



IC Newsletter Winter 2011



*To Sir With Love,
William Turner
35 years of service*

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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Note from the President



I remember quite well the first time I met IC's Chairman of the Board, William H. Turner. He was interviewing me for the job of president for IC. I am still very impressed that this fellow American has been volunteering for the school for the past 35 years.

What a great institution this school must be for people like Bill Turner to serve it so loyally. It is indeed great! You will read more about Bill in the next few pages but for me it was a wonderful introduction to a school and a country that welcomed me so readily.

As a special thank you, we held a small dinner in November to thank Bill for his dedication to International College. This issue is dedicated to him.

In this issue, we also interviewed a very special man, Dr. Howard Reed, the grandson of our school's founder and the last link and witness to IC's past in Turkey and its move to Beirut. Dr. Reed is a wealth of information and provided with us with the missing parts in IC's rich history which I am sure you will find interesting.

Another highlight in this issue is the ActivBoards now available throughout IC. These amazing boards have drastically changed the world of teaching. It's an amazing tool which makes you wish that you were a student again.

As always, I want to thank all of you who made contributions which enabled the building of our new elementary school. The basements are now completed and the work continues at a fast clip. Over 200 workers are actively on sight aiming to deliver all three elementary school buildings by December 1st 2012. It's a very exciting time and I feel privileged to witness this part of IC's history. Thank you all for your generous donations.

With my best wishes,

John Johnson
IC President

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William H. Turner: the man behind the scenes

Meet William H. Turner, IC's Chairman of the Board. Few parents have seen him. Only several handfuls of alumni have met him. But he's very much there – this man behind the scenes pulling the strings which helped shape IC's destiny.

This destiny could have been very different from the one that exists today. For one thing, IC itself could have been in Greece or Egypt, Ain Aar campus may never have been built and IC may not have purchased its campus let alone build a new elementary school.

Yet perhaps it was Turner's own destiny which assigned him the task of IC's survival. For somehow, the mission of this American businessman – with no prior links to the school – had become, for better or worse, IC itself.

Fortunately for IC, Turner is an avid believer in volunteer work. (And very fortunately for IC, he can cover his own

expenses and donate bigheartedly).

For Turner, Lebanon's tumultuous years began around the same time he joined the Board. Unbeknown to him, many tough decisions were ahead.

Destiny knew what it was doing however. Bill Turner was a force to be reckoned with. He was, after all, accustomed to a whirlwind lifestyle and took pertinent decisions in his stride.

To the business world, he is the former Vice-Chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank (formerly Chemical Banking Corporation) and President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the PNC Bank and the President and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Franklin Electronic Publishers and Senior Partner of Summus Ltd., a consulting firm.

To educators, he was the founding Dean of the College of Business at Stony Brook

University and later Acting Dean of the Business School at Montclair State University. Not to mention a professor in many international universities.

Still, a long list of impressive achievements hardly prepared him for the chain of horrendous events that had befallen the Middle East in the 1970s and '80s.

IC was on the brink of a financial disaster. Money was running low. Turner found himself under pressure to relocate the school to Greece, or Egypt, or "many other suggested countries," he recalled. It wasn't an easy decision. A wayward shell falling on campus would have killed hundreds. Life and death decisions were in his hands. Next door, AUB President Malcom Kerr was assassinated in 1984 soon after AUB took the decision to keep the university open.

Another worry: foreign teachers. Kidnapping of foreigners was at an all-time high (a former IC director, Frank Reed, was

kidnapped in 1986 and released three and a half years later).

No, he finally said. "IC will stay where it is." As long as the bills are being paid, the school's doors will remain open.

Meanwhile, Turner's real job was with the Chemical Bank in the Middle East. Word got to him that two of his US employees in Iran were in the vicinity on the very day the hostage crisis erupted in 1979. Instinct told him to get his employees out of there immediately. The employees balked, accusing Turner of over-dramatizing the situation. Turner delivered an ultimatum: get on the first plane out or get fired. (Although the two men were seized at the airport, they were released that same day).

Another disaster struck just a year later. This time it was in Liberia. The partner of the Chemical Bank was no other than the Liberian president himself, William Tolbert. In 1980, Tolbert was assassinated. The bank directors were gathered and shot. Devastated, Turner concentrated on trying to get his American employees out of the country. He finally succeeded after appealing to the US government for help.

"There were decisions all over the place at the same time," said Turner. "We had to make decisions about Beirut, Iran, Egypt, and Liberia."

The 1980s saw another momentous decision in IC's history: a capital campaign to build another campus in Ain Aar for students living in the east side of the country. The continuous battles had made it impossible for them to reach Ras Beirut. Turner came against much resistance. "Even the US government told me that if we do this, we are accepting the partitioning of the country," he said, "and that we would not receive any financial support for that campus. Even AUB called me and said don't do it."

With the Board's support, Turner stubbornly went ahead with the decision. In 1988, IC's Ain Aar branch opened its doors and today is attended by 854 students. Despite many demands, Turner insisted that secondary level students commute to the Ras Beirut campus. "I believe in IC's diversified confes-

sional faiths," he said. "That must not be disturbed."

Ironically, Turner, his wife and two children lived in Beirut for a year in 1974 when he worked for Chemical Bank. IC meant little to him at the time and he enrolled his sons at ACS. He first saw IC when a friend took him to visit the Meshref campus. It was only two years later in 1976 – once back in the US – that he was approached by a bank colleague. Would he consider becoming the treasurer of the board of the International College? He became the chairman nine years later in 1985.

Often, banks that hold the accounts of an institution assign a bank member to be on the Board. Chemical Bank was the bank at the time. Turner, whose business travels frequently took him to Lebanon, seemed like a natural choice.

The son of a teacher, Turner immediately took a keen interest in the school and its affairs.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

A travel ban in 1981 prevented Turner from coming to the country but he was on the first plane back once the ban was lifted in 1997 and – much to his amusement – became a media celebrity for a while as one of the first Americans back.

In 2008, Turner announced IC's biggest project yet: the completion of the purchase of the Ras Beirut campus from AUB and the construction of the new elementary

school. It took 10 years of negotiation with AUB but the deal was finally sealed.

In November 2010, ground for the new construction project was broken and the building of the new elementary school is well under way.

"There were days that I asked myself why am I doing this?" he said. "I never got to the point where I wanted to quit. But yes, I asked myself why. Many people have asked me that. My family has asked me that. But they are supportive. They understand."

After almost 50 years of marriage and two grandchildren, Turner has yet to relent. He's been the chairman of four local hospitals, president of his local museum, an elected official and president of the Golf Club in his hometown. Other than IC, he serves on the board of four different companies and already has retired four times. "At least that's how many retirement parties that have been thrown for me," he chuckled.

On November third, IC held a special dinner at the Bristol Hotel in Turner's honor to thank him for his 35 years of service to the school.

"I feel very honored to be chairman of such a great institution for so long," he said. "There were a lot of difficult decisions but, hopefully, the choices we took were good ones. But when you cut through everything else, when you have doubts, all you have to do is meet the kids and you keep going."

"I never got to the point where I wanted to quit. But yes, I asked myself why. ... My family has asked me that. But they are supportive. They understand.."





Old parents committee



New parents committee

A New Parent's Committee

Perhaps it suddenly dawned on many parents to become involved or maybe more parents have become interested. Either way, the result was a continuous flow of parents walking through IC's alumni office for one week filling out nomination sheets for the Parents Committee elections to be held on October 26.

"I've never seen so much interest," said Sana Yamout, from the Alumni Office who has been running the elections for the past 12 years. "I'm not really sure what's happening this year."

Electoral lobbying was at an all-time high with emails and texts circulating among parents. One of the candidates, Brigitte Khoury, a mother of three, didn't hesitate to run when she heard about the upcoming elections. "I am trusting IC with my most precious possessions, my children," she said. "But I do see some things that need to be changed and I think a voice is louder from inside than from outside. I have formed and headed other committees before so I feel I have the necessary skills." The Parents Committee is made up of

17 members. In the past, 17 or 18 people would run. This year 25 candidates have registered (two have since withdrawn). This year marks the end of the Committee that held office from 2008 until 2011. Members can only run for two consecutive terms every three years.

"It's a new team and new ideas," said Serreen Jawhari, an elementary school mother who is also running for the elections. "I would like to contribute more actively to IC, help other parents communicate better with the school and I have ideas that can make a difference."

Finally the big day arrives. Ballots were not yet opened when parents began streaming in the IC cafeteria (where elections were being held). The number was much bigger than the alumni office anticipated and more copies of the ballot sheets had to be printed in a rush. Hopeful candidates mingled cheerfully hoping to sway last minute voters. Much like Lebanese-style elections, some parents were giving out their own electoral lists.

"This is an amazing turnout," said Marina

Kettaneh, a mother of three. "I wish the American elections were like this."

The government representative sat quietly in a corner looking bewildered. "It certainly wasn't like this last time," he muttered. For her part, Nadine Mazboudi Itani, mother of two, seemed to know exactly who she wanted to vote for. "Some of the candidates are IC alumni and they really care about their school," she said. "They want to make a difference."

In the midst, outgoing Parents Committee President Maha Shair looked around in amazement. "I actually feel relieved I'm not running," she said.

Adhering to bylaws, all members can only run for two consecutive terms. Shair has been presiding over the Parents Committee since 2006.

