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TO MY
GARDEN



IC NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2009



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Let me start by thanking all our loyal donors, who despite the financial crunch that we are all experiencing, still faithfully sent in their donations. It is these contributions that are keeping many of our deserving yet needy students at IC.



Our annual fund remains open and we welcome all the help that we can get to secure a strong education for our diverse body of students.

IC needs the help of all alumni. In these days, every dollar counts.

Moreover, we have started to seek pledges for our new elementary school which will be built on campus.

The Board of Trustees has not been idly watching. They have been hard at work commissioning architects and studying various designs.

The result is exciting: a brand new modern custom-made building up to the best of American standards. The best part is that we can finally bring our elementary students on campus with the rest of the school. This new building, with its technology and environmentally friendly design, will set the standards for schools in the country. Its gymnasium and courts will be accessible to all students.

We strongly believe that an investment in education will help IC produce caring, ethical and independent leaders that the country so desperately needs.



Moufid Beydoun '64
Vice President for Alumni & Development



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Sponsored by:



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Graduates of 1959, celebrate your 50th graduation anniversary on Friday June 19th, 2009 at the Martin House Garden, IC Campus.
Graduates of 1984, celebrate your 25th graduation anniversary on Friday July 3rd, 2009 at the Martin House Garden, IC Campus.
Details will be announced in due time.
For more information contact: alumni@ic.edu.lb
or call (961) 3 367420

CEDAR SONG



University of NY Chancellor, Henry MacCracken and his wife were alarmed at the telegram that they had received. Their youngest son, Henry Jr, had come down with typhoid fever. They wanted to go to him. The New York Times assured readers that the 1903 commencement will be held

nevertheless and will be presided by the vice president of the university. The couple immediately set sail hoping to reach Beirut by June. Henry Jr had taken on an assignment three years earlier teaching English at the Prep school of the Syrian Protestant College (SPC). Judging by the frail hand written minutes filed away at the AUB library archives, the young Henry was highly involved in many aspects of the school and seemed very dedicated to his work. His illness, however, forced him to return mid semester to the US.

His brief time in Beirut was eventually shelved away – with it the legacy that he left behind. The Syrian Protestant College soon became the American University of Beirut and its Prep School became the International College. MacCracken never returned to the school but unbeknown to the hundreds of thousands of students who passed through IC's doors, they sing his legacy often: the Cedar Song.

The only tell tale sign proving the authorship was found in one of AUB's archive boxes. It's a little thin booklet printed in 1903 simply titled "Songs of the Protestant College". On the third page, is the Cedar Song hailing the SPC. In small print underneath is "H.N. MacCracken". According to other documents at the archives, Henry Noble MacCracken was also the author of the last two verses of AUB's Alma mater (although the full credit of the entire song was given to L.H. Miller in the song book). In the late 1950's, the Prep School became the International College and inherited the Cedar Song. "Ever live our SPC" was duly changed to "ever live AUB" (it was later changed to IC).

The melody remained the same and believed to have been adapted from an already existing composition. As for Henry MacCracken, he recovered from typhoid and went on to become the president of the then all-women college, Vassar University. His modern views revamped the entire university. He strongly believed that courses offered to women must link their undergraduate training with post-graduate professions. He encouraged innovative approaches to learning and he eased the then severe codes of social conduct and behavior. He made it his personal mission to make Vassar students "citizens of the world." His methods and educational experiments affected many US universities who followed his lead.

In his obituary, the New York Times in 1970, hailed MacCracken for his pioneering efforts in "the fight to abolish academic formalism."

As for IC, MacCracken's legacy remains engraved in the Cedar Song which he wrote for the institution that first launched his successful career.



Cedar Song

*Stop For the hours are flying,
Short are the College days,
Join in a song together,
To our Alma Mater & praise.
Sing of the love we bear her,
Sing of the days gone by,
Sing of the dear days passing
Sing to a future high Hurrah*

*Sing to our Alma Mater,
Queen of the East is she
First in the heart & devotion
All our praise to thee, J.C.*

*Pure as the snows of the mountains
Deep as the purple sea
Clear as the crystal fountain
Cedar song our love shall be
Come true sons of the College
Come, for the time & not long
Rest from your search for knowledge
Join in a loyal song Hurrah*

*Sing to our Alma Mater,
Queen of the East is she
First in the heart & devotion
All our praise to thee, J.C.*

Henry Noble MacCracken

To my teacher with love:

A letter from a four-year-old

There was a time that I didn't speak so well. There were so many words cramped in my head. In French, in Arabic, in English. I never knew the right one to choose. And so I preferred to stay silent. But I wanted to talk like everyone else. They knew which word went where but I didn't. So I nodded and shook my head in response to questions. I didn't want anyone laughing at me if I chose the wrong word.

And then I came to your class. You smiled at me and I loved you at once. Somehow you knew that I needed time and I needed my space.

At the beginning, I just wanted to go home. It was safer there. The children in your class spoke so well. Why couldn't I talk like them?

My mother was worried and I heard you telling her softly. "He's not even four yet. He's young for his class but he'll get there."

My mother whispered to you that she fears that she made a mistake and should have enrolled me later in school when my speech was more developed. But you didn't agree. "He's so mature," you said. "He'll be just fine. Give him time."

I heard you. And I felt good.

I never felt different in your class. And so slowly I started to gain confidence and began using the words floating in my head. You were thrilled when I began to speak up. I could see it in your eyes. And so I kept using words. The more words I used the more that popped into my head. I wanted to use them all. You took everything I said so seriously. Suddenly I had things to say. And you listened.

And you understood me. You knew I was mortified that day when my mother mixed up the date of the dress-up day. I was the only Indian in the entire preschool. How could I face the class? My mother whispered her mistake to you. You promptly looked at me and said that I didn't have to go to class. I could go back home with my mother and change my clothes. "He'll be embarrassed," you said to my mother. "There's no need for him to feel like that."

And on that day when we brought gifts to the poor to school, you noticed my hesitation when asked to hand you the present. You see, I wanted to give it to the poor myself. You smiled, and then and there you held out your hand to me and together we walked down the hallway. You took me to a room full of gift wrapped toys. And I understood that I couldn't give the present to the poor myself but that this is where the gifts go. I understood and gave you my

gift.

But the best moment came when I did my task well in class and you handed me a piece of small cardboard paper. I couldn't read it but I knew it was something nice because there were big hearts drawn in the corners. And when I handed it to my mother, I could see tears forming in her eyes.

"Miss Jana is so proud of me" said the card.

And I'm proud too. I'm proud to have you as my teacher.



*Happy Teacher's
Day!*

All I Really Need To Know
I Learned In Kindergarten
-excerpt by Robert Fulghum

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found
them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't
yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt
somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are
good for you.

Live a balanced life - learn some
and think some and draw and
paint and sing and dance and play
and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you go out into the world,
watch out for traffic, hold
hands, and stick together.

Be aware of wonder.
Remember the little seed in the
styrofoam cup:

The roots go down and the plant
goes up and nobody really knows
how or why, but we are all like
that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white
mice and even the little seed in
the Styrofoam cup - they all die.
So do we.

