my mother and sister tire of us and go off to do their own thing and we continued with our heated argument," recalled Naji laughing.

All topics were open for debate. No subject was too controversial for father and son.

Two years ago he started writing a book. It wasn't meant to be published. It was merely a means to vent out his thoughts. "I noticed that people tend to understand my arguments more when I write them rather than say them," he said. "But my father started to read it and thought it should be published."

Naji is in the process of writing his second book.





IB Art Exhibit

Five IB II students and 85 works of art filled up the Imad Taher auditorium in April mesmerizing students and faculty alike. For the past year and a half, the IB students have been preparing for the Art Exhibit – part of the IB program coursework. Students not only showed off their incredible talent but went through a lot of soul searching to produce their work reflecting on separation issues, on their relationships with their parents and environment. One student made an installation where she had several IV tubes dropping ink reflecting the hypocrisy of society. To free herself from the pent up anger, she wore a belt with paint tubes attached all around. To the beat of music, she danced and danced as the pain dripped on the long canvas below. “I splashed my anger and threw away my rage” she writes explaining her “liberation” piece. Other students dealt with the issues of AIDS and Alzheimer diseases, of lung cancer and smoking issues that are slowly invading our society.

A vegetarian student witnessed the gruesome slaughter of a cow and expressed her emotions and convictions. A budding architect’s was so brilliantly done that a visiting professional architect offered then and now to build the construction if the student signs the necessary papers.

As dictated by the IB program, an IB officer flew in to inspect the students’ work. The results will be out in early summer.

Exhibitors:

Saja Tourbah, Leen Charafeddine, Dala Nasser, Adrian Muller, Alexis Mouawad.



Sports



The Alton Reynolds Tournaments

FOOTBALL



VOLLEYBALL



BASKETBALL





Development News

Dinners and Events



Nimr Ibrahim, James Sullivan, John Johnson, Samia Sullivan, Mary Johnson

From Beirut to Atlanta

Daniel Hazim '75 and Samia Hazim '77 hosted a reception at their beautiful home in Atlanta on April 19, 2008 in honor of President John Johnson and his wife Mary. IC was also represented by Nimr Ibrahim, VP for development and alumni in New York. The reception brought together some 30 alumni and friends of the College. Among the attendees were former IC administrators, Samia and James Sullivan and William (Bill) Nystrom and his wife Gloria.

President Johnson addressed the gathering. He spoke about the current academic year, extolled IC students' achievements and detailed briefly IC's future capital plan. He urged alumni to keep IC in their minds and urged them to show their support through their gift to the annual gift program which largely benefits the financial aid program.

Everyone had a good time. There was definitely a strong feeling of collegiality and strong bond ship among the attendees. People enjoyed the Lebanese delicacies and the beautiful cake inscribed with 'IC'.



Dubai dinner

To Dubai

Seventy friends and alumni showed up to the Dubai Marine Beach & Resort, Events Room on May 17th. Among the attendees was **Dr Saeb**



Dubai dinner



London dinner

Development News



Jaroudi '47, Trustee Emeriti.

After a brief speech by **Elias Hanna '61**, the Head of the Alumni Chapter in Dubai outlining the purposes of the meeting, all moved to a buffet dinner, then were surprised by the unannounced show by Esmeralda. The evening, all in all, was beautiful, relaxed and casual, as usual with IC functions. The good news is that there was an overwhelming response to Elias Hanna's launching of the scholarship program in Dubai.

To London

The Board of Trustees held a special dinner to honor Elie Kurban, the outgoing VP for Administration. The dinner was held in Sartoria restaurant on May 28th. Several board members got huge laughs by putting on a sketch imitating Kurban in various scenarios. Accompanying Kurban were his wife, son and daughter-in-law. Kurban was presented with an award thanking him for 42 years of service (*see Q&A with Elie Kurban on p. 12*).

The next day, a dinner for Board members and alumni was held at Queen's Club in London and was attended by 75 people. Board members and IC administrators were also present. The highlight of the event TV celebrity, John Snow, who gave a very supportive speech of IC and its mission.



Yusuf Kan'an, Moufid Beydoun '64, Camille Cotran '74

Bill Turner, Chairman of the Board presents an appreciation award to Elie Kurban, outgoing Vice President for Administration

IC is proud to announce that **Camille Cotran '74** was elected as a member of the Board of Trustees.

IC is equally proud to announce that **Yusuf Kan'an '71** has been elected as a full Board Member after serving as an ex-officio Board Member since becoming the president of the IC Alumni Association four years ago.