The allotted election time was from 2 to 3pm. But well after 3pm, the cafeteria was still full of parents.

Finally, the ballots closed and the counting began. The exhausted alumni office staff finally returned to their office.

The new Parents Committee has now officially been elected. It is up to them to vote for their own president. For Shair, it is a bittersweet moment.

"This was my life for six years," she said. "I have achieved most of my promises to the parents and I think IC has moved forward. We pushed for high-tech like whiteboards, blogs, sms and we got them. There are more students attending Ivy League universities. I see a lot of improvement in the facilities, especially in preschool and elementary. Everything was grey, now it's more child friendly. But there is still a lot more to be done."



The old parents committee handing their last fundraising cheque to President John Johnson and Vice President for Alumni and Development, Moufid Beydoun '64



“I am trusting IC with my most precious possessions, my children ... I do see some things that need to be changed and I think a voice is louder from inside then from outside. I have formed and headed other committees before so I feel I have the necessary skills.”



Highlights of activities of IC Ras Beirut Parents Committee 2008-2011

- Assisted in financing the rehabilitation of the Imad Taher auditorium including the lights, theater, sound system, seating and carpet.
- Installed windbreakers at the playground of the elementary school.
- Financed the expansion of the 3rd grade playground.
- Renovated planet earth and planet Lebanon multipurpose room in the elementary school.
- Financed and renovated the preschool art room.
- Helped fund raise and finance the floor and sound absorbing at the elementary school.
- White boards in all classes.
- Buses fitted with seat belts
- New PE jacket outfits.
- Arranged on-campus lectures (smoking among teenagers, H1N1 prevention, allergies).
- Raised half the needed capital for elementary students to plant 800 trees near Baabda forest.
- Held meetings with all the school's directors and with the Board of Trustees.
- Organized movie Avant Premieres as well as hosted a theatrical production on campus.
- Held Halloween parties for elementary and middle school students.
- Hosted Annual Spring Brunch on Mother's Day since 2009.
- Presented to grade 5 and Brevet students souvenir class pictures and personalized graduation T- shirts to KGII/ GS graduates.
- Initiated SAT courses given by "Amid-east" on IC campus.
- Established orientation sessions for parents of 1st secondary.
- More supervisors in the middle school playground.
- More support staff in middle school.
- Established sessions where parents can meet all the teachers on the same day in middle school.
- Prepared Phone/E-mail directories for all the students of the elementary school.
- Better quality copybooks.
- More support teachers in elementary school.
- Full-time nurse at the preschool.
- Renovated playgrounds.



Dr. Reed with his wife Shafiga, stepdaughter Sibel, and grandson Sarp

The last link



Award of Appreciation presented to Dr. Howard A. Reed for outstanding support and encouragement to the International College throughout the years. Shukran!

My quest had brought me thousands of miles to a small town in Connecticut. I was in search of a very special man. A man who would provide me with the inside story of IC's rich history. It was here that I was to find the last link to IC's past – the last surviving grandchild of IC's founder, Alexander MacLachlan. The man I was seeking was a 91 year old former university professor: Dr. Howard Alexander Reed.

On the patio of a Swiss-style built house, nestled among a rich lush of trees and home to wandering deer and wild turkey, I find Howard Reed. Tall with a shock of white hair and soft blue eyes, he is - as there's no better way to explain it - a real gentleman. "What do you want to know about IC and grandfather?" he asked gently. Now that I was here, I didn't know where to begin. Fortunately, Reed did. "I remember him well," he began. "I was twenty years old when he died." For the next three days, Reed and I be-

came constant companions as he unfolded the rich layers of IC's past and colorful chapters in his own life.

Reed was born in 1920 to Cass and Rosalind Reed in Smyrna (now Izmir), Turkey. He, his older brother Lachlan, and younger sister Joan (both now deceased) grew up at the International College in Smyrna, as it was known. Their playground was the 20-acre campus built by the vision of their grandfather. Their home, surrounded by a green hedge, peach trees and a vast array of flowers, was Kenarden Lodge, the president's house, named after a loyal benefactor: John F. Kennedy.

Just beyond were the tennis courts. Part of Reed's boyhood chores had been to keep them well maintained. The living room had two grand pianos at each end of the room. One was bought and the other a gift and both lovingly catered to by Rosalind – Reed's mother. She would spend hours playing the pianos and would give recitals on Sunday afternoons (she

could apparently make a full concerto after listening to a short whistled tune). And in this very room, MacLachlan loved to entertain his grandchildren and their friends. He would take out his golden pendant watch which he always wore around his waist. “Do you see the stem here?” MacLachlan would say, “when I push the stem the clock would open. The child who guesses when I’ll push the stem will get an extra piece of cake.”

With much laughter, the game would continue all afternoon.

The Reed home would host many guests who would sometimes stay up to a year including a young Egyptian prince (who accompanied the family to Lebanon during IC’s move in 1936) and famous British writer, Arnold Toynbee, who began writing his then infamous 12 volume analysis, ‘A Study of History’, during his stay at IC.

Reed’s birth came not too long after the end of WWI, two years before the Great Fire of Smyrna and in the midst of turbulent Greek-Turkish relations. Alexander MacLachlan was then caught between appeasing the Ottoman rulers, war recovery and giving “his” IC boys an education that went well beyond languages and mathematics.

“Grandfather taught himself Armenian, Turkish and Greek – the main groups in Smyrna at the time,” said Reed, “and he was a person who got on well with people. Even though his two sons had joined the British army (MacLachlan was Canadian and therefore a British subject and enemy alien during WWI), the Turkish authorities greatly respected him and he always had good relations with the ‘wali’ and education minister.”

Impeccably dressed in a clerical shirt with a collar, the 6’2” white mustached MacLachlan was always reaching out to surrounding communities. As a former farmer in Canada, he built an adjacent farm to the campus and provided nearby villages with farm animals (imported cows, chickens, for crossbreeding purposes) and provided agricultural workshops for local farmers.

“Any problems that arose, he took care of quietly on a personal basis before they grew into real problems,” said Reed. “He was a very busy man but he always had time to stop and say hello.”

MacLachlan just loved the College. It was his life. It was Howard Reed’s life too

until the Reed family left Turkey in 1934 when the College suddenly shut down.

It opened two years later in Lebanon and has since become known as IC.

“It was a sad day when we left IC and Turkey,” he recalled. “We were heartbroken.” MacLachlan had by then retired and was living in Canada. “He was sad about it,” recalled Reed. “I remember him telling me that ‘you are guided by God. I learned in my life when everything seems to be

that Reed made his oath. “Dear God, what am I doing here? We are young people trying to destroy each other,” he said. “I make a pledge to myself that unless it means the life of another person I will never fire a shot in anger at anyone during my service.”

And despite some very dangerous moments, he managed to keep that oath.

The war over, Reed married and continued his graduate studies at Princeton

**“It was a sad day when we left IC
and Turkey,” he recalled.
“We were heartbroken.”**

closing in on you and you can’t find a way out, you should always keep your mind, your eye and your heart open. Somewhere is a little window opening with a new idea, a new possibility, a better opportunity and you must be ready and waiting for such openings.”

The ‘opening’ turned out to be AUB’s prep school in Beirut. It couldn’t have been easy but MacLachlan voted for the move. The Reed family didn’t stay to see the opening of IC in Beirut. Cass Reed handed over the school to AUB and took up a one year position as a visiting professor at the university. The Reed children attended ACS. A year after their return to the US, IC was established with Archie Crawford as its principal. The year was 1936.

Howard Reed went on to graduate from Yale University and joined the US Navy just as WWII broke out. After a short stint in Washington DC, Reed found himself sent back along the Turkish coast. Many harrowing experiences later, Reed and his relatively few commandos became known for defeating large enemy forces with little tactical operations. He would be called upon to teach other army units his methods of operations. At one point during the war, he found himself back in Smyrna (Turkey was neutral) for a short break from the incessant bombing from enemy aircrafts.

His wartime experiences could fill volumes but it was a self-made oath that stands out the most. In 1943, during a vicious bombing cycle, he looked up from his ship to see his potential killer – a German pilot – struggling to eject himself from his fighter plane. The pilot failed and the plane took a direct hit. It was then

University. In 1955, he returned to Beirut for a one year stay as a Ford Foundation Representative.

Believing that he should make a difference wherever he goes, Reed is credited with starting the Islamic Studies at Yale and Princeton Universities and the Islamic Studies for the Near East Studies at McGill University and the Middle East Association of North America as well as authoring numerous studies about Turkey and the Middle East. So long is his list of achievements that he was twice listed in the ‘Who’s Who’.

Reed had three children from his first marriage and wed fellow professor, Shafiga Daulet, in 1985.