Think what a better world it
would be if all - the whole world -
had cookies and milk about three
o'clock every afternoon and then
lay down with our blankies for a
nap. Or if all governments had a
basic policy to always put thing
back where up their own mess.

All I really wanted to know I learned at the IC Choir

On December 19th, the IC senior Choir and the Little Cherubs (first and second grades) marched onto the AUB Assembly Hall stage and delivered a heart warming Christmas concert for the benefit of Ayadina and Toufoula Associations. The audience cheered them enthusiastically. Choir members looked back grinning widely. Some joined the choir to make friends, others to fit in somewhere and some just loved to sing. But unknown to them, the lessons they learned went well beyond just singing. Twenty years ago, best selling author Robert Fulghum listed the lessons he learned from kindergarten. It will be years before IC choir members realize they have learned theirs.

Listen to others

"You can't sing your part if you're not listening to the others," continuously repeats Randa Sabbah, head of the Music Department. "You must harmonize and blend."

Get along

When the voices are first put together, the choir becomes a battlefield of characters. "Each group wants to only hear themselves so they become louder and louder," said Sabbah. "And it takes so much time to tell them that this is not the time to overpower each other."

You can't reach the top by yourself

Students first join wanting to sing solos. They want to shine without the others. "And I say no," said Sabbah. "You have to learn to sing as a group. You can only shine when others are together. If you cannot sing by the rules of the choir, then how can you sing on your own? First we live in a community then we stand out on our own."

Unite

We all need each other. The sopranos need the altos and the altos the tenor and bases. "Once the students were able to hear each other, it suddenly dawned

on them that together they can produce a beautiful piece," said Sabbah.

Discover and explore your potentials

When small children first join the choir they come with their 'baby' voices. And they discover that just by changing the shape of their mouth and lips, they can produce other sounds. "The look on their faces is pure amazement," said Sabbah.

Smile away your fears

The Little Cherubs looked frozen at the sight of the audience in front of them. "Then everything I said suddenly dawned on them," recalled Sabbah. "They then assumed the proper posture. They smiled. They knew they were performing."

Help others

When the Little Cherubs first got together earlier this year, the boys were reluctant to sing. The girls - at their own initiative - held out the script to the boys and whispered in their ears the written words. And during the performance, one child mistakenly put his arm up at the wrong moment. The child standing next to him, quickly and efficiently grabbed the stretched arm and pulled it down. "They help each other by instinct," said Sabbah. "This is something amazing about kids."

Look, look, look

"When I'm teaching and during performances, I give physical and visual cues so if they're not watching they would miss their cues," said Sabbah.

Overcome your shyness

One little girl was so shy to sing in front of an audience that she didn't want to show up for the performance. But once on stage, the girl erupted into a smile and joined in.

"You can overcome your fear of stage, your fear of not being able to perform, fear of singing right or wrong because in a group you're supported," said Sabbah. "And choir is a group."





The center where dreams come true

From a distance, it's just an apartment building amidst a crowded block of unpainted concrete in a poor neighborhood of Nabaa. But for the 130 children who come to the building it's magic. Every afternoon and on Saturdays, here is where they learn to dance, act, draw, sing, play the piano and guitar.

This is where Nour Dia, 11, spends her Saturdays. This is her getaway from the tiny room which she shares with her mother and four brothers.

"I love acting the most," she said as she takes a break from the improvisation games that her drama teacher was leading. "I'd like to become an actress."

The reality, however, is that she will not. As soon as she graduates from public school, she will probably need to seek employment to help support the family. But for a few afternoons a week and on Saturdays, she comes here to dream.

"Why can't poor children have dreams too?" said Maya Najjar, the president of Ayadina, the NGO she founded, with a group of women, to open a fine and performing arts center. "My children had this chance at IC. They were lucky to go to an elite private school and get the best things in life."

At IC, Najjar's daughters spent many years with the music and performing arts clubs. They spent many memorable hours at rehearsals. "And it was with a shock that I realized that public schools have no place for these extra curricular activities," she said. "They do not have exposure to arts and culture. There are no music lessons or drama which in my books are not a luxury, they are essential in a child's development."

Hence, she got the idea of establishing Ayadina. The NGO was launched five years ago and has since welcomed 130 children ages 5 to 15. Dozens more are on the waiting list. Each child pays a symbolic fee of 5000LL per month. Some teachers are volunteers and some are paid professionals. Parents have reported that their children are "less aggressive and doing better in school," said Najjar. "What would they be doing otherwise? Playing on the streets. Here we help them develop their talents and protect them against idleness and delinquency."

During the day, when the children are at school, the Ayadina center is turned into a senior citizens club.



Almost one hundred elderly come to the center to meet, have breakfast, and join the various activities including a physical exercise class, improvisation theatre and games. Medical assistance is also provided. They are often taken on field trips.

No sooner do they leave the center then the children begin to arrive.

Among them is 11-year-old Maroun Aalam who can't wait for the drawing lessons every Saturday. "I've always loved to draw and paint," he said as he deftly drew trees leaves and a flower vase on the paper before him. Under the guidance of the teacher, he started mixing the appropriate paints. "We sometimes draw at school but never paint. All I want to do is just draw and paint. I can do this all day long."

In the adjoining room, several little girls are learning to plié in the ballet class. In the apartment below, a small boy is practicing on the piano while a drama class is under way near by. More children arrive.

"This is where dreams come true," said Najjar. "These children - some of them talented - would never have had a chance like this anywhere else."

Still, as all NGOs, Ayadina heavily depends on donations. Running the center costs \$4,000 a month. Najjar spends most of her time organizing various fundraising events.

In December, the IC Senior Choir and the Little Cherubs and the ACS Saxophone quartet donated all the proceeds from its Benefit Christmas Concert to Ayadina and another NGO, Toufoula.

For more information/donations/volunteer opportunities about Ayadina, call: 03852700 or 01266611. (email: ayadina@gmail.com - <http://ayadina.wordpress.com>)

The Case for the **New Elementary** School

It's a saga that's finally coming to an end. The IC elementary school will be 'moving home' on campus after years of residing in the former British Embassy. The plans have been made and details are currently being worked out. It's the first phase of the Capital Campaign that was launched last year to rehabilitate the entire campus.

In the beginning

In the late 1970's, IC purchased the small campus of the British High School in Bshamoun. The idea was to relieve the pressure in Ras Beirut and move elementary school children to the hills. And for a few years, children were shepherded back and forth. Space was ample in Bshamoun and students thrived. But during the civil war, the children were brought back to Beirut and had to make do with makeshift classrooms around the campus, mostly in the underground dressing area of the football field.

In 1985 and as enrollments continued to grow, the elementary grades were moved to the former British Embassy building on the Corniche.

And there they remained.

Today

For a building that was not meant to be a school, wonders have been done here.

"We have done what we can here," said Julia Kozak, the Elementary School director.

And indeed it was Kozak's biggest challenge when she took over the school seven years ago.

Under her guidance, grey walls were whitewashed, small classrooms were pulled down to make larger ones, storage rooms were eliminated to enlarge play areas. No stone was left unturned, as they say.