Twenty one board members met in London on May 29th. Also present were President John Johnson, Mishka Mourani, VP, Moufid Beydoun, VP Alumni & Development, and Elie Kurban, VP for Administration and Talal Jundi, Chief Financial Officer. The Board unanimously approved the master plan drawn by the engineers which affectively put IC in the second phase of the project (getting the needed capital). Board members themselves have pledged more than \$10 million to the Capital Campaign. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Beirut in October.



Kilimanjaro update

On September 21 2007, five Lebanese men climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. They were part of the Lebanon United group (based in London) committed to raising funds for Lebanese in need. IC is proud to be one of the sponsors of the climb which benefitted over 6,000 children, over 500 teachers (retraining program), and 180,000 members of the local communities. The rehabilitation of impover-

ished schools project was carried out by the International Medical Corps (IMC UK).

"The installation of water tanks and the building or renovation of bathrooms and water supplies have had an immediate impact," writes Maureen Ali, from Lebanon United in her report. "...All the schools have greatly benefited from the installation of sanitary and drinking

systems. Some had never had a proper source of water or bathrooms, so the lives of students have been positively transformed by the installation of toilets, basins, drinking taps and a clean water supply."

Details of the climb can be found in IC Newsletter, Winter 2007-2008

IC alumnus mingles with the world of oriental jazz

Philippe El-Hage mesmerized his audience on the 10th and 11th of May 2008, in the quaint St. Jean Marc church in Jbeil. Accompanied by renowned percussionist Khaled Yassine, El-Hage introduced the airs of his album "Oriental Jazz" as he transported the audience with his tunes. What was additionally impressive was the large turnout even with the political crisis that Lebanon was witnessing at that time. Unfortunately, the saxophonist Damien Hennicker, was unable to arrive because of the closed airport, yet the audience enjoyed immensely El-Hage's concert with the hypnotizing beat of percussions. Many were seen bopping their heads as they recognized well-loved tunes by the Rahbani composers.

El-Hage is not new to the music world. With a gold medal awarded from the Conservatoire National Regional de Reuil-Malmaison in France in 2004, he continued to study Jazz with the infamous David Patrois in Paris and pursued superior classical studies with notorious Chantal Riou where he excelled and was deemed a promising



artist "of highest excellence, one who shows great motivation and exhibits diversity through his musical tastes."

Byblos, Beirut, and Paris embraced his music the past years. With a new album that reflects his spirit and the fusion of Oriental Music and Jazz, his last concert in Byblos highlighted the grandiose steps El-Hage had taken during the past years. His album "Jazz Oriental" is a harmonious bonding of Oriental Music and Jazz, with shades of Byblos' grandeur and his love for Lebanon. Agnes Jourdain reported in the magazine Piano Bleu her impressions, "nostalgia and joy are intermingled often in the same pieces, the young pianist does not hesitate

to escape on the path to musical liberty, encouraging listeners to follow him because of his creative improvisations."

El-Hage's album has truly gained its position in the music production. The album is on sale in Virgin Megastores (Beirut) and can be found in Fnac (France) or ordered online. El-Hage stated, "It is from Byblos, my natal village, forever symbol of open-mindedness, where I have brought the taste for musical creations that reflects blends of cultures, and this desire to create a universe midway between the Oriental and Occidental worlds."

Claudia Matta '05



IC graduate receives PepsiCo Inc. top honors



PepsiCo Vice President **Talal El-Khalil '81** was honored at a gala dinner in Cancun, Mexico on April 4 as one of the top-performing teams from PepsiCo's international businesses. El-Khalil was accompanied by his wife **Roula Abou Dargham '88**.

"This is the night we honor our most distinguished achievers from across Pep-

siCo and our international bottling system -- the best of the best," said PI CEO Mike White.

The annual presentation of the Donald M. Kendall Awards and Bottler of the Year Awards was attended by leaders of businesses from across PI as well as Latin America and Canada.

IC alumna directs a children's play

Nicole Katul '87 launches a children's play, *Holka Polka*. The spectacle is a musical modern fairytale in English written by DM Bocaz-Larson and directed by Nicole. It is performed by the Junior LPS Drama Club (students ages 9-14) for ages five to 85. The play encompasses characters of the classical tales such as Cinderella, Pinocchio, Humpty Dumpty, and the Wolf from Little Red Riding Hood. The humor in the play is witty and sarcastic for youth and adults to comprehend and the play itself

is enjoyed by kids as well as adults.