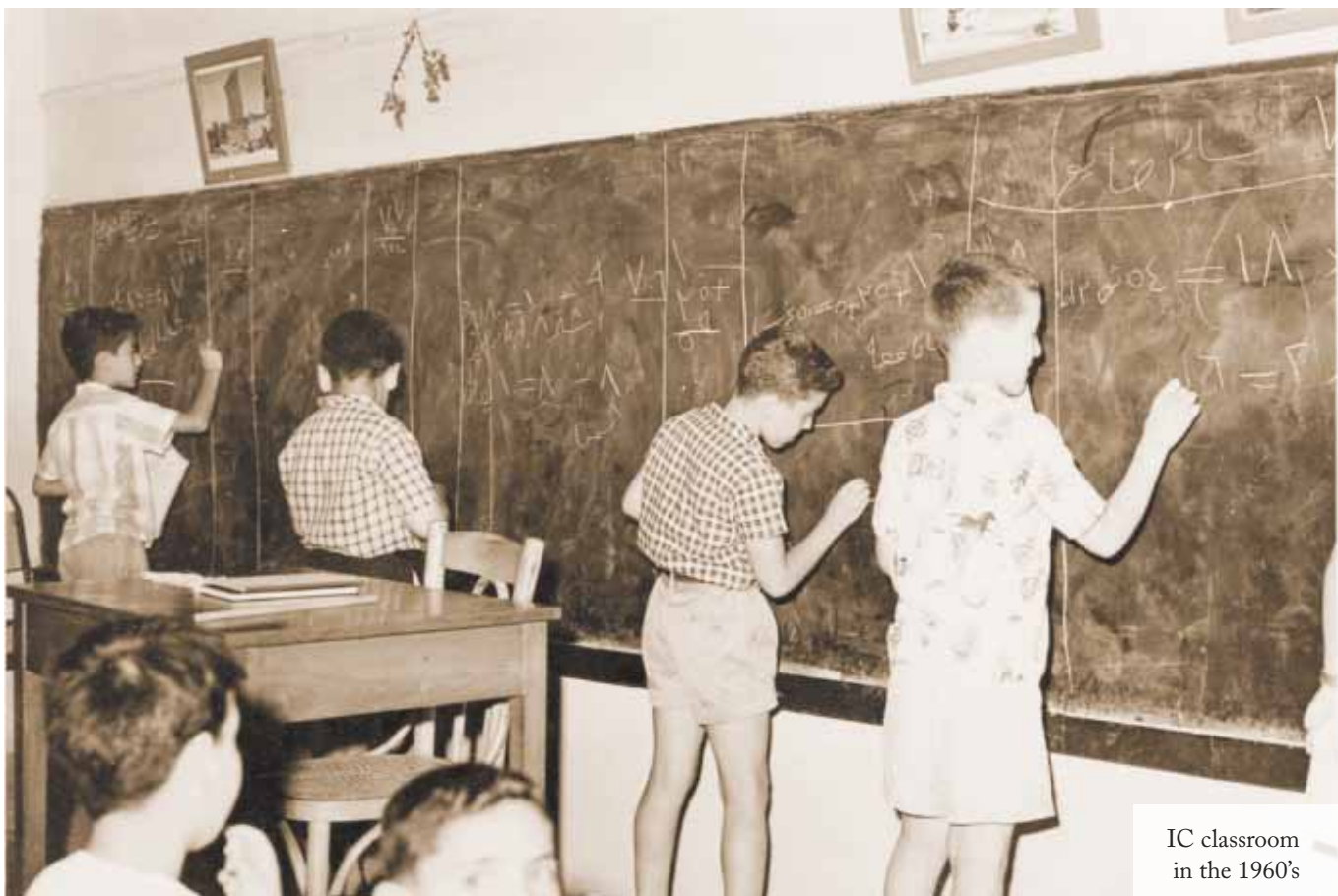
Seventy-eight years after he left IC in Turkey, the memories remain very much alive. He has been back several times to visit the original College in Turkey, which is now a Turkish army headquarters.

In 1940, Alexander MacLachlan passed away but the MacLachlan pride and spirit seems to be very much alive in the Reed household. Love, trust, build and live simply. “These are my philosophies,” said Reed.

My three-day stay passed all too quickly. There was much to be told. And so it was with a heavy heart that I left the Reeds – and the last link to IC’s amazingly rich past.

Dr. Howard Reed and his brother, Lachlan, continued to support IC for many years.

In 1990, Howard Reed wrote a historical booklet about the International College – one of the few documented histories of the school’s past. Currently, Reed’s niece and nephew, Aida and Ian Reed, serve on IC’s Board of Trustees.



IC classroom
in the 1960's

ActivBoards

The world of teaching as we know it has definitely changed. Gone are the chalkboards, the white chalk, erasers and even the whiteboards and markers.

Once you try the real thing, there's just no going back.

ActivBoards have now been installed in almost all classes throughout IC.

Only a few weeks into the school year, teachers are now quite obviously hooked.

"I can't imagine going back to regular boards," said middle school teacher, Valerie Aoun. "The things that we now can do are amazing."

Basically, an ActivBoard is a large interactive presentation panel that connects to a computer and projector. The projector launches the computer's desktop onto the ActivBoard. Teachers or students then control the computer by using a stylus pen called the ActivPen.

By simply clicking on an icon, teachers can manipulate the text, colors, and font – much like a regular computer screen.

Images are dragged, downsized, upsized,

superimposed, labeled, written on, etc.

Moreover, teachers can embed videos, text, images, PowerPoint presentations, and PDF files. The built-in activities on the board allow today's digital savvy students to interact with the board themselves. It's a great time saver as everything can be saved, retrieved later, emailed to students or pulled out whenever needed. The hundreds of features make the possibilities endless.

"This is so much more fun," said Karim Dana, 12, a middle school student.

While 'fun' may not be the impetus that drove IC's Educational Technology Program Administrator, Mahmud Shihab, to bring ActivBoards to IC, it's certainly a welcome student perception.

"This has been an ongoing project for the last few years," he said. "And we finally found the perfect tool for us."

Shihab has been testing various interactive white boards for the past six years. In several pilot projects involving various teachers, he experimented with several

models and several brands. First came the Smart Boards in 2004, then came the Digital Boards in 2006. Shihab wasn't satisfied. Finally he came upon the ActivBoards in 2009. The educational software alone – such as the digital math tools – was enough to get his attention. After a pilot study for a year, Shihab was convinced that he had found the perfect digital board model.

As IC began installing ActivBoards in its classes (all except 20 classes now have them), Shihab intensified the on-going training sessions for teachers.

IC has come a long way technologically since Shihab was first hired in 1996. Back then, the most teachers had to work with were overhead projectors and cassette players. At first, computers were installed in computer labs and teacher work areas. That gave way to multimedia carts – containing a computer, a DVD, VHS, and stereo equipment. The teacher would have to push the cart to class, waste a considerable amount of time hooking up every-



thing and waste even more time packing everything away and then wheeling it back down the hallway. This was soon replaced by mobile labs – a cart carrying a projector

and laptops for the teacher and students. But that also proved impractical. Finally, a laptop was placed in every class and kept safely locked up in an iron box. LCD

“I can’t imagine going back to regular boards,” said middle school teacher, Valerie Aoun. “The things that we now can do are amazing.”



projectors were soon installed. It is this projection system which has now been replaced by ActivBoards.

Even the youngest students in the pre-school seem to have mastered this newest technology as four year old Abedul Rahman Onsi, deftly changed the color and text as he drew circles on the board. His KGI teacher Ghada Madhoun reports that classes are going much smoother as her young charges are able to make their comments on the spot and “reflect more”, she said.

As an extra bonus, IC recently introduced Student Response Systems (ActivExpression and ActiVote) – a system that allows teachers to ask live questions to students who can respond by using small cell-phone like portable devices. Results are displayed in real-time on the board. Shihab’s vision for the IC classroom is far from over. He’s already studying the possibility of installing document cameras (real-time image capture devices for displaying an object) in every classroom and smart tables (similar to iPads but on a larger scale) for preschoolers. “It will be great,” he said. “Classes will never be the same again.”

The school that never sleeps

The year was 1975. The civil war had just started. The country was being torn savagely apart. Many newly hired foreign English teachers cancelled their move to Lebanon. In desperation, IC turned to the AUB English department. Would they have some good students that can teach the middle school classes?

And so it was that Edmond Tohmé, then middle school director, found himself staring at a young blonde. Still a junior at AUB, Mishka Moujaber, was studying to become an interpreter. She already knew five languages. It was her ultimate dream. Teaching certainly was not. But she was summoned and so she came.

Tohmé offered her the job. Little did he know that the young woman in front of him, barely older than his own students, would end up leading the school and reform its programs – making it one of the top schools in the international arena of education.

Moujaber's (now Mourani) start may have been a slow one as other teachers and directors kept mistaking her for a student. In one infamous story during her early days, she was barred from entering Rockefeller Hall during recess. Not only that, but she was scolded for her bold claim of being a teacher. It was finally her Department Chairman, Thomas Weaver, who vouched for her.

But a keen sense of humor and a newly found love for education kept her going. Before long, she had become 'Miss Mishka' with a long line of admirers. "I still remember my students from the first two years that I taught," she said. "It was a magic connection. I loved teaching them." Her dreams of becoming an interpreter faded as she found herself increasingly pulled into the fascinating world of education. Despite a heavy teaching schedule, she managed to obtain her Bachelors in Language and Literature with distinction, Master's in Literature and a Diploma in Administration.

In 1978, the Educational Resource Center asked for her help in launching the Sultan School in Oman. She spent an entire year with a team devising the English curriculum program and was then sent by IC to teach it herself in Muscat.