An even bigger challenge for Kozak was finding enough play areas for 775 active youngsters. Three major terraces including a roof have been turned into playgrounds. Every single corner is used in some way. In the school itself, ping-pong tables are pulled out in a conference room during recess.

"Children have choices where to go and what to do," said Kozak. "They like that."

But still the playgrounds are undeniably crowded. The noise level can be deafening.

"The kids are space deprived," said Kozak. "When they go out and play, it's almost inevitable that they bump into each other. I can't tell them don't run. They don't have an after school garden at home where they can run or ride a bicycle. So some children at recess go out screaming and running just like that because they're out of a small room."

Fortunately, students seem unaware of this lack of space as they wiz cheerfully from one place to another.

They're happy and learning so why change things?

If IC was an ordinary school, Kozak's changes to the school may have been enough to support the schools curriculum. But IC is not an ordinary school. Its PYP (Primary Years Program) curriculum requires ample space to create centers, quiet areas, computer areas, reading corners, paint stations and much more in one classroom alone.

As it is, an average of 25 students are crowded into a 40m² room. Manipulatives and materials are not permanent features in a classroom but brought out when needed.

"The facility is not the key to an excellent elementary school," said John Johnson, IC's president. "The facility supports the program, it doesn't make the program. We make the program. But our facility doesn't support all the things that we do and all the things we want to do. We're doing very well with what we have, but with better facilities we'll be able to do it even better."

Johnson is also acutely aware that much of the traffic in the Ras Beirut area is caused by IC's arrival and dismissal times. "It's a nightmare," he said. "A new elementary school on campus will provide an overall safer environment for the students."

The Vision

In 2007, IC and AUB completed a historic deal: IC signed an agreement to acquire the campus and become a completely independent school.

This means that IC can build a much needed modern elementary school on its very own campus.

Two US architecture firms which specialize in designing schools were commissioned. Flansburgh Associates and Ellenzweig Associates Inc, in a joint venture with Khatib and Alami, began designing the new structure taking into account the input of trustees and school directors.

As a result, the new building will be a modern structure up to American standards.

"This building will be the anchor of the new campus," said Board member Imad Taher, the head of the Building and Ground Development Committee, "It will be custom built and designed to cater to the needs of the elementary school."

The school will have all the modern facilities imaginable including heating, proper ventilation, air conditioning, technology friendly classrooms, environment friendly



building – it will be an ‘intelligent’ building (energy savings controls, motion sensors, management systems, insulated walls, etc.). The design will especially cater to the disabled. Even more exciting are indoor courts, gymnasium and a 400 seat auditorium accessible to the entire student body. At the moment, the existing space per net square meter per student is about 3.78 m². “In the new building, we’re going to have between 7.5m² to 8m² per student,” said Taher. Moreover, its basement will house the central plant for the entire school – feeding the campus with the needed air conditioning, heating and electricity. It will also serve as the communication hub for all the school buildings.

An underground two level parking for cars and buses and a drop off and pick up area will drastically decrease the traffic congestion around the school.

There will, of course, be ample space for play areas.

Architects met in December and the schematic design is underway. If things go as planned, ground break is scheduled for June 2010 and the building completed in 2012.

Fundraising

The project, including the additional facilities, is estimated to cost \$30 million dollars. Not a small sum by any means but well worth it to create a generation which is “well educated, well informed, and well brought up in a healthy environment,” said Taher.

The good news is that the amount is doable. The on-going fundraising is part of the overall Capital Campaign that was started last year with the overall target of raising \$55m. IC’s Board of Trustees and the Development office have been

hard at work spreading the word and getting pledges.

“We have already raised \$11m in commitment from the Board members,” said Moufid Beydoun, the Vice President for Alumni and Development. “We have been touring Arab countries and will soon do similar tours in the US to get pledges and commitments.”

Role of alumni, parents and friends

It’s all about alumni, parents and friends. They have built and kept IC going for the past 118 years and it is up to them to keep it going for another century.

Over the next few months, the Board of Trustees and IC’s development office will be reaching out to alumni, parents and friends asking them to help in the Capital Campaign, and more specifically building the urgently needed elementary school. The board is depending on its alumni, which have responded heartily in the past, to come through its construction program that will transform the whole campus and serve student needs for the many years to come.

Potential donors will be presented with an enviable position of having their names etched forever at IC – most likely through naming opportunities.

Today’s Rockefeller Hall, Sage Hall and Thomson Hall were naming opportunities early last century. More recently, naming opportunities produced the Issam Fares Hall, The Marwan and Carole Marshi Multipurpose Room, the Rami Merhi Biology Lab and the Occidental Petroleum Science Lab.

“These buildings will remain long after we’ve gone,” said Beydoun. “And will serve generations to come.”

FIRE TRAINING

Around 40 IC staff members participated in a fire training program at the Karantina Fire Department in February. The workshop is a first in a series of training programs in how to deal with emergencies on and off campus.



IC RECEIVES GRANT FROM USAID

Denise Herbol, Mission Director of USAID in Lebanon presented John Johnson, IC president last January, a USAID check for \$400,000 to be used for this year's scholarship fund.

The contribution is part of the USAID scholarship program to help more children and adolescents attend American style schools and universities. The grant is earmarked for scholarships and other development projects at IC.





TEACHER'S DAY

Over 300 teachers and staff gathered at the Bristol Hotel on March 6th to commemorate Teachers' Day. Awards were presented, teachers appreciated and staff thanked for their support. After a scrumptious dinner, all danced the night away!



AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

Albert Abela Award:

Myriame Saadeh, Rola Sleiman, Nancy Kibbi, Nadine Habre, Anne Bechara, Pascale Hitti, Chaza Kalach, Sawsan Kibbi, Souheil Zarifeh and Nawal Haddad



Edmond Tohme Outstanding Educator Award:

Randa Soubaih



Randa A. Khoury Innovation in Teaching Award:

Alexandra El Khawaja



George Debbas Award:

Lina Bitar & Sana Sidani Yamout

HONORING PERSONNEL:

25 years of service

Hanan Khansa
Jocelyne Kobeissy
Mohammad Moneim
Elie Mukbel
Samir Richmani

35 years of service

Tanios Hachem
Rabab Hage

Retirees

Mohmmad Haidar
Hamdi Houalla
Esther Salem
Joyce Samarah



STOP
the attacks!

On December 27th, Israeli jets flew over Gaza and began an aggressive assault on the strip. For the next three weeks, over 1,300 Palestinians, a third of them children, were killed. Thousands of others were injured. Homes, hospitals and vital infrastructure were destroyed.

Trapped with no one where to go, Palestinians could do little but appeal in vain for help.