The show was performed at the LPS theatre in May. Nicole is the head of the drama club at LPS and has written and directed several musical comedies in English which were performed at LPS and Monnot Theaters.



Did you know?

☛ Alexander MacLachlan's founded IC but also founded two other institutions: Tarsus College in 1887 – 1888 and Athens College in 1923-1925.

☛ IC established the first Meteorological observatory in Smyrna in 1903. This provided such accurate time that the local Ottoman authorities, railways and by 1910 even visiting British Royal Navy ships were advised by the Admiralty to set their chronometers by the daily noon signal from the tower of International College.

☛ IC was able to survive the WWI years (increased costs, inflation and sharply reduced income from tuition) because MacLachlan had wisely invested all available funds in gold in addition to donations from Mrs Kennedy and Cleveland H. Dodge.

☛ After moving to Beirut (1936), IC teachers took the lead in preparing textbooks for the newly independent Lebanon's schools which were primarily private and unregulated from 1946 until 1956 when they had to conform to national standards.

☛ IC was one of the first six schools which founded the International Baccalaureate Program in Geneva in 1968.

☛ IC library currently has 70,000 titles and increasing



IC Memoires

In 1977 and 1978, the first official Rock Band came out of IC. It was called The Pink Panthers. Laurent Khattar was the producer. We were:

Pierre Kerbage '78, Keyboards and Vocals (Who now resides in Austin, Texas and still plays Piano) pkerbage@networklogistic.com Went on to record with Percy Sledge and many others, now President of Network Logistic, Inc. - a Computer Engineering Firm

Ralph Chamí '86, Lead Guitar RCHAMI@imf.org now lives in McLean Virginia. Ralph continues to play Guitar - Ralph is now VP of the International Money Fund.

Fawzan Barrage '79, Lead Vocals and Acoustic Guitar and now resides in Canada and is married to Rima Koleilat-Barrage (also once a student at IC where they got to know each other). Fawzan still sings and plays guitar nearly daily. He is in Ontario, Canada. barrage@sympatico.ca with his family

Emile Boustany '77, Drums - We believe he is still in Lebanon and still playing drums and we do not (unfortunately) have his contact info.



Jamal Hamadeh '78, jhamadeh@hotmail.com is in Saudi Arabia working as the Managing Director of MediaInsight

We are planning a reunion in Austin, Texas this year in the summer.



Pierre Kerbage '78

One of the more vivid recollections I have of that period has to do with sports; up until then I was a die-hard soccer fan, and played the sport in IC with a whole bunch of close friends. As I was considered too short for my age, someone suggested that I should take up basketball, as it involves "stretching for the ball" and that would help me grow taller. Though I had not much interest in the game, I did start playing both in school and outside, and pretty soon got to like the game to the extent that I completely gave up soccer. Of course it helped that the IC team in basketball was a very strong one and was winning matches with other schools in Lebanon making our top players very popular, especially with the girls! The good news is that whether it had to do with basketball or simple anatomical reasons, I did start to grow taller appreciably and was soon in the average height cohort of my age!!!

Closely related to the above, was my also discovering the sport of softball. We had a number of very pleasant and active American teachers at the time (Yorkey, Mize, Nystrom, come to mind) who introduced softball to IC students. Very soon a few friends of mine and myself found out that we were quite good at the sport and could compete with Americans in their own national game. Our perennial rivals became the American Community School teams nearby. As our mastery of the game progressed, not only did we start beating their teams, but we got an additional bonus in the fact that their girl students liked to go out with us Arabs. This



started another form of rivalry, and one which we relished as much as or more than winning softball games!!

Fouad Kronfol '52

I was good at English and usually got 80 in Composition. However, my friend, Eddy Zacharia, always got 100!!

When I asked him how he got that impossible grade, he told me the secret.

"Always mention Mr. Mize in your Composition", he advised. The next subject to write about was "A baseball game". I wrote about how I.C. played against A.C.S. and that Mr. Mize was the coach who made IC win!!

When I used that secret, I got 100 on that composition and on all other compositions that followed!!

That is a real story.

Ramzi K. Alamuddin '55



Dear Moufid,

Thank you for the news letter. Just seeing the Issue brings to me all the happy memories we built during those years,
Thank you for putting a smile on our faces in this troubled age.