It was a turning point. Mourani contin-



Little did he know that the young woman in front of him, barely older than his own students, would end up leading the school and reform its programs

ued to teach but also became a consultant to the ERC. She felt a continuous urge to shepherd in new programs but the war was still raging. Administrators concentrated on keeping the school going. Slowly but surely Mourani climbed up the ladder until she became the school's Senior Vice President. Twice during her career she found herself serving two posts simultaneously. (Director of the Elementary and Middle School then Director of the Secondary School and Senior Vice President). The urge to introduce the latest methods and developments in education was only getting stronger.

With the end of the civil war, IC found itself on the brink of an important decision: to stay status quo or reform the system. With Mourani now at the helm, the decision was instant. In the 1990s, IC participated in the revision of the Lebanese National Curriculum. That decade also saw the introduction of PYP (Primary Years Program) in the preschool and elementary levels. In 2000, IC began

offering the IB program and became an "établissement homologué". It was reaccredited by NEASC & ECIS. New programs including Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the DP, student-centered, problem-based, experiential, collaborative learning, performance-based learning, entered the realm of the curriculum. Social service, once a club, became mandatory. Students had to fulfill 90 hours of community service as a prerequisite to graduation. Today, IC is a school that never sleeps. Every year sees new programs, new methodologies and new teacher training sessions. This year is no different. This September – as in every September, Mourani announced the latest projects in the school's annual plenary session (see box). "I am never satisfied," she said laughing. "There's always more. More teachers to teach. More kids to reach. More methods to apply."

And for those late 70s and 80s graduates who keep asking whether "Miss Mishka" is still at IC, the answer is a resounding: YES.

PROJECTS 2011

- Learning support - for those with learning challenges and gifted students.
- Differentiation: tailoring instruction to meet individual needs. Making differentiation a part of teachers' toolkit.
- Training teachers to deal with different learning styles and catering to them individually (a pilot study was successfully conducted last year in the middle school. Another pilot study is currently underway).
- Created a student support department (includes gifted students).
- ActivBoards in all classrooms.
- Computer training sessions for teachers began nine years ago. Other classes have LCD projectors.
- NESA Moodle project to be implemented soon: the Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, a learning management system which allows teachers and students to directly share documents, graded assignments, quizzes, discussion forums, etc. IC will become one of 10 schools worldwide who will join the NESA virtual school project. Teacher training sessions will begin soon.
- Pre-service training throughout September for faculty including intensive workshops for newcomers in the PYP and Spec workshops. (Seven of IC faculty members are now certified in PYP training and conduct workshops internationally).
- A review of the assessment and language policies.



Mishka Moujaber (Mourani)
with her students in 1977.



- *"The Culture of excellence in academic results starts at preschool. These kids are the products of the teachers over 15 years. Because we have excellence in every level of the school, we are able to obtain these results."*

Mishka Mourani,
Senior Vice President

- 176 students sat for the Brevet exams. All of them passed and more than half of them obtained honors.
- As for the Lebanese Baccalaureate, all 92 of students passed, and with flying colors. 74% of the IC students who sat for the Lebanese Baccalaureate exams passed with honorable mention having averages above 12.
- Three IC students in the Humanities program ranked among the top ten in Beirut, and two of those were among the top ten in the country.
- One of the Economics and Sociology students ranked 4th in Beirut and in the top 20 in Lebanon.
- One of the Life Sciences students ranked second in Beirut and 15th among the top 20 achievers in Lebanon.
- In the French Baccalaureate, all students passed the exam, and the 4th in Lebanon in the literary section is from IC. IC students had a 100% passing rate with 87% honors.
- The IB class of 2011 obtained some outstanding scores, with ten students scoring between 36 and 39. In addition, a significant number of students obtained full scores on the subjects they took.



Graduation

- Don't ever disregard your parents and family. Always seek their opinion.
- Be modest. It's lonely at the top without friends.
- Trust yourself and know yourself well.
- Always believe in yourself.
- Wish unto others what you wish unto yourself.
- Generosity is a big virtue. Be generous to others.
- Be a good friend and your friends will be good to you.
- As the song goes: "Don't worry, be happy".
- Always remember your mother who lived to see this hour. Remember that she brought you up under her loving wings.
- Always remember your father, be proud of him. It was his hard work that sent you to IC.
- Be a man or woman of principles and you will never fail or fall down.
- Don't forget your Alma Mater and your teachers, your classrooms, your friends, the activities, the trips and the fun you had here.
- When you have made it, when you have



struggled and overcome all the battles, when you have climbed that ladder and reached the top – look back.

step of that ladder that helped you up. Now, give back.

There are people and institutions on every

Hisham Jaroudi '61,
Commencement Address, June 2011

First Wealth is Health

No one was happier to take up her student's suggestion than Samia Boulad last year. The Head of the Art Department was thrilled when Sarah Siblini, currently an IB2 student, proposed an idea and volunteered her time to help work on this year's Art Calendar.

Boulad promptly took her suggestion to the Art Department who immediately gave consent.

"I was very pleased because it's a student product and it's good to give responsibilities to students and let them take initiatives," said Boulad.

Soon after, Sarah prepared a proposal on healthy eating and organic foods and included many delicious recipes. The Art Department set to work. For the past year, the entire student body in both schools worked to produce designs based on a "healthy" theme.

The best art work from each grade level was then chosen and included in the calendar. A recipe or nutritional guideline was featured on the accompanying page (some were supplied by the students and some by Boulad and Sarah.)

Finally, the "First Wealth is Health" calendars rolled off the printers to the delight of many parents who are trying to set their children on a healthy diet pattern.

"We already got a lot of great feedback," said Boulad. "Parents have really responded. Everyone really seems to like it."

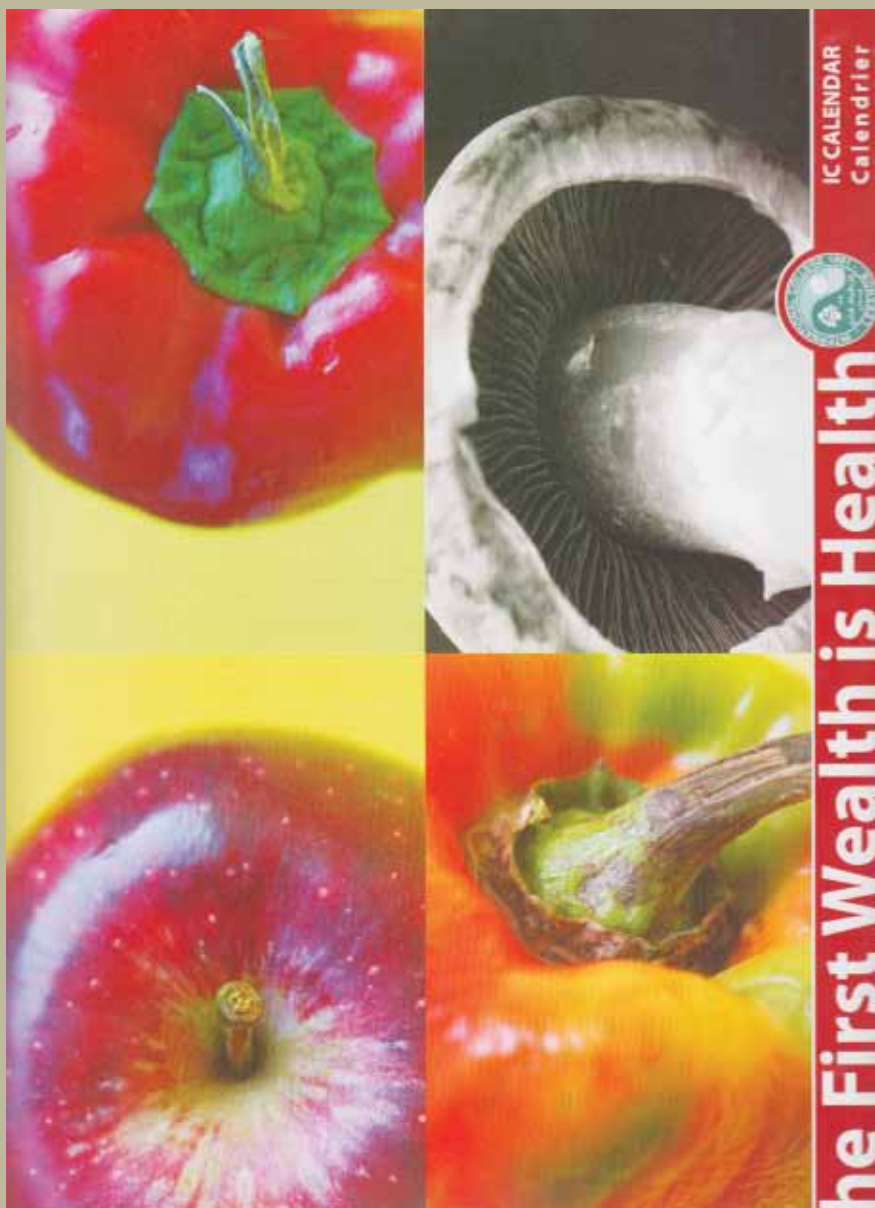
It's hard not to like.

In an era where worldwide efforts to promote healthy eating is becoming widespread – including IC infirmary initiatives to launch several 'healthy days' on campus last year – the calendar seems to have hit a happy chord.

By pure coincidence, the cafeteria launched their 'healthy' food section this year – including a special diet counter for calorie conscious individuals.