IC students, faculty and staff watched, stunned at the tragedy unfolding not too far away. Many vividly remembered Israel's attack on Lebanon in July 2006. Feeling helpless to the pleas of the neighbors, students organized a sit-in, fundraising drives, and donations. Teachers across the campus alerted their students to the woes of the Palestinians and held class discussions. Almost all joined in: The Ciné Club offered CDs about the history background of Al Nakba to the middle school, movies dealing with Palestinians were shown during lunch breaks, various classes obtained photographs of Gaza children and displayed them, students in art classes were asked to reflect their feelings about the attacks in their drawings, other students monitored the news as homework, bulletin boards in the middle school displayed student work

about Gaza, upperclasses incorporated texts about Gaza in their syllabus, a special booklet written by students (about Gaza) was published and sold as part of the fundraising efforts. And perhaps the most poignant moment was when secondary students held a sit-in in front of Rockefeller Hall in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Gaza – a Flashback from July 2006? – a student's perspective

The sound and news of bombs exploding in our region is unfortunately an all too common incident. The sounds of explosions, sirens of ambulances, the disturbing Israeli phone calls to our homes, and waking up in the middle of the night from the sound of bombs exploding from the sky, are still etched in our memories of the horrors of war.

The Israeli offensive in Gaza is a disturbing flashback of Lebanon's July 2006 war with Israel. The air, the sea and the earth in Gaza City are now occupied by the Israeli military. They are also responsible for over 1,300 deaths and counting – a frightening image of Lebanon's 1,287 civilian deaths. The reality is that Gaza's war with Israel is similar to Lebanon's July 2006 war in more ways than one. The ubiquitous Israeli "self-defense" excuse

for their offenses and the painstakingly slow international response are a painful memory of the events of the 2006 war. The international community continues its deafening silence, while the death toll rises and the children of Gaza starve to death. Unlike Lebanon, Gaza is in a desperate humanitarian situation. The children of Gaza are slowly dying with no water, no food, no medicine, and in an increasingly number of cases, no home. With the cut of humanitarian aid, the humble tunnels between Rafah and Egypt are the only lifeline for the 1.5 million Palestinian people. However, the Israeli military has made sure to do its utmost to destroy the tunnels that go from Rafah into Egypt, further choking the Palestinians. The heartbreaking stories are endless from a 16-year-old girl, suffering from injuries, lost three brothers, watched her mom dying in the intensive care unit to the infants found in a bombed house playing with their mother's dead body, one question lingers in everyone's conscience: What is the international community waiting for? What is happening is against humanity; the carnage must stop and Gaza must live.

By Ziad Sahli, reprinted from the Makhoulah, February, 2009



IB STUDENTS GO TO NORWAY

Eight theatre arts IB students travelled to Norway last November and joined students from the Mjolan school in the district of Mo-i-rana. During their week long stay, they participated in a workshop led by the Norwegian theatre teachers while Norwegian students were given a workshop by Riad Chirazi, the head of IC's drama department, who accompanied IC students to Norway.

This is the first theatrical exchange program at IC. The idea began four years ago, when a group of Norwegian students came to IC and participated in a theatre workshop. Norway has been inviting Lebanese students, fully

sponsored, for the past three years but Lebanon's recent unrests prevented IC students from travelling. Finally, they were able to go.

At the end of their stay, Lebanese and Norwegian students presented a joint performance based on a theme inspired by Lebanese music. IC students later spent two days skiing in Sweden.

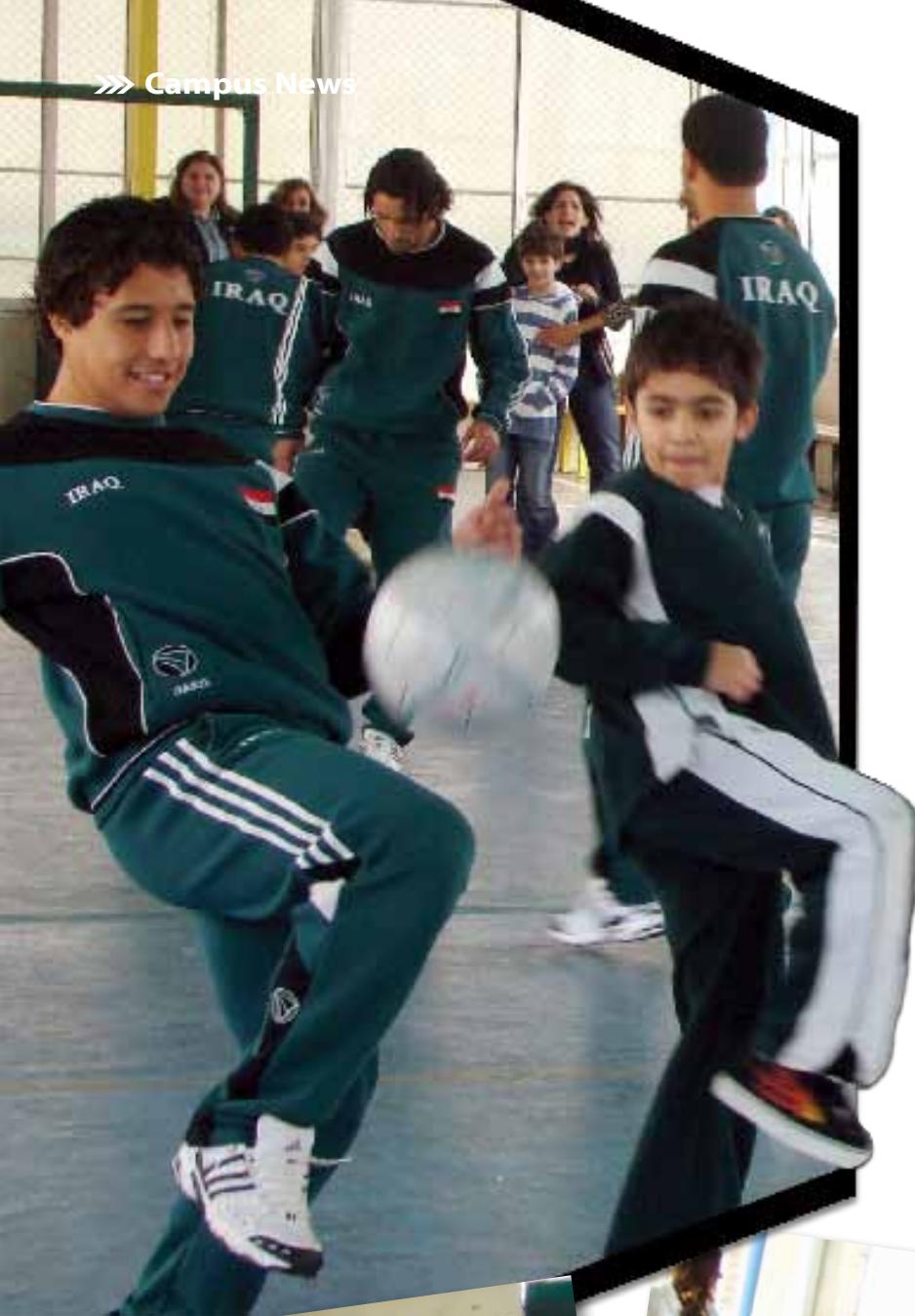
The trip was so successful that Chirazi aims to see "all theatre students and not just IB ones, participate in the now yearly exchange program," he said.

For three months in the summer of 1918, the IC campus (in Turkey) and staff welcomed some 2000 wounded and disabled Allied prisoners of war waiting exchange and repatriation. The author A.A. Milne (creator of Winnie the Pooh) was one of these POW's.