Ziad Ghalayini, '64

Dear IC,

IC. My second home, an institution that truly gave me a well rounded education and helped me reach where I am today. I only graduated in summer 2007, yet it seems like another lifetime. I owe so much to IC, that it is very hard, if not impossible, to over-look. However, it is time for me to try and give back a little of what I was given. I intended to make this contribution, as humble as it might be, because it is contributions like this that aided in my graduation from IC. This donation which I plan on giving on a yearly basis, because, maybe... just maybe, someday I would've paid IC some of the gratitude I owe it.

"Pure as the snows of the mountains
Deep as the purple sea
Clear as the crystal fountain
Cedar-song our love shall be"

Sara Al'Ali '07

Dear Moufid,

IC has meant many things to me: an excellent educational experience, a rich cultural setting and a place to meet life long friends. And if there is one thing that captures all of these, it is that IC provided me early on with the eyes and tools to see a better world and succeed in it.

Thank you and best regards,

Saad Azhari '80

Dear IC,

"Could I ever explain the "reason being" behind those strange feelings that I carry towards IC. It's only when you leave that "peaceful heaven" and dive deeper and deeper in the everyday's life, that you get to realize the value of the place you've spent 15 years



of your 22 years' life in. And how many times did I decide to send my latest news to this amazing news-letter, but each and everytime, I used to surrender and change my mind at the very last seconds. This was due to the following: I.C. taught me to seek for the "better" whenever you reach to the "best". And whenever I chieved something, a diploma, a project, a job... I would immediately seek for the "more", and that's how I've spent my first four years away from my alma mater, achieving the best and looking towards the better. And i always thought not to email I.C. until I finish achieving everything I wanted. But then i realized that you could not go on this way, and that i gotta keep my alma mater posted so that it will accompany me, step by step, in this long journey called life.

Lynn Ammar '03

Dear Moufid,

Somehow I had a little time to reflect on life this weekend and much of it had to do about my children. As I see them grow into young adults, I am so proud to be associated with the International College in the task of making sure that they take the right path early in their lives. Raising children is a shared responsibility between parents and teachers/schools. Today, I have the utmost respect for the teachers of IC and I am so glad that my children are attending IC.

Thank you for helping me to fulfill the goal of raising my children within a system driven by high core values that undoubtedly is being transferred down to the children.

Please accept this gift to the general fund which I anticipate to contribute on a yearly basis.

Best personal regards and I look forward to seeing you soon,

Hazem Farra



Alumni News

Class of '60 - '69

Aida Dagher '69 is the General Manager (CEO) of BankMed (Suisse). She graduated from International College of Lebanon and received her BSc in Electrical Engineering from the American University of Beirut and her MBA from the University of La Verne in California. Later, she built GAM's business in the Middle East for nine years before becoming Regional Head & Market Leader – Levant, Kuwait & Qatar for Credit Suisse Private Banking. Most recently, Ms. she was CEO – Middle East of Centuria Middle East Capital, a subsidiary of Financière Centuria, an asset management and investment banking firm previously partly owned by Dexia-BIL.



Class of '70 - '79

Hassan Shashaa '73 is currently working at Emirates Steel Industries in Abu Dhabi as Vice President Strategy and Development.

Jamal Steitieh '76 was selected by Aramco to head the team executing the streetscape, hardscape, landscape, irrigation, street lighting and golf course for king Abdullah University for Science and Tech in north Jeddah to be completed in one year. It is the biggest project at this time in the kingdom. The construction is to be completed in a fast manner to achieve a record in construction completion.

Nancy Haddad-Albina '78 is working in Toronto with Bell Canada.

Class '80 - '89

Randa Harazallah '80 is currently work at Hariri High School II where she teaches mathematics (Grades 6 and 7). "Mr Atef Karam (My math teacher in Brevet) was my inspiration (God rest his

soul)," she writes. She is married to Ahmad Bekdash, I have has three children: Moh'd at LAU, Nour in grade 12 and Omar in grade 7.

Dina Hajjé '81 is a specialist in fashion, history of the costume, history of art, living in Rome, Italy. After over 20 years of work in the fashion, costume, textile, and journalism, she is launching a new brand of handcrafted design handbags. Dina's work is on view through "yahoo search engine" at <http://dinahajjefashion.googlepages.com>

Malek Himadeh '83 resides in Beirut and is the Vice-President of his family school in Baakline-Shouf region in Mount Lebanon. "The great old IC years are always in my memory," he writes.