"It all worked out better than planned," said Boulad. "Even the recipes are written in all three languages to cater to all."

The idea to start an IC calendar came about in 1991 during a meeting of the Activities Committee and has since become a yearly event. A new theme is usually chosen every year.



Back in Beirut

James and Samia Sullivan on their annual trip to Lebanon and of course – as always – their first stop is IC.



Prom 2011

L to R: Secondary School Associate Director Hussein Said, Prom King Ramzi Chehab, Prom Queen Yasmina Kaiss, Secondary school director, Paula Mufarrij

Prom 2011 was held at the Mouawad Palace on June 30th.



Christmas Choir Concert

Who says that the IC choir is only for kids? Randa Sabbah, Head of the Music Department formed a parent's choir this year to join the junior version on stage.

A special surprise awaited the audience when IC's very own president, John Johnson, and his wife, Mary, joined the choir which performed a wide variety of Christmas songs on December 4th at AUB's Assembly Hall.



Dinners and Events

London



Dinner in London

The Partnership for Excellence Campaign and Alumni Outreach continues. In September, Vice President for Alumni and Development, **Mr. Moufid Beydoun '64**, managed to reunite with many old acquaintances and meet new IC alumni and friends.

In September, it was a great pleasure to meet up again with **Mr. Mohamed Ahmar '80** and his wife, **Hania Ahmar '92** and **Mr. Elie Kawkabani '84** in Los Angeles and work out the details of a reunion to be held in February 2012. Mr. Beydoun also met with **Dr. Ray Irani '50**. In Florida, he met with many alumni over a dinner organized by **Dr. Alex Bazijian '59** and **Dr. Ziad al Khatib '80**.

In an effort to establish an alumni chapter, Mr. Beydoun made his way to Canada and met many alumni residing in Montreal including **Mr. Suleiman Zaroubi '64**, with **Mr. Salim Hijal '62**, **Mr. Saad Hijal '67** and **Mr. Jalal Bekdash '63** and **Mr. Khaled Hajjar '84**.

In October, IC president John Johnson, Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani, Mr. Beydoun and Director of Annual Fund and Alumni Affairs, Ghandi Fala traveled to Greece where they met **Mr. Moujally Gebara '75** who had hosted a dinner attended by over 70 alumni and friends.

Other meetings were also held with **Mr. Said Khoury '40** and his son, Samer.

In October, **Mrs. Mona Bawarshi '67** held a reception at her Beirut residence in honor of former IC president, **Dr. Arthur Charles** and was attended by over 50 guests.

Meanwhile, two board meetings have been held to go over IC's campaign and future plans. The board convened in London in June and recently in October in Beirut. Several events were held for the occasion including a dinner at the home of **Mr. Yusuf Kanaan '71**.

A special surprise, however, awaited IC's Chairman of the Board, **Mr. William Turner**. A dinner was held on November 3rd at the Bristol Hotel to thank him for a solid 35 years of service.



Left: L to R: John Johnson, Donald Selinger, Ford Fraker
Below: Mazen Masri '78, Anwar Almula '63



Florida

L to R: Imad Bazzi '85, Omar Marchi '84,
Alex Bazijian '69, Moufid Beydoun '64
(standing)



Florida dinner
L to R standing: Alex Zakaria '54,
Rashid Fawaz '55, Andrée Zakaria, Ziad
Mneimneh '76, Chirine Mneimneh, Diana
Tamim, Wael Tamim '86, Omar Marchi '84,
Alex Bazijian '69, Marianne Bazijian.
sitting: Moufid Beydoun '64, Ziad Khatib '80,
Salma Bazzi, Imad Bazzi '85, Randa
Khatib.



Greece



Above: L to R: Rania Soufan, Said Khoury '40, Mary Johnson, John Johnson
Back row: Moujally Gebara '75

Left: IC dinner in Greece



Below: Mishka Mourani, Moufid Beydoun '64, Samir Sabbagh, Moujally Gebara '75, Ghandi Fala



Board members, several IC alumni and friends including Prime Minister Najib Mikati gathered at a dinner hosted by Yusuf Kan'an '71 at his home.

Front row L to R: William Turner, PM Najib Mikati, Wajih Bizri '71, Talal Shair '83
Back row: Rula Kan'an, Lara Batato, Dana Kan'an '11, Afif Kan'an '08, Yusuf Kan'an

'71, Dr. Melhem Samara '64, Moufid Beydoun '64, Dr. Youssef Comair, Mahmoud Abdul Baki '56, Mounir Doueidy '71





To Sir with Love

A surprise dinner was held on November 3rd at the Bristol Hotel for Chairman of the Board, William H. Turner, to thank him for 35 years of service. After several touching speeches, Mr Turner was awarded a special plaque. But more notably, two annual scholarships will be presented to deserving students in his name – the William H. Turner Scholarships. IC secondary school choir was also present and thanked Mr Turner in their own way by performing several beautiful music compositions including “To Sir with Love”.

“Vision, tenacity, support and hope – such has been Bill’s way as a trustee and as a board chairman. Bill has always believed in IC, and its mission in Lebanon and the region. Let us not kid ourselves. IC is no mere school. IC is an idea. IC is what this country, at its best, can be”

*Mishka Mourani,
Senior Vice President*

“We’ve been very fortunate to have one

person with the amazing leadership skills and the amazing foresight of Bill Turner to lead our board; to lead our school.”

*John Johnson,
IC President*

“Many times I wondered why a man like Bill devotes so much time and effort to a school he did not attend, to a school his children did not attend, and his grandchildren would not attend? I could come up with only one answer: it’s the same spirit

and sense of mission that drove the founders of IC to set up a school in this part of the world to educate people to a better life.”

*Imad Taber ‘58,
Board Member*

“Bill always gave answers very freely and has always been able to judge situations and give logical, sensitive answers when discussing IC matters.”

*Fouad M. Malouf ‘56,
Vice Chairman*





Board Meeting in Beirut

Donor Reception

IC presented a special plaque to USAID to thank them for 50 years of giving to IC.
L to R: Imad Taher '58, Mona Bawarshi '67, Timothy Alexander (USAID), Yusuf Kan'an '71, Talal Shair '83



L to R: Talal Shair '83, Issam Shammas '63, Samir el Kadi, Maha Shair, Hisham Jaroudi '61

Donor reception at the Martin House garden



Class of 1959 courtesy of Alex Bazejian

Alex Bezjian,
IC principle
Leslie Leavitt



L to R: Mufid Barakat, Karim Fawaz, Vahe Oshagan, Alex Bazejian, Elias Chammas, Nadi Nader, Amine Barakat, Atef Koubrus, Mohamed Mashnouk, Mohamed Balluz, Nasser el Khalil



L to R: Khalil Bitar, Shafic jeha, George Bikhazi, Fakhry Saghie, Alex Bazejian, Bassam Samara



Bawarshi reception

Dr Arthur Charles, Mona Bawarshi '67,
Hiba Bawarshi '04, Fouad Bawarshi '67



Rami Makhzoumi Scholarship and Award Funds

IC scholars and school administration made their way to the Martin House Garden on October 28th to pay tribute to Rami Makhzoumi who died suddenly from a brain aneurysm at the age of 33 last April. Makhzoumi was the father of three girls – currently attending IC elementary school.

Fouad Makhzoumi '71 and May Makhzoumi '71 (Rami's parents), daughters (May, Yasmeena, Nour) and other family members attended the occasion which was marked by the Makhzoumi family awarding a Scholarship and Award funds in Rami Makhzoumi's name.



Have you seen me?

While rummaging through an IC attic, we came across an old plaque dedicated to IC founder Alexander MacLachlan in 1950.

We don't know where or when it was hung previously. We need the help of our older alumni. Have you seen this plaque before?

If so, please contact Reem Haddad at: rhaddad@ic.edu.lb



Global Smile Foundation

It takes some people years, if at all, to find out their mission in life. **Usama Hamdan '71** knew at the age of 15 while at IC. His heavy involvement in the social service club at the school led him to one question. "Why do I exist?" He said. "What am I doing here? Well, I felt quite early on that I was here to help others. But I didn't know how yet."

But he soon would. In 1984 he moved to Massachusetts (where he still resides) and specialized in Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic Surgery. In 1987, he joined a volunteer group headed to Latin America to operate on children and adults born with cleft lip and palate defects. What he saw was shocking. With a high incidence of disfigurements and little access to medical care, people in remote villages could do little with their birth defects. Many were shunned. Some were locked up out of shame. Others were beaten up. Adults and children were outcasts. Newborns were shirked.

Hamdan and the other doctors set to work. As each disfigurement was turned into normal facial features, a life was renewed. Even Hamdan himself couldn't get over the change in his patients. He knew then that he had found what he's been always looking for.

"It's amazing the impact that you can have on their lives," he said. "It is not by accident that I can do this. This was my chance to give back."

In 1990, he set up his own foundation made up of a team of doctors, nurses and administrators. Every year, the Global Smile Foundation team - made up of between 20 and 24 volunteers - goes on five 'missions' to various countries and performs cleft repair operations. It takes about five months of coordination - with local NGOs and local doctors who are prescreening patients - to set up

just one mission. Over 25 huge boxes are packed up every time

with everything the team could possibly need from syringes to anesthesia machines. Each mission lasts anywhere between seven to ten days. Up to 60 patients per mission undergo operations. The trip is mostly funded by the team members themselves though donors and sponsors are always welcome.