IC graduates (in the late 1890's) did so well in their advanced studies that, by the turn of the century, they were admitted without examination to leading European and US institutions such as the University of Geneva, The University of Chicago and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

IC started out with five students in 1891 and today boasts more than 3,400 students in Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campuses.

Did you know?



Iraqi football team visits the elementary school campus

The Iraqi football team thrilled elementary school students in February when they played a soccer game with them. Students first listened to the players talk about football and Iraq. They had a chance to ask questions about the country and presented the players with hand made cards. The football team sang their Iraqi national song to the students who promptly sang out the Lebanese national anthem right back.





Mishka Mourani, William Turner, Marwan Salam, Dr Nawaf Salam '71, Abdallah Salam, Sahar Salam, John Johnson



Dr Rashid Baddoura '66, Rula Baddourra, Bayard Dodge

NY Gathering

Over 60 alumni, trustees and friends gathered at the home of HE **Dr Nawaf Salam '71** Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the UN, and his wife Sahar. The gathering was held for the members of the Board who were in NY to attend a meeting held on February 24th.

After a warm welcome, Mr Bill Turner, Chairman of the Board, highlighted the importance of IC's Master Plan. Dr Salam, whose family has attended IC for three generations, added that the school is one of the best educational institutions in the Middle East. "All alumni should rally to the call

to support the school in its quest for continued excellence by supporting generously to the capital campaign," he said.

CLASS OF 1986 GETS TOGETHER

The class of 1986 held a reunion at Mazen Khaled's house in December. We were 14 class mates mostly living abroad that made sure to be in Lebanon for the come together. It was good to meet up after more than 20 years to share our stories and go through memories.

Naim El Rifai '86



Back Row: Ramzi Toubassy, Sabah Uwaydah, Kameel Kuraan, Reda Atallah, Mazen Daher, Naim El Rifai (me), Ahmed Itani. **Front Row:** Mazen Khaled, Hibah Osman, Maria Iskandar, Ramla Khalidi, Fadi Rbeiz, Fadi Ganni, George Jeha



Yusuf Kan'an '71, Raymond Audi, Mary Johnson, John Johnson, May Audi, Moufid Beydoun '64, Rula Kan'an

Alumni Association hosts lunch



Moufid Beydoun '64, Raymond Audi and Yusuf Kan'an '71

Over 350 people attended the Alumni Association lunch held at the Biel on Friday December 12th. The guest speaker was non other than Minister of Displaced and IC Board Member, Raymond Audi. Among those who attended was IC President John Johnson and several other administrators. Head of the Alumni Association Yusuf Kan'an hailed Mr Audi's success in the banking world and praised his self-initiated renovation of Lebanon's many cultural heritage sites. Taking the stand, Mr Audi spoke of a resilient Lebanon despite the world financial crisis. "...Some observers may argue that Lebanon should have undergone a financial crisis a long time ago," he said. "All things considered, the episodes of severe financial pressures in 2005 and 2006 that were both triggered by exogenous shocks (the Assassination

of PM Hariri and the Israeli war), had the ingredients of a perfect storm, yet Lebanon weathered them seemingly without much lasting damage." Furthermore, he added, a number of international organizations including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are examining closely the "atypical factors behind Lebanon's resilience to turmoil and to extract lessons from such a resilience." Mr Kan'an and Vice President of Alumni and Development, Moufid Beydoun, presented Mr Audi with an engraved plaque thanking him and all those who attended the lunch for their support of the school

The ICAA also held another function on February 17th when more than 550 alumni and friends attended the avant premiere of "The International" starring Clive Owen and Naomi Watts at the Verdun Dunes Theater.

Washington DC alumni dinner

When Wissam Yafi '87 and Hind Soufi Ahdab '87 found out their high school teacher would be in town in December, they got together and organized a reunion dinner that brought together generations of former students - and their parents, spouses and even their children - former teachers, and even

Matt Reynolds, son of the late president Alton Reynolds, who is now a member of the board of trustees! Senior Vice President Mishka Mojabber Mourani - better known to all as Miss Mishka - was in Washington DC to attend a conference, and was thrilled to hear of Wissam and Hind's plan to bring

together the IC community. In spite of the freezing weather, people gathered at the Lebanese Taverna to reminisce about old times, to hear about IC today, and to revive the wonderful sense of community that never fails to bring former students together from all over the world.



Matt Reynolds and Mishka Mourani

Hind Ahdab '87, Mishka Mourani, Wissam Yafi '87, Rula Haddad '84

A Toast to Our Beloved Teacher: Mishka, as delivered by Wissam Yafi '87 in Washington

As I sat this afternoon thinking about what an event like this really meant - aside from being an annual gathering that brought a fortunate few of us who attended IC together for a few laughs - the thought led me to Mishka, whose company we are honored to have among us this evening; and I could not let the opportunity pass.

You see, Mishka has a place in many hearts, but a BIG place in mine. Yes, Yes, I admit I had a crush on her during High School... and I admit it with fond pride! But I guess adolescence over the years gives way to reflection ... and perhaps that crush long ago found itself converted to admiration and love. Mishka was both my sister Hala's and my teacher. And while there are a few

teachers I recall from my days at IC - and if I do I seem to remember them for some tragically comical trait or another - Mishka was different. For she did something that up to that point no other teacher had ever really done. She taught me the true meaning of learning. Now, after so many years, I may not remember which poem she may have taught me, but I do remember that she taught me how to seek the meaning of the poem and in the process transcend any distance with its creator.

And so we would find ourselves in class arguing poems or passages from *The Catcher in the Rye* with a spirit not accepting of any pre-imposed literary mathematical formula or answer of sorts. Rather seeking meaning and

inspiration from our own thoughts and ideas. This was spiritually lifting, and revived hope at a time when so many other elements of our lives had lost it. Throughout, Mishka would be there as our teacher giving guidance but not answers, livening the discussion with intuitive questions, but never determining the path. And so to Hala and I, Mishka was always the One Teacher who exceeded all expectations, etching a place in our minds and in our hearts. With this, I would like to ask all of you to raise a toast. On behalf of all those you have taught who are with this us and those who aren't, we would like to say "Thank You Miss Mishka" our true teacher. Cheers!

»» Mailbox

Like many other IC alumni, if I were to sit down and think of funny, wonderful stories about our days at IC, the list might be endless. Here is just a short one that springs to mind: was walking down Bliss Street one weekday morning, making my way to school. I ran across a friend doing the same thing. We chatted as we went along, and presently, we reached the top of the narrow road between IC and AUB that led to the gate of the school at its bottom. There was no security checkpoint at the top of this road at that time. Instead of heading down to the gate, my friend started scaling the wall surrounding the campus from the Bliss Street side. I found that strange behavior. When I asked him what he was doing, he confessed that he had owed Mihyo money for some time now, beyond any reasonable grace period, and it was just easier to climb over the wall than face Mihyo's diatribe.