Hani Kobeissi '85 and **Rana Kobeissi '96** have been working since 2006 in Brussels, Belgium. Hani is a consultant at Accenture Belgium, and Rana recently got promoted to Account Director in DRAFTFCB, a multinational advertising agency in Brussels. Her clients include Nivea. She is also a PhD can-

didate in EU Foreign Policy at the University of Leuven, Belgium. She can be contacted at rana_kobeissi@hotmail.com

Meheddine Iskandarani '88 travelled to France after graduation and obtained his Masters in Engineering in Food Technologies. He was in France for 19 years before recently moving to the UAE where he is setting up the branch for Africa & the Middle East for a French company specialized in dairy ingredients.

Class of '90 - '99

Walid Tabanji '90 and Nesreen Srouji, both graduates of INSEAD, are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Edward, at the American Hospital in Dubai on March 30, 2008. Both parents are currently working in Dubai and regret that their first son, Ramzi, 2 ½ yrs. old, will not join IC.

Mohammad Ahmad Itani '91 moved to Jeddah late summer 2006 and had a baby boy, Emad, in June 2007. He



was warmly welcomed by his brother Ahmad (3.5 yrs) and sister Naheda (6 yrs). Mohammad is working as a project manager at SHAIRCO industrial group in the field of fiberglass and composites. His wife, Amal Sinno, is working as the PYP coordinator at Jeddah Knowledge School. "I really miss the nice old days at IC and all my friends there," he writes.

Chadie Bazzi '92 graduated and continued his studies in LAU where he got his BS in biology and continued his masters in business administration. Now he's back in Africa to take care of family business.

Amira Alwan – Najjar '92 is a Consultant at Rasd – Amrop Hever Group, an Executive Search Consulting Firm. She is married to Mazen Najjar and has with two children: Yasmeen and Omar.

Zeina El Abed '92 and Rachid Abdel Wahab were married in August 2005, their daughter Aya is 2 years old. Zeina got her Bachelor in Graphic Design from AUB, then an MA in Visual Culture from Middlesex University, London. She is currently running her freelance design studio (ZOA) and teaching graphic design courses as well. Zeina and Rachid are looking forward to enroll Aya at IC as soon as she's three!

Rola Gebara Baydoun '93 received her BA in Public Administration from AUB in 1997 and Masters in Public Health in 1999.

Dr. Talal H. Jaber '93 received his Ph.D in international law from the University of Montpellier in France. He got married to Mirna Abou Chacra on December 23rd, 2006; and they were blessed with the birth of a baby girl Sama, who was born in Virginia USA on February 9th, 2008. The couple live in Beirut where Dr. Jaber works as an attorney and a professor of business

law at both AUB & LAU.

Samih Al Mawass '94 and Danya Idriss celebrated their son's (Mohammad) first birthday in Brussels, Belgium. Mohammad was born on the 16th of March 2007 in Lausanne, Switzerland, where Samih was pursuing an MBA degree from IMD (International Institute for Management Development). After graduation in November 2007, Samih joined Abbott Vascular International as EMEA Product Manager for cardiac therapies based in Brussels.

Sawsan Yamout '94 joined AUB where she obtained her BSc Biology April 1997. She then joined the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Szent Istvan, Budapest, Hungary where she got her DVM (Doctor in Veterinary Medicine) with honors, November 2002. Later, Sawsan enrolled in a one year program at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, University of Liege where she obtained a Diplome des Etudes Complementaire (DEC) with honors- Equine emphasis. June 2004. She later joined the Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Ontario Canada having completed a year of Internship in Large Animal Internal Medicine in June



2005 and a candidate for a degree of MSc. in the Clinical Studies. Presently, Sawsan has just completed the first out of three years of residency specialization in Equine Surgery at the University of California, Davis. "It was during my IC classes of Experi-

mental Science in 1994 that all the Vet talk started and some people thought I was crazy!!!" she writes. "There was even a comment "Al-wayloo lakom ya hayaawanat, under my IC Torch picture." That was fourteen years ago. Sawsan can now be contacted at her present e-mail address syamout@ucdavis.edu.

Raed Adlouni '95 is currently working for Hewlett-Packard (HP) in Dubai. He has been in Dubai for the past five years.

Fadi Mirza '95 graduated from The American University of Beirut with a medical degree in 2002.

He completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology from Tufts University in Boston in 2007 and is currently pursuing subspecialty training in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Columbia University in New York. He is married to Lama El Dana since 2004 with one son, Jad, born in February 2007.

Diala Aschkar '95 has been living in Paris since four and a half years. She is married to Arnaud Martin since May 2006. They have a web and graphics agency. They launched a fashion online magazine which is a new concept on the web and were chosen by Apple as one of the best sites for iphones and ipods. (<http://www.flip-zone.com>). They also present Lebanese and international designers.