"We all believe that we are blessed with a talent that we need to share with others," said Hamdan. "We believe that it is our duty to give back to humanity." But their work doesn't stop there as the team spends a considerable amount of time empowering local doctors to continue with the operations through hands-on training and educational conferences. Subsequent missions follow-up on patients (up to 20 years later)

providing them with dental care, speech therapy, and nutritional analysis.

The high number of patients is overwhelming. As the word spreads, desperate villagers walk for days to reach Hamdan and his team. If deemed operable, no one is turned away.

The Global Smile Foundation volunteers have so far operated in Central and South America, Asia, Africa, the Indian sub-continent and Eastern Europe. Despite their many missions, thousands of cases still await them. The pace was sometimes slowed down by the use of only one anesthesia machine. Then while in India a few years ago, the team found themselves facing 48 operations that had to be done within one week. It was an impossible task. Someone hit upon the idea of using local anesthesia to operate on patients older than 12 years. The patients' eagerness to undergo surgery, coupled with the safe and pain-free experience allowed the team to efficiently go through 42 operations during a one week stay. The patients were also able to go home shortly after surgery.

After his operation, one shunned man in his 50s was finally able to leave home. And when he did, he met a woman and married her. Post-surgery



children, previously hidden away, emerged from their homes to attend schools. One man, who was given a huge amount of dowry to marry a woman with a severe cleft lip, told Hamdan after the surgery: "I've always loved her but now I see her as a beautiful woman."

Hamdan tells their stories vividly when he visited IC's alumni office during the summer with his wife and two college-age children (his wife and two children are part of the team. His wife is an anesthesiologist, his daughter is a mission coordinator, and his son is a logistics coordinator). Deploring attention and credit, he keeps his role at a modest level (in fact, it was a bit of a battle to get this interview!).

"What we do is such a moving experience," he said. "You see the difference that you are making in people's lives."

His advice to others?

"Give back," he said. "It doesn't have to be money. It's the little things that count. Did you hold that door for the older lady? Did you smile at someone? Did you boost someone's morale? Did you give someone a nice compliment? Life is wonderful. Let the smallest things count."

For more information or donations to the Global Smile Foundation go to: www.gsmile.org



Camp Rafiqi

Melda Salhab '09, 20, thought little of giving up her holiday this past summer. She did so quite willingly. There was a reason, of course: she was busy helping to organize a camp to integrate blind children with sighted ones. "I never realized what a sheltered life I used to lead," she said. "I've been exposed to social problems before but never got as involved as this."

As part of IC graduating requirements, students must fulfill 90 hours of community service. It was actually this experience at IC that spurred her to continue with her volunteer work in the US.

After graduating from IC in 2009, Salhab began her studies in Economics and "Peace and Justice Studies" at Wellesley University in Massachusetts. It was there that she met and became friends with another Lebanese student – Sara Minkara. Legally blind since the age of 7, Minkara had a dream: to prove to blind children in Lebanon that they have the same capabilities as sighted ones. Minkara's parents moved to the US upon finding out that both their daughters were going blind. Today, Sara just graduated from Wellesley in Economics and Math while her sister, Mona, is studying for her doctorate. "They are an inspiration to me," said Salhab. "They are just amazing."

For the first time Melda began to realize that disabilities can be overcome. As she and Sarah became close friends, Melda began to share Sara's dream. Sara had run a camp for non-sighted and sighted children a year earlier in Tripoli. Its success spurred her to found a non-profit organization: Empowerment Through Integra-

tion (ETI). The NGO's first project was to organize a more elaborate summer camp in Beirut and Tripoli – "Camp Rafiqi". Last Christmas break, Sara, Melda and two other Wellesley students came to Lebanon and spent their time researching venues, seeking volunteers and sponsors for two camps: one in Tripoli and one in Beirut. A four-week curriculum was carefully designed with the help of MIT and Harvard professors which included math, sciences, dance, sports, theatre and swimming. Back in the US, the Wellesley students spent every free moment planning for the camps. In Lebanon, students from local universities began to sign up as sponsors offered some needed materials. IC itself loaned out its musical instruments over the summer. Finally, the camps were launched in July and the children (up to age 18) began to arrive. Up to 60 children were enrolled in each camp. Some were visually impaired

and others were sighted. No one was turned away. All were from impoverished families. The camps were free of charge. It took only a few hours for Melda to realize the level of ignorance that still prevails in the country. "There were parents asking if their sighted children would get the 'blind disease' or if it's dangerous if their kids mingled with the blind children," she said. At first, some of the sighted children scoffed at their non-sighted peers. It didn't take long, however, for them to assume the roles of avid guides and cheerleaders. Throughout the summer, an issue continued to gnaw at organizers: most blindness cases in children, it seems, are preventable. "These are blind kids that don't need to be blind," said Pamela Davis, a US volunteer and one of the camp organizers. "This situation needs to be fixed."

Since her arrival to Lebanon earlier in the summer, Davis has been researching and talking to Lebanese officials and medical personnel in an effort to uncover the causes behind childhood blindness in Lebanon. She soon found out the main culprit: consanguineous marriages (intermarrying cousins).

"The solution is a public health campaign that really changes this," she said adamantly. As Davis continued her research, Melda continued working with the camps.

"I personally feel that I've grown a lot through this experience," she said. "It was great to see the sighted children feel that they can have as much fun with a blind child as they can with a sighted child." At the end of summer, Melda returned to Wellesley. She and her friends have already started planning for next year's camp.



Letters to the editor

I was one of the lucky Lebanese who spent most of his school years at AUB. My first three years were in the Elementary School, followed by all the years at IC, then four years in college, graduating in 1956.

I have very fond memories of my years at IC. Most of those focus on my involvement in all kinds of sports, be it football (soccer), volleyball, track & field, the gym, and my favorite at the time: basketball. Thanks to my upbringing at IC, I am still an avid sportsman, but in tennis, golf and skiing.

Another fond memory was our daily purchase of Kaakeh. We were not allowed to go through the entrance/exit door to buy our mid-morning snack (kaakeh). So we always climbed over the wall, made our purchase, then climbed back in. A few times a week, we also climbed over the other wall across from the basketball court, ran away for an hour then climbed back in to attend classes.

Attached is a photo that was taken of our class, with two of our teachers, in 1950. I wish I could remember their names or the names of my classmates in the photo. If anyone recognizes themselves, I sincerely hope that they will contact me on Facebook. I was the one with the striped shirt next to the teacher (I believe it was Mr. Haddad). What is funny is that I have an identical shirt that I wear often and my wife frequently asks me if I am trying to be 16 again.



I always look forward to receiving the IC Newsletter. Reading the magazine and seeing the young faces of students brings back extremely fond memories.

Wassim Hamdan '52

*(better known in the U.S. for the last 38 years as Wes Hamdan),
Dayton (Ohio)*

French section against English section soccer in 1981... French section was notorious for winning every single game throughout middle school then one day, French section was losing 3-0 at half time. English section thought it was all over and started bragging. French section came back to win 4-3. Stories of each goal were circulating on Facebook a few weeks ago.

Attached is a picture of the French section team on that famous day after that celebrated win 30 years ago...

The challenge is always on... French section is seriously willing to meet and grant English section another chance!

Kazem Hodroge '85

Detroit, MI



Standing left to right: Walid Saliba, Rabih Ali, Mazen Itani, Sam Salamon, Walid Ghutmi, Hazem Youssef

Sitting left to right: Nizar Zakka, Kazem Hodroge, Wajdi Abou Hamzeh, Bassel Laham, Kamal Khodr

I would like to share this important information/story that I think will be inspiring for current students. Dr. George Saade and I (Alfred Abuhamad) are both graduates of IC 1978, were close friends, received MDs from AUB in 1985 and then majored in the United States in the same specialty, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine (high risk obstetrics). It so happens that Dr. Saade is the current president of the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine in the United States (www.smfm.org) and I am the current president of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine in the United States (www.AIUM.org). Two close friends from IC days that are currently presiding over two major medical organizations in the United States at the same time— what are the odds!

Alfred Abuhamad, MD '78

Mason C. Andrews Professor

*Chairman, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Vice Dean*

Eastern Virginia Medical School

In 1970, in class of 5eme, and as was customary, many of us were on the edge with several "rapports", and only one incident away

from being sent home. We were in class with Gebran Tueini, God bless his soul, and in front of us sat Paul Gebeili. The “bank” seats were such



that they were bolted to the wooden floor and the back of the front chair was the same table that we wrote on sitting behind on the rear chair. We started pushing on the front chair using our feet and the whole front table cracked, broke out, and Paul flew over, landing head down feet-up in the air at the next table in front. Paul stood up and dusted himself off while we were on the floor laughing. But guess what? He was thrown out and told never to return to class. While he left screaming, we stood for the next hour trying to talk Mr. Aidi out of it without insinuating it was us that cracked the table, as we were also on the edge with several “rapports” up our sleeve. Memorable indeed. Negotiations to clear our friend Paul, without getting blamed ourselves. Creative indeed!

Roni Sabri '76

Greetings!!