Adil Kanaan '63

Thank you for asking us Alumni to share with some stories, there is one story I hope you see suitable for sharing in our dear newsletter: Prof. Abdullah Sheaito, and while talking to our class about the achievements of a student in another section misses the "Al" at the beginning of the family name; one of our dear classmates, smiling, corrects Prof. Sheaito- who just explains that this difference doesn't matter, while our colleague continues: one belongs to a certain religious sect, and the other one belongs to another.... Prof. Sheaito replied: I don't see any difference between both of these students, nor do they look different to me, and neither do I see any difference among other students, in our school or in any other place....and those kinds of differences do not have a meaning in our human code of conduct. I just hope Prof Sheaito's and our other dear teachers' thinking keeps spreading among the students, in Lebanon, and everywhere else. His statement clearly expressed his love for unity between people, and that could be linked to the latest struggle on the frontiers of the subject he teaches- Physics', with its never ending endeavor to unify all the forces, the weak and the strong, the gravitational and the electromagnetic.....

Tarek S. Ahmadiéh '92



Here I am again. First of all let me thank you and the IC Newsletter Team for this effort, and I am so grateful for receiving it regularly.

My memoirs at the IC are remote and getting fainter, but what I still remember from that period, 1942, is the moment when I arrived at the campus from my native town Nablus, Palestine. I felt as if I was in another world. Everything around me was so different and beautiful, first time living by the seaside, and an ideal place for education. I moved from all Arabic to all English education, and I had to put good effort to cope with it. I spent one year at IC, graduated and moved to the Freshman class at the AUB. I feel nostalgic for the IC and the AUB, the best educational institutions in the Middle East, where I spent the best years of my life, and where I learned many values and ideals of life.

Zuhair Annab '42

One of the embarrassing moments I had at the 6th secondary in our English class was when Mr. Monaghan asked if anybody knew what a stag party was.

I raised my hand and Mr. Monaghan asked me to stand up and answer.

Having seen many cartoons in Playboy magazine in which men romped with women of ill repute at bachelor's parties.

I was under the erroneous impression that these parties were indeed the stag parties our teacher was referring to. I started to define stag party, but stopped in mid sentence as I looked around to see my three female classmates present. Grabbing my hesitation by the horns Mr. Monaghan asked me whether one of my female classmates would be present at such a stag party.

Ya ard insha2i wibla3ini was my immediate wish. At that point one of my classmates Akram Sader came to my rescue and answered in the negative; explaining that stag parties were men's only affairs stemming from Stag being the male of the species of deer used in the stag party definition context as for males only.

Issa Kawar '70



with
Camille Nowfel

Camille Nowfel '38 and went on to become the top Arabic specialist and the official White House diplomatic Arabic interpreter. He served under five US presidents (Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford) and interpreted for 18 Arab kings and presidents, their cabinet members and other top officials. Nowfel has been featured in numerous publications and is the author of "America's Arabs: Hopeless hostages" (Arabic). He currently lives with his wife in Washington DC. He has never forgotten his formative years at IC and visits the campus during his visits to Beirut.

Q: Do you still think about IC at times?

I have very fond memories of IC. I remember my teachers at the time and some of my classmates. I am still in touch with some of them. I'm reluctant to ask about people that old because most of them have passed away. I lived in Sanayaa and used to bicycle with a classmate to school.

Q: who was the best US president?

This is an often asked question. Eisenhower was a great president, a war hero. He was the first one I worked for and I was very comfortable. Eisenhower would beat around the bush then come to the point. Nixon was easy to interpret for. He was direct and very much organized and

very easy to interpret for. Johnson was an earthy man from Texas. And he reflected this into his speeches and remarks - for example, "there are more ways than one to skin a cat" or "Yasser Arafat is foot dragging". There are idioms which are very difficult to interpret. Kennedy had flare and charisma. He behaved as he if were above the presidency. He earned it but then he was nonchalant about it. He made you feel very comfortable. I liked and respected Gerald Ford as well.

Q: Is there an anecdote that you particularly remember while working at the White House?

I was interpreting for Henry Kissinger during his trips to the Middle East. Kissinger is a highly intelligent man and very articulate. But, for example, he would meet 10 am with Anwar Sadat from Egypt and tell him something about a certain issue and explain his position. Then from Cairo he would go to Tel Aviv to meet with Golda Meir and talk about the same issue and tell her something entirely different. Then in the afternoon, he would fly to Damascus to meet with Hafez al Assad and tell him something altogether different. Then off we would go to Riyadh and visit King Faisal, still discussing the same issue, and Kissinger would tell him something different. Well, King Faisal caught up with it.

Later during his last visit to America, King Faisal was meeting with Nixon at

the oval office. And of course Nixon had with him Kissinger (as national security advisor and secretary of state) and others and myself. When the meeting was over, King Faisal whispered in my ear that he would like to have a tête-à-tête meeting with Nixon and asked me to tell the president that the King didn't want Kissinger in this meeting. As the other members left the oval office, the King remained and I stayed. Kissinger was on his way out and he turned around and saw us still sitting so he started to walk back and the king said "no, I don't want him". So I told the president to ask Kissinger to stay out. He did.

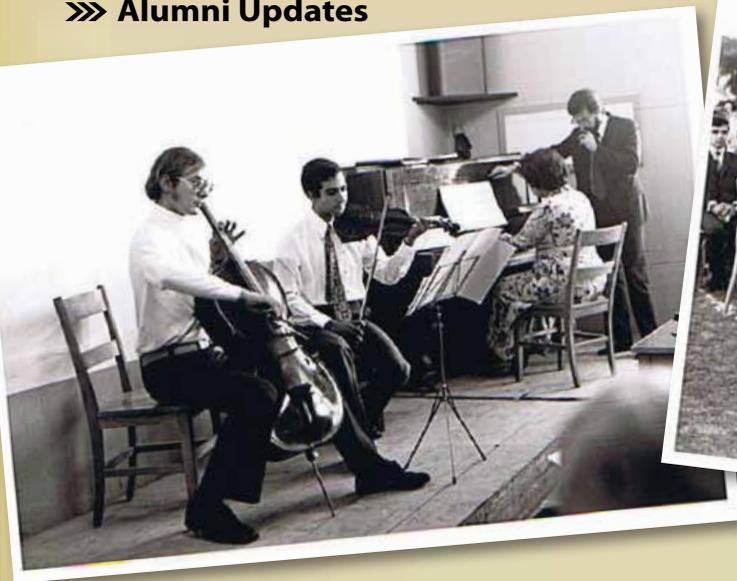
Q: What is most poignant moment in your career life?

The assassination of Kennedy. I can never forget it. I was at my desk when I heard about it. I had been in the car with him only a few days before. It affected me tremendously. Someone walked into my office and said Kennedy was assassinated. I was crushed. He was a young president and I was looking forward to working with him further.

Q: Who influenced you the most in your life?

My father. I was raised on the principles of respect for what is right, respect self determination and values. My formative years at IC (which held those principles) also influenced me a lot.

»» Alumni Updates



CLASS of '40-'49

Abdul-Ghani Azhari '46

continued his studies at the University of Michigan, where he received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in 1955 and 1957, respectively. He worked for Amoco Oil Company from 1959 to 1990 and retired as the Director of Marketing Research.