Mohammad Saadeh '96 and **Rana Al-Assah '97** have been blessed with a baby girl, Lynne. Lynne was born on 03-03-08 in Beirut, Lebanon. The family is now in Abu Dhabi where Mohammad works as Marketing and Events Manager at Manazel Real Estate Company and Rana works as Assistant Professor of Cancer Genetics & Director of Accreditation at Abu Dhabi University. The family may be contacted at mdsaadeh@manazel-re.ae.



Tarek Chbaklo '98 and **Lamis El Amine** are proud to announce the birth of their baby girl, **Lea**, born on February 15th 2008.

Omar Barghout '99 has been a financial advisor working at Credit Suisse bank in London since 2006 with previous experiences at ABN-AMRO bank, Audi Bank, and JWT Saudi Arabia. Omar received a B.A. in Business Finance from AUB, an MSc in Real Estate Finance from Cass Business School (City of London), and an M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship & Finance from Imperial College London, UK.

Hana Addam '99 and husband, **Bilal El-Ghali**, had a baby girl last April, **Reem**. She is currently in the United States working on her PhD in Social and Comparative Analysis in Education at the University of Pittsburgh. She is also working as a Manager of the Institute of International Studies in Education at the School of Education there.

Hebah Maktabi Jaber '99 married **Ali Jaber** on September 14, 2006 and just had a baby girl named **Joud** on March 18 '08.

Ourouba Al-Arab '99 received her L.L.M. in Arbitration & ADR from Pantheon-Assas (Paris II) in 2005, where she was ranked the first in her class and received a scholarship for an internship at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. She got married to **Bassem Al-Hachache** in August 2007 and moved to Abu Dhabi. She is currently an associate with an American law firm working as a legal consultant in their office in Abu Dhabi.

Lina Khinkarli '99 will graduate this summer with a Masters degree in Business Administration from the Lebanese American University. Since finishing her BS in Pharmacy in 2004, she has been working as a Professional Medical Representative (PMR) at Merck, Sharp and

Dohme (MSD) pharmaceutical company in concordance with the Masters.

Heba Hodeib '99 graduated with a BA in Elementary Education from AUB and is now continuing her Masters in English literature (at AUB). She is currently working as a Grade 5 teacher (and CM2 ESL) at Hariri III School. "I miss IC a lot!!!" she writes.

Class of '00 – '08

Rima Khinkarli '01 received her Medical Doctor (M.D.) diploma in the summer of 2007, and interned the following year. In June 2008, she'll be starting her residency in the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescents in the American University of Beirut- Medical Center (AUB-MC).

Nader Houella '02 won the "Basil Fuleihan Innovative Good Governance Award" for the second consecutive year.

Yara Saab '03 received her MA in International Law at the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica in 2007, and decided to return to Beirut and work at the regional seat of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. She has been involved in research and project management in the field of social policy and participatory development, assisting governments and civil society organizations in the transition from public policy theoretical formulation to practical implementation and monitoring. The areas of interest include poverty reduction, equal and universal access to education and health, youth and women empowerment, as well as social integration and the protection of the environment. "After this fruitful experience, I am about to embark on a new journey to the UK, to attend Law School at the University of Edinburgh so

as to further enhance my credentials in the international legal field," she writes. "I genuinely believe that my drive to succeed academically and professionally can be traced back to the promotion of excellence fostered at IC, an institution I will be eternally grateful for.

Hassan Assaf '03 graduated from AUB in 2006 with a BA in economics and is now continuing his education in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California where he is earning his masters in economics. He will graduate in May 2009.

Kamal Khayat '03 is pursuing his master of science in aerospace engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology while working as a research assistant at the Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory. Kamal has recently been admitted to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center where he will be working over the summer with the Space Mission Analysis Branch's spacecraft design teams to develop and analyze the lunar exploration and earth science campaigns contributing to plotting the agency's roadmap in these areas over the next two decades. He hopes to base his graduate thesis on the research findings. On a national level, Kamal's team won first place in the 2007-2008 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) missile design competition.