Your email triggered a search in my library and I found my copy of **TORCH 1952**. Looking through the issue, I find a number of interesting items which bring back nostalgic thoughts:

As I read through the Prep Parade, 1951-52, which described the main events of the year, some noteworthy ones sprung to mind: the strike in support of the Egyptian revolution of Gamal Abdel Nasser; the inauguration of our new playground, the “Palm Tree Field”, where many of my friends and I honed our softball skills; the visit to IC of Major James Jabara, the world’s ace jet pilot who became famous in the Korean War; the incidents with the famous date palm tree in the middle of the playing field, where items got caught in its branches and which was finally removed; the infamous battle of firecrackers between the IC and ACS on the occasion of the Prophet’s Birthday which lasted for 3 hours; the visit of Ms. Helen Keller to IC; the fabulous Prep Night show which we all looked forward to every year.

One of my favorite extra-curricular activities was the **Stamp Club**, under the guidance of Mr. Conde. Having collected since the age of seven, I found a great deal of pleasure in furthering my hobby and exchanging with other collectors. I am still very much involved in this past time and am a member in a number of Philatelic Societies in Canada and the USA. Over the years, I have both increased and upgraded my collection and have participated in stamp exhibitions on a number of occasions. Our fourth year classmates were grouped into four Sections. My section was 4-B and we became known as the most trouble-making but highly entertaining sections among the graduating crowd. We even had our own class Motto: **East, West- 4B is Best...** among this distinguished group I had some favorites with whom my relations continued for a long time after graduation: David Abadjian, Sion David, Guido Gargulio, the late Hassan Ghandour, Sabbah Al-Hajj, Yanal Hikmat, the late Stanley Khoury, Nizar Majzoub, Dick Shaheen, Mubada Suidan and John Youssef.

Fouad M. Kronfol '52

I never quite understood when people said that their IC experience was life changing and that what they learned in this campus resonated throughout the rest of their life! But now, after four years, I understand these statements more and more. The strong technical skills I gained gave me a jump-start at the American University of Beirut and later on at the University of Michigan in Dearborn. The numerous soft skills I learned at IC and the hours of community service I completed gave me more people skills that definitely helped me during my transition to the United States. In short, this whole experience supported my progress in every stage of my life thus far! And now, as I start my engineering career at Chrysler LLC, I feel indebted to the IC teachers and, of course, my peers who helped me develop academically and personally. This is for you current IC students. IC changed the course of my life!!



Ayyash and friends

Akram Ayyash '07

I have never forgotten the five years I spent at IC and I still keep several old Alumni magazines and “Torch” 1963 to help me remember my Alma Mater and my schoolmates and teachers, in name and face.

When I first joined the school in 1958, Lebanon was recovering from a brief civil war, nicknamed the “events of 1958”, which started on May 12, 1958, following the assassination of the journalist Nassib Metni two days earlier. This abruptly ended my academic year 1957/1958 at Furn El Chebbak secondary school for boys, a public school. Going to IC was a great improvement v/s a public school at that time. My aunt, whose boys were already enrolled at IC, suggested the move to me. She called Mrs. Bikhazi, then Director of IC, and explained how my academic year was interrupted by the events and I was accepted to the second secondary - in 5eme. I was relieved! The previous five months were dreadful as my elder brother Anwar was shot to death the very first day of those events. We therefore spent the whole five months stuck at home to avoid further dangers from the situation.

When school classes resumed in October, it helped me a lot to forget my grievances, especially since my new school had a nice campus with green fields, trees and flower alleys and, most

Letters to the editor

important of all, new friends of the same social standing though of different nationalities and sects. It also had nice teachers with solid backgrounds. I gained a lot from the high standard of education at IC, most of all the English language, which helped me in my future career. The years spent at IC were very pleasant as we were becoming independent young men relying on ourselves. Our school provided lots of opportunities: we could skip breakfast at home for example since we had Mehio's and his manakiches or a cheese sandwich at Tarazi well toasted! Or we could practice our preferred sports activities, such as football or basketball, on IC's very good courts. I used to go to school by IC bus and the driver Assaad picked me up every morning and then brought me back at noon and waited for me to finish my lunch as I was the last one on the line at noon. (School hours were from 8:00 till 12:00 noon then from 2:00 PM till 4:00PM). I had exactly 15-20 minutes to finish my lunch and get back to the bus! I hated the rush!!

During our first year, our French teacher Mr. Durand took the class on a trip to Qalaat Faqra by bus. From there, we continued on foot between the rocky hills of the region to reach the source of Nabeh El Laban. It was a splendid view, seeing the pure cold crystal water coming out of the ground to form a river at Faraya. It was the first time I witnessed such a view and I shall never forget this nice trip.

During the second year, in 4eme, in the science class of Mr. Parnos, something funny happened to me. I was taking notes from the blackboard while the teacher was explaining the lesson. I was sitting on the back seat far from the board and was having difficulty reading the notes. Beside me was Nazem Khoury (now advisor to the President of the Republic H.E. Michel Suleiman). I looked at Nazem and told him: Nazem, give me your eyeglasses for a second! He did and I put them on and looked at the blackboard. Hurrah! I saw the notes clearly! I returned the glasses to Nazem and told him: my friend, it seems I need eyeglasses to see properly!! I have worn eyeglasses ever since.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my feelings about IC, as an alumnus and now as a parent. My daughter, Youmna, is an IC student at the English section, 4th intermediate.

Bassem W. Naamani '64

I bumped into Walid Sleiman and his wife last night at LE GRAY Terrace. This brought back old memories of our years scouting in the fifties and, especially in 1963-64 (was it then?), when I was nominated by Headquarters as **BIV** (read Beirut Four) Group Leader. The announcement was very badly received/accepted by the **BIV** boys (there were no girls at the time, with the exception of Assistant Cub Masters, to preserve the mother image with the young Cubs [English Section – Prep as it was called]) as I was originally a **BI** (French Section – Section Française as it was then called). There used to be an inherent

and, regretfully, not always a healthy feud amongst our scouting brotherhood. I was fought bitterly over the first three months at **BIV**, especially by such charming and renegade devils as Tony Anid, Tony Khoury and several others. It was thanks to the likes of the late Choucri Khoury, his brother Rajai, Elie Anid and Walid Sleiman that I managed to turn the tide, after dismissing a few boys from **BIV**, and prevailed with the respect of most others, if not all! I went on the following year to be nominated as General Commissioner of the Association.

Less than ten years later, in 1972, I was honored in being invited to sit on the IC Board of Trustees and, in 1979, I was asked to give the Commencement Address. I was so happy and proud to perform such a moving task! Reading the text to myself time and time again over the years has brought back the fondest memories I had between 1949 and 1956 – my seven years at High School in the French Section until “Mathématiques Élémentaires”! I remained a member of the Board until 1994 when I resigned to leave space to others – younger and perhaps more energetic and dedicated new members. It was Gerritt Keator who responded first to my mail by refusing my resignation. After explaining my reasons, he insisted I become a Trustee Emeritus. I told him I couldn't because the IC Bye-Laws stipulated that a Trustee had to be seventy years of age to become Emeritus. He then told me: we'll change the Bye-Laws, which the Board eventually did: if a Trustee had served for over twenty years on the Board, suffice it to say – whatever his age – he could become a Trustee Emeritus. And so I have, since 1994, served IC faithfully as a Trustee Emeritus! The sole loss was the right to vote at Board Meetings. For many years, I was the link between our Lebanese Scout Association (then known as EDL – “Eclaireurs du Liban”) and the IC Board under the aegis of several presidents: from the late Alton Reynolds to John Johnson. However, I have recently asked that a younger person, such as board member Walid Daouk or another, performs this task.

Now that IC have launched the construction of their first structures on the newly owned IC Campus (purchased from AUB) and before the completion of the full development program at the Ras Beirut Campus, LSA will have new premises as yet not clearly defined for their IC Dens and storage facilities. To strengthen and consolidate the gentlemen's agreement, I have been asked, on behalf of LSA with IC, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts (Guides), to improve their respect and general behavior on Campus, including less soldiering marches and lowering the sounds of roll drums, cheers and applause, especially as the yearly LSA Spring Celebrations approach, with full respect to the well-being of all those who live and work in the immediate neighborhood. I pray and trust they will.

Elie Antoine Sehnaoui P.E. '56

*B.Sc., DLC Hons., M.Sc. Eng-MIT, AMP Stanford-Insead
Fellow & Life Member AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
Member SIGMA XI (The Scientific Research Society)*

Updates

'76

Roni Sabri sent in the following picture.



"Hello everybody, a real alumnae lunch downtown with Mr Courson and **Najib Hneine '76**, **Jamal Bekdache '76**, **Jamal Alieh '76**, **Roni Sabri**... a great professor and a great humanist, Mr Courson.. He should be commended," he writes.

'81

Ousama Fansa, and is now the CEO/ Board member of Roots Group, a Saudi Based regional manufacturers and distributors of Building materials operating in Saudi , UAE , Qatar, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, Malaysia and China. Ousama is married to Rana Hussami , he has two daughters, Yasmin (AUB, Civil engineering) and Lina who is also IC alumni is doing Business administration at AUB.