After he retired, he moved to Allison Park, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and has become a "gentleman farmer," he writes. "I grow a variety of organic fruits and vegetables, particularly vegetables that are common in Lebanon. I also raise free range chickens, and I enjoy their eggs. I provide a lot of the produce and eggs to many expatriates of Lebanon who reside in the Pittsburgh area, and most of them are graduates of AUB. Thank you for staying in touch and sending the IC newsletter."

CLASS of '50-'59

John Bitar MD '56 writes: "IC still lives in my heart with so many

fond memories. Whenever the going gets tough in Mclean, Va (where I practice as a pediatrician. I close my eyes & float back to the happy days of the IC & imagine myself sitting below the huge Banyan Tree gazing at the peaceful Mediterranean sea, then my worries start to melt away!!!"

CLASS of '60-'69

Armen Kouyoumdjian '65 has been living in Chile for the past 18 years after a 20-year career in the City of London. Among his activities is that of consulting on geopolitical and defense-related matters in Latin America. He has just been put in charge of marketing in the region, the DIMDEX 2010 Naval Defense Fair that will take place in the Qatari capital of Doha at the end of March next year. This will allow him to rekindle links with the Arab world after an absence of over 40 years (though his heart always remained in Beirut, and particularly at IC).

Adnan Hussein Doughan '69 is the AVP & Head of Property Management at Green Emirates Properties in Dubai - UAE. His wife, Lina is an Arabic

Phonetic Teacher at Berlitz in Lebanon, his son Hussein is a Mena Consultant at Euomonitor Intl in Dubai Free Zone. His daughter Jana, is an Account Manager at JamQ Communications Fz Lic in Dubai and his other daughter, Luma, is in her second year Interiors at LAU.

CLASS of '70-'79

Mohannad Malas '71 left to Wellington College in England for his GCE's after leaving IC. He obtained his civil engineering degree from University of Manitoba in Canada then worked in Dubai (Arabtec - two years) then in Qatar for seven years before moving to the United States in 1985. Since then, he has been with Dana Investments (The Dana Group - a real estate investment company). "I would like to share with you our new film AmericanEast. A few years ago I got involved in film production where I acquired a stake in Zahra Pictures which produces documentaries with a social and cultural message," he writes. "In an effort to go beyond documentaries, last year I took Zahra Pictures to the next level and was the executive



producer with Tony Shalhoub (TV Series "Monk") on a Hollywood production " AmericanEast" the movie is finally out this week. See attached link to movie trailer:-
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26OIQFgbdWM&feature=related>

Marwan Haffar '76 is now working as Country Manager for Chalhoub Group in Qatar.

*CLASS of
'80-'89*

Bilal B. Mansour '82 would like to announce to the Class of '82 that "there is an email thread that has been up and running for the past year. It comprises the following active members:

Sir Dr. Ibrahim Eid, Raja Petrakian, Michel Chbat, Kamal Shehadi, Nisrine Rawdah Naaman, Rola Safi, Imad Ramadan, Walid Ramadan, Ziad Zubeir, Wael Hariz, Sahar Makarem Kadi, Ghassan Zbib, Manal Ghandour, Maher Maamari, Karim Hadchiti, Ahmad Arayssi, Farid Zantout, Randa Kantari Abdulfattah, Riad Assir, Dr. Assem El Hajj,

Caroline Abla, Hana Bayoud, Yelena Kurdjian-Colin, Ghassan Soueid, Fadi Saade, Ayman Sahreddine, Samer Hakim and Bilal Mansour.

The members are sharing their updated news, comments, jokes and are planning a Mega-Reunion this summer at a very special venue!

If you are interested in joining the thread please e-mail bilal@nova.net.ng "

Nabil Abu-Dargham '82 After having spent twenty years in the UN Department of Public Information serving progressively as Information Assistant, National Information Officer and Information Officer , Nabil Abu-Dargham was appointed in December 2008 as Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Beirut-based UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA).

Bahjat Mirza '82 has joined STRONG Technologies as GM of My TV Operation (www.mtvafrica.tv). Bahjat and family are excited about their move back to Beirut as of July'09 after living 22 years in Singapore and Dubai .His 3 kids Jawdat(11), Leila(9), and Nour(5) wish to continue their studies at IC Ras Beirut Campus following in

their dad's footsteps.

Samar Fouad Ibrahim '84 is working as a credit officer at Bank Med - H.O

Karim Hajjali '85 has been appointed as Regional Business Director with Goodyear for the Levant and Near East Asia which allows him to visit Lebanon at least six times a year. "My family of wife and two kids have been living in Dubai since my appointment in 2008," he writes, "and we have had several classmate get together. I just wish there as an IC in Dubai but it can never be replicated anywhere in the world."

*CLASS of
'90-'99*

Wael Kamal Sinno '90 graduated from LAU in 1994 and works in the toys business and has TOY MARKET. He married **Dana Hajj '00** in August 2007 and has a baby girl, Sana, 6 months old.

Khalil El Far '91 works as a Sales

»» Alumni Updates

Manager in Medtronic and is based in Beirut since 2003, just after finishing his MBA in Concordia (Canada). He got engaged to Dana Damaj last August.

Rula Haddad Kalifa '91 would like to inform friends that her family was blessed with a baby girl, Mia Alexa, on July 13, 2008. She has an older son, Christian, 5 ½. They still reside in Chicago and would love to hear from all friends.

Maha Jaber '92 and her husband Naji Younes have been living in NY for the past 10 years. They have with two children: a daughter, Joelle 7, and a son Rayan 2. Maha majored in Graphic Design at AUB and has her own business in Syracuse NY.

Wael Sanyoura '94 and his wife Najla Saab were blessed with a baby boy, Fouad, born on January 5, 2009.

Shadi Ahmadieh '94 with his wife Nisreen and baby, Fadi, moved to Maadi, Cairo, to join Solidere's International Management Staff in developing two cities: Westown & Eastown - Cairo "

Joe Rahim '96 was recently appointed Corporate Director of Operations & Development for



Romania and Ukraine for Austrian Hotel Gerald's Hotel Management.

Maya Mheidly '97 got engaged to Aziz Aziz on December 25th 2008.

Maya Talih '99 married Bassil Khatoun on December 23rd 2008.

Nadim Muallem '99 received his MD and is currently doing his residency training in AUH in Radiology until 2011.

*CLASS of
'00 - '08*

Hanah Sakkal '00 married Mohamad Farran last May at the Phoenicia Hotel and is currently living in Riyadh. The couple is

expecting a baby girl in May.

Yasmine Hajj '01 wed Marwan Nasser on December 28th 2008.

Bassel Al Assah '01 and **Sahar Ghandour '01** got married in July 2008 at the Metropolitan Hotel. They are currently living in Beirut, and working in the banking sector. Bassel is working at BankMed in the IT Security and Business Continuity Department, while Sahar is working at BLOM Bank in the Retail Marketing Department.

Karim Ghandour '02 studied mechanical engineering at AUB. He worked for two years and is now pursuing his Master's degree in Business Administration at Essec Business School, Paris.