Lynn Ammar '03 obtained her degree in Law from Université St Joseph (USJ) with high distinction, and graduated in July 2007 being "Major de promotion". She also obtained her masters, specializing in "Business Law" from Université Jean Moulin - Lyon 3. In parallel, she received her BA in Journalism, and made the honor list. She is currently a member of the legal department of Khalil Fattal & Fils (KFF), one of the largest distributors in Lebanon and the Levant, and also



doing three years of internship in the HBDT (Georges Haddad, Ziyad Baroud, Karim Daher & Adib Tohme) Law Firm in order to fill the Beirut Bar association's conditions. She is also, at the same time, pursuing her DEA (Diplome d'etudes approfondies) at USJ in association with Université d'Assace - Paris II, the best law school in Europe, specializing in "droit privé général et des affaires"; and her masters degree in Journalism. She looks forward then to go for an MBA at AUB before packing up to the states for an LLM in law from Harvard. She later

from 2004 till early 2006. She started working as a Producer at VTR Beirut in November 2006. She helps clients create a post-production schedule and budget, and maintain them throughout the process. She also does the production planning and pre-visualization and selects the right artists for their job. One of her major responsibilities is to make sure that Airing Copies are thoroughly checked to required specifications, and delivered on time every time. She has been hired to be an Exclusive Producer for Procter & Gamble in January 2008.

moved to the UK to pursue her Master's degree in Mathematical and Computational Finance at the University of Oxford. "I will hopefully graduate in July and then go out to the "real world" to find a career," she writes. "I could not have gotten here if it were not for my teachers at IC who motivated me and more importantly believed in my abilities. I would like to thank them all especially (if I am allowed to name) Mrs. Ghina Srouji".

Ahmad El Baba '04 graduated from AUB in 2007 with a BS in Computer Science and a minor in Business Administration. He is now in Canada doing his MBA in investment management and CFA.

Michel Boulad '06 is currently finishing his 2nd year in the Glion Institute of Higher Education studying hotel management in Switzerland and will be starting an internship in Dubai beginning of July 1st 2008 in the Al-Bustan Rotana Hotel as an Area Sales department management trainee for six months. «J'aimerais envoyer mes salutations les plus chaleureuses pour M. Nassar, mon prof d'économie. Je sais qu'on a créé, des fois, beaucoup de problèmes en classe avec vous monsieur, mais au moins vos cours et ces mémoires resteront gravées a jamais. Merci IC pour tout!

Hadi Azar '07 is currently at Concordia University. He just started his second year of BComm, majoring in MIS and Minor in Finance. He will be graduating in 2010. He has also been working for around six months in a money management company and is in charge of the IT aspect as well as the trade clearing.

Christina Doueihy '07 is currently majoring in Interior Architecture at the Lebanese American University, and expects to graduate in 2011. "I spent the best 15 years of my life at IC," she writes. "My days were full of memorable moments."

plans to prepare for her PhD (Doctorat according to the french system) at Université d'Assace-Paris II." "Finally," she writes, "I tap this occasion to send huge hugs to my classmates, especially those of the 2003 Class-humanities' section."

Dina Kreik '03 graduated with Honors in Communication Arts studies with emphasis on Radio / TV / Film. As she studied at LAU Beirut, she was working as a Freelance producer on Video Clips,

Some of her projects as MIRINDA, PEPSI, NANCY AJRAM'S VIDEO CLIP, ARIEL, AUDI BANK, SONY ect. are posted on VTR Beirut's website: www.vtrbeirut.com

Razan Charara '04 graduated from IC in 2004 and then pursued her undergraduate studies at the American University of Beirut and graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor Degree of Science in Mathematics along with a minor in Computer and Computational Sciences. After that, she





Obituaries

My Friend Hanna Hourani

On the 2nd of April 2008, IC lost one of its Trustee's Emeriti Hanna Hourani.

Hanna a self made man peacefully died in his house in Broumana.

Born on June 10th 1926 in Jdeidet Marjayoun, Hanna studied at IC, AUB, and earned a degree in law from London University, United Kingdom. For a major part of his life he worked for the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) in a very high ranking position.

To all the people who knew him, Hanna was a good and genuine friend, and the saying: "A friend in need is a friend indeed" applies fittingly to him.

During the years he managed to overcome his personal sufferings, although the loss of both his son and his wife was hardly tolerable. Perhaps that is why in recent years he developed a sarcastic look upon life.

As if that was not enough, he later fell sick and spent the last seven years of his life physically incapacitated, and yet he never complained or grumbled.