We regret to inform you that David Dodge passed away in January 2009. His father, Bayard, was president of AUB and invited IC to move from Turkey to Beirut. David Dodge was especially concerned that the land issue between the college and the university be settled equitably, and as an AUB board member did much to help ensure the resolution that was ultimately reached. IC faculty and staff send their deepest condolences to the Dodge family.

We regret to inform you that Mohamed Serhan passed away in January 2009. Mr. Serhan served IC as head technician for 27 years. IC faculty and staff send their deepest condolences to the Serhan family.

Kamal Khayat '03 is graduating with a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. For the past year, he was involved in several military and space related research projects. He has been working with NASA's Space Mission Analysis team to send astronauts to the moon by 2020 to set up a lunar outpost, where they will do scientific research and prepare for journeys to destinations like Mars. He is responsible for designing and testing many technologies needed for Lunar and Martian explorations. Two examples are the Autonomous Landing & Hazard Avoidance System and the Chariot Lunar Vehicle, both shown in the following pictures. After graduation he's planning to work on humanitarian projects with Beyond Association, a non-profit organization, to enhance the quality of life for underprivileged youth and children in Lebanon, in order to give them a chance to aspire and achieve their dreams. www.beyondassociation.com

Maher Abdel-Sattar '03 has been living in Los Angeles and officially became an American Citizen this past November. He graduated from UCLA in December of 2007 (Major: Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology + Minor: Human Complex Systems), and has since applied to Pharmacy schools in California and will be going through interviews at

UC San Francisco & USC shortly. Throughout the winter season during weekends, he's been working in a camp in Lake Arrowhead and will soon help run an outdoor science program for elementary school students in the same reservation. In May and June he plans on traveling around in Europe and visiting some friends who are currently studying in England, Spain, France, Germany and Switzerland. "I'm very proud of my two sisters still attending IC and doing very well both in 2nde and Terminale respectively," he writes. "I enjoyed spending some time with them in Lebanon this past Christmas and also had the chance to see some of my old IC professors on the last day of school before the holidays."

Balsam Khodr '05 was voted as a member of the SRC at AUB representing the Olayan School of

Business. She currently graduated (Feb 2009) from AUB with a Bachelors in Business Human Resources Management.

Rana Nasser Eddin '05 just graduated from AUB with a degree in Art History. She recently got accepted to Oxford University for a master degree in art history and visual culture. Meanwhile, She is working at a contemporary art gallery Sfeir-Semler, which has its base in Hamburg. She also recently got engaged to **Imad Abou Hassan '96**. "I'm just counting my blessings!" she writes.

Yara Nawal Farah '05 will graduate in June 2009 with a BA in Elementary Education, a Special Education Diploma, a minor in Philosophy and a minor in Psychology.



We regret to inform you that Farid Mujais passed away in January 2009. Mr Mujais was a beloved math teacher who taught generations from 1957 to 1980. Former student, Moufid Beydoun '64, fondly remembers his two favorite statements: "if you don't do well, you will get a circle without a center," and do homework everyday but "never on a Sunday." IC faculty and staff send their deepest condolences to the Mujais family.

We regret to inform you that **Ramzi Taher '65** passed away in December 2008. Mr Taher was committed to IC and was a great help during the first Capital Campaign in the 1990's. IC will miss him dearly. IC faculty and staff send their deepest condolences to the Taher family.



TOM WEAVER

Tom Weaver, former chairman of the IC English Department, died in November. He was 93 years old.

Tom was posted to Teheran in the latter stages of World War II, in the US Army. He returned to The States to study sacred music at Union Theological Seminary in New York. In 1947, Henry Sloan Coffin, the President of the seminary, knowing of Tom's interest in The Middle East and music, thought he would want to hear about a job teaching English and music at Aleppo College in Syria. Tom completed his master's degree that year and was off to begin a forty-two year love affair with the Arab world.

Tom spent sixteen years in Aleppo, teaching English and music, entertaining visitors in his apartment and training horses with a Dr. Iskander Kassis, who was intent on establishing a purebred Arabian

stud farm. With Dr. Kassis, Tom made many trips into the Syrian desert to visit horse-breeding tribes of Bedouin "in search of mares of impeccable lineage." (Tom's words)

After sixteen years, political events in Syria forced Tom's departure, along with most of the western community in Aleppo and the rest of the country, and he arrived in Beirut in 1963 to teach English and begin twenty-three years of introducing young people to music and riding. When I returned to IC in 1966 to succeed Hunt Bliss as English Department Chairman, I met Tom and wondered what I was doing as English Department Chair with this distinguished and multi-lingual teacher with years of teaching experience in the Arab world. I had been at IC as an English teacher from 1960 to 1963 then returned to the States for three years before feeling the tug of Lebanon and returning

for five more years with my family. Tom succeeded me as English Department Chairman when I left in the early 1970s.

In 1986, conditions in Lebanon necessitated Tom's departure for the States. He had always planned to retire in Lebanon, which he considered his home, and to live out his life there. Instead, he returned to Delaware, Ohio, where he had grown up and gone to school at Ohio Wesleyan University. He lived on campus in a former dormitory that he remembers visiting as a student to serenade a coed dating a fraternity brother.

Tom loved the languages; he was fluent in French and German and spoke very good Arabic. He cared very much about the proper use of language and was not shy about correcting others' misuse of English. He also loved music and equitation and is credited with having restored

Heron, Another Flight For Tom, 1915 - 2008

I hadn't seen him for a while. Usually he was in the marsh, still, stalking fish I couldn't see until he speared one and tilted his head back, his beak then the apex of his neck, revealing the fish that he swallowed whole, like an olive after draining a martini.

He must have left, I thought, when winter blew in and tightened the marsh until the water froze between him and the fish.

Then I heard the quiet flap of his wings through the wind's whisper and saw him rise above the ice and straw reeds. His body, lean and long, beak piercing the air, soared as if at last he knew it was time to go.

This bird whose legs, once powerful, had become twigs that barely supported him - whose beak,

once a spear like a critic's pen fishing for faults, had become a dulled pointed stick - this heron rose, riding the air with grace and ease, and disappeared. I stayed and watched the sun paint the way, then linger before fading for another star.

Al Miller

high standards to equitation in Lebanon. He was often a judge at horse shows.

Tom also composed several short classical pieces. He set Robert Frost's "Stopping by a woods on a snowy evening" to music. In addition, he composed musical accompaniment to poems by friends and the American poet, Mary Oliver.

Like many others, I remember Tom as an unselfish, kind, witty and always-interested friend, one who helped many people in his long life of service and never asked for anything in return. He loved life and lived it well. Like hundreds of others, I will miss his presence in my life, a friend, advisor and wonderful conversationalist.

Al Miller
IC teacher (1960 -63) and English
Dept. Chair (1966 - 71)



There will be a celebration of Tom Weaver's life, Sunday, May 3rd, in Arrowsic, Maine, at Al Miller's house.

Tom decided he wanted his ashes on the banks of the Kennebec River where Miller lives.

For more information, contact Al Miller: millerlaff@rcn.com.



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