He will always be remembered
May His Soul Rest in Peace

Yusuf Kan'an '71

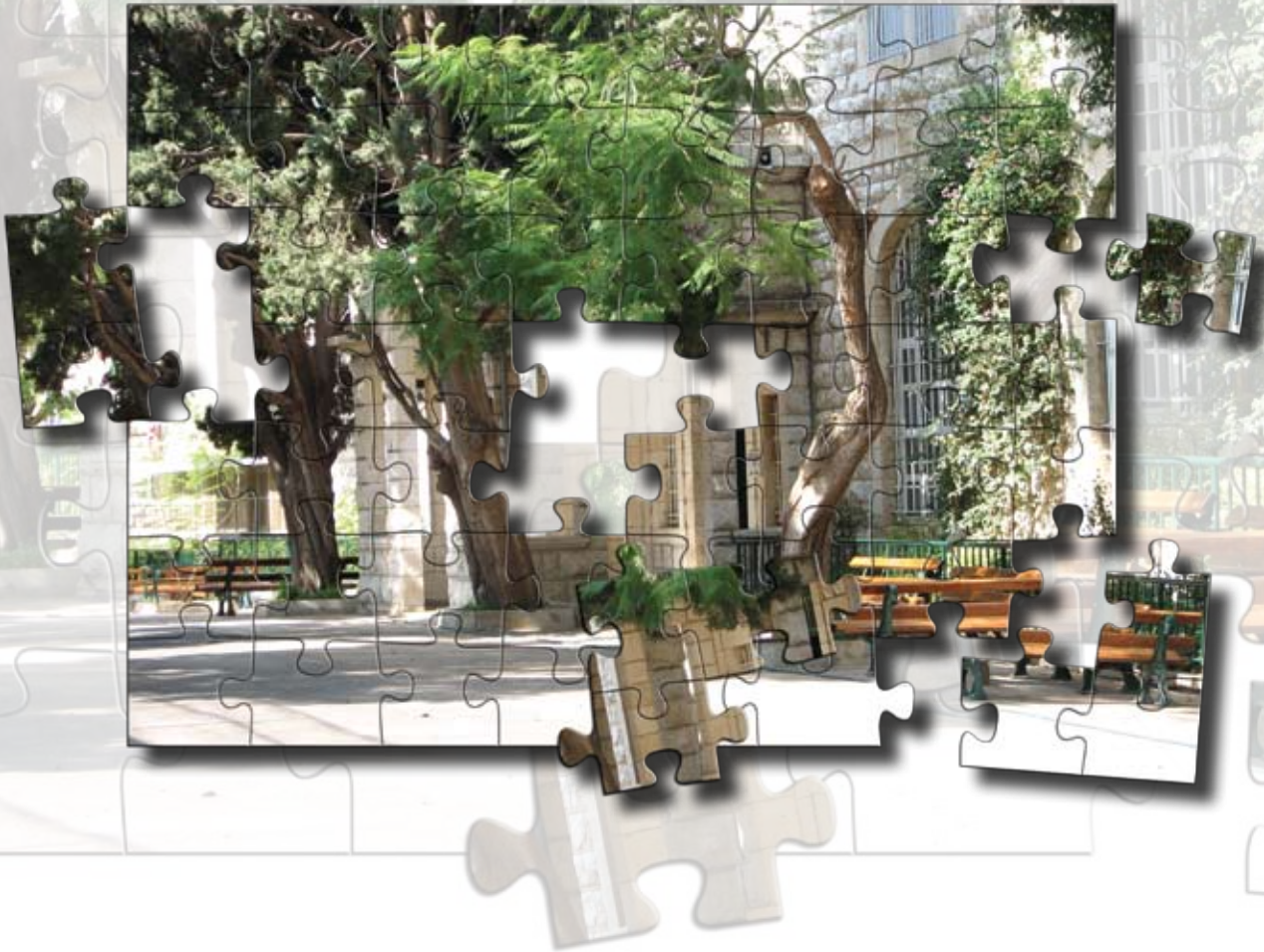


Mohamed Orfali passed away on April 30, 2008 after a year long struggle with cancer. He was 14 years of age. Mohamed has been at IC since preschool and suddenly became ill last year. Distraught friends and classmates remember him fondly as an excellent student who loved sports. He was a member of the IC football team. Classmates say that Mohamed was a gentle boy who didn't like anyone to be upset with him. Friends who visited him at the hospital describe him as continuously cheerful.

"If he saw pity in our eyes, he wouldn't let us come in," said one classmate. "He even told his parents not to let anyone in who felt sorry for him."

IC family sends its deepest condolences to the Orfali family. We will miss him greatly in our classes and on campus.





GET INTO THE IC SPIRIT AND GIVE BACK...



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