Ousama Lives between Jeddah and Beirut. Ofansa@arabian-roots.com

Hala A. Madi-Shalhoub, and her husband Dr. Hadi Shalhoub, just finished building a wound care center for Sebastian River Medical Center. Their oldest

son Assad-Lawrence, 18, graduated this year after winning the State Championship in Football with his team, and has since moved to Orlando to attend UCF for his undergraduate studies. Jad-Alexander, 16, is also playing football and is making a name for himself in the community as a math contender, delightful member of St. Ed's Chorus Ensemble, and will be travelling to Ireland this spring. "Mayssa-Rae who is now 10 (double digits baby ! lol) is a wonderful A student at Beachland elementary," she writes, "who loves math, acting , and singing. She also loves animals and would like to become a marine biologist one day. Go Mayssa !"

'85

Bilal Khodr is currently an assistant professor at LAU at the school of medicine, and medical director of the Emergency department at UMCRRH. He was practicing medicine in the States for over 15 years.

'87

David-Imad Ramadan won the elections on November 8th for a seat in Virginia's House of Delegates. David is the first immigrant to win elections to the VA House which is the longest serving legislative body in the Western hemisphere.

Rima Nasser moved back to Lebanon after 20 years in the US. She is an orthopedic surgeon at Rizk hospital. "I am looking forward to seeing everyone this year for our 25th reunion," she writes.

'91

Danny Abla just won a prestigious award for his company Pin-PAY mobile banking, the "Pin-Pay award for best inventive marketing campaign in the Mobile Global." Danny is married **Rana Hamedeh '94**.

'93

Amer El-Rifai is moving to settle back in Beirut after several stations in different countries.

He is married and was gifted with a baby boy on March 21. "I can't wait to see baby Osman start going to IC," he writes. "Let's gather/socialize the little kids of same age as of now."

Dr. **Talal Jaber** and his wife Mirna Abou Chacra were blessed with a new brother for their daughter Sama whom they called Melhem. Melhem Talal Jaber was born on October 27, 2010, in Virginia Beach USA.

'95

Ahmad Ghannoum married to Raya Ounsi on June 2, 2011.

'98

Saad Khatib is currently residing in Erbil, Kurdistan - Iraq. He recently opened a Lebanese restaurant with his brother **Mohamad Khatib '01**. <http://www.hoteliermiddleeast.com/10653-new-restaurant-in-erbil-opens-to-rave-reviews/>

'99

Hana Hamadeh pursued her BA and MBA in Business Administration at AUB. She currently works as a Business Development Specialist in the UNDP ART GOLD Program in Beirut. This is her second year with the UNDP. Prior to that she was working as a project consultant with the World Bank for around two years. She recently got married this year to **Tarek Ghandour '92**. The wedding ceremony was on September 17, 2011.

Farah Dakhallallah is working for the International Labour Organization Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut, as the Regional Outreach and Advocacy

Officer. Prior to that, she was the Public Information Officer at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Syria, after working as a journalist in the UK for six years, primarily with Reuters Television. She graduated from Universite Saint Joseph with the BA in Audiovisual Studies in 2004, the London School of Economics with an MSc in Media and Communications in 2005, and the University of Cambridge with an MSt in International Relations in 2009.

Cynthia Ghorayeb recently opened an educational consultancy in Manara along with **Sarah Taher '99**.

'00

Sami Matraji is currently based in London, UK and work as Corporate Finance Manager with QIB (UK) plc. He got married in 2008 and has a little daughter, Haya, who is 2 and a half years old.

'03

Maher Abdel Sattar earned a degree in Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology from UCLA along with a minor in Human Complex Systems in 2007. Since then, he has decided to pursue pharmacy as a career and is currently completing his graduate-level education at the highest ranked school of pharmacy in the US, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Maher is especially interested in the Managed Care aspect of pharmacy and has completed internships in companies including McKesson and Genentech/Roche in the past few years. Maher misses his days at IC and looks forward to visiting the campus again, hopefully after his graduation from pharmacy school.

'04

Marylana Saadeh sent in the following picture and news of her photographed friends are listed below left to right:



Daniel Cherfan is completing his second year of medical school at Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland.

Adil Yunis is completing his second year of medical school at Boston University, Boston, USA.

Marylana Saadeh is completing her second year of law school at Boston University School of Law in Boston, USA.

Michelle Chahine '05 is completing her Masters in International Affairs at Columbia University in New York, USA.

Kareem Salman '05 works at Cisco Systems, Inc. in North Carolina, USA.

Sabine Bachian '05 works at CNN and is currently living in Singapore.

Nadim Sinno '05 works at Disney Pixar in San Francisco, USA.

'05

Mirna Hamady graduated with a BFA in Graphic Design from AUB and went on to co-found Kashida along with her partner Elie Abou Jamra. Kashida is a furniture & product design company creating functional pieces based on Arabic typography. The Lebanese-based brand offers unique pieces designed by the co-founders and executed by local artisans. The past year, Kashida won a spot as one of five Entrepreneurship challenge winners at TasmeemDoha 2011, and ranked 3rd out of 503 at the Maurice Fadel Prize for best business plan. View the designs or order a custom product at www.kashidadesign.com.

'09

Mira Abdel-Sattar attended Glendale Community College in California (GCC) after graduating from IC. She recently got accepted to UCLA and will be transferring there this fall to complete a major in Physiological Sciences and a minor in Human Complex Systems. "Being an IC student made me a competent student and prepared me well for college" she writes. "I took advantage of my time in college to join several campus organizations including the student government where I was elected to serve as the repre-

sentative at large of the finance committee." She later became a Supplemental Instructions leader and held regular review sessions that helped other college students prepare for their freshman biology course. She also received the Dean's Honor Award at GCC for superior academic achievement and a scholarship recognition award from UCLA in recognition of high achievement and outstanding promise. "All of this would not have been possible if it weren't for my great academic and personal experience at IC that I will forever be grateful for," she writes.

'10

Maya Fawaz is currently pursuing his BA in Political Science and International affairs at the Lebanese American University. She worked with the United Nations Developing Programme and is planning to take her internship in one of the United Nations institutions, where she is planning to pursue her career. "IC gave us beautiful memories, for we spent our best days there, And had the MOST AMAZING teachers one could ever have!!!" she writes.

«Dear Class of 2002,

The last 10 years have gone by very quickly since we graduated from IC. 10 years ago we were fighting for the «hollandeh» sandwich with Shawki & his crew at the cafeteria during our recess break, worrying about University applications and majors, planning our Miss Torch, Prom & graduation nights out but most importantly having fun.

Join us next summer in 2012 for an evening event to reminisce on the good days and reunite with our childhood friends. Please visit & join our Facebook page to stay updated with the plans <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ICclass2002gathering/or> email us at ic02reunion@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all next summer.»

Best regards,
Tarek Darwish '02

We regret to inform you that **Dr Shawki Kanazi '64** passed away in June. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Kanazi family.

Nabil Beydoun '51, passed away on June, 19th 2011. He was a previous partner at Fouad Beydoun et Fils. He was a life long supporter of IC and a founding member of the IC Alumni Association as its first Vice President. He is survived by his wife Ferial, and his three daughters, Jihan, Tamara and Syvin, all three being IC alumni.

His love and bond with IC continues through his grandchildren, Nabil and Sariya Nasser, who are presently elementary school students.

Jihan Beydoun Acra '83

We regret to inform you that **Rabih Abdel Malak '65** passed away in July 2011. IC staff and faculty send

their deepest condolences to the Malak family.

We regret to inform you that **Lama Abu Ajram '95** passed away in October 2011. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Abu Ajram family.

We regret to inform you that **Ali Barbir '76** passed away in October 2011. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Barbir family.

We regret to inform you that **Alice Studebaker** passed away in August 2011. Mrs Studebaker was the daughter of Huntington Bliss, the grandson of AUB founder, Daniel Bliss. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Studebaker family.



**ZIYAD AL-HAJJ
(SULYMAN)
1953-2011**

With the deepest sorrow and greatest love I wish to inform you that my dearest brother Ziyad Al-Hajj ('73) has left us prematurely and permanently.

Ziyad was also known as "Abul-Zooz" to his IC friends during his years from 1964 until 1973, and also as "Zee Al-Hajj Sulyman" to his relatives and associates in the new world.

Ziyad always reminiscent about his wonderful years at IC and the lifelong friendships cultivated there. These friends were his dearest all through his living years even though we moved to the US in 1976.

His step-son Shamsi wrote a wonderful eulogy that I would like to share it with the IC family and with the people who knew him there.

"It is with the heaviest of hearts and abundance of tears that I regretfully inform you my father Ziyad Al-Hajj (Zee Sulyman) at the bright age of 57 passed away peacefully on January 4th, 2011 after a 27 months long battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). As my father, friend, and mentor I cannot begin to quantify the positive impacts he had on my life and how deeply he will be missed. As a victim of a disease

as horrible as ALS, I can tell you that he was the epitome of inspiration and courage. He fought every aspect of the disease with unimaginable bravery and his usual inventive wit while still maintaining a cheerful attitude and his incredible thirst to enjoy life to the fullest.

The overwhelming waves of heartfelt support have been instrumental in helping our family cope with this tragic reality. From deep within our hearts we thank each and every one of you for knowing, loving, and being a part of Zee's incredible life. Without a doubt in my mind I know that he thought of all of you often during the past two years and missed you all greatly. The only time I ever saw sadness in his eyes I know it was not of fear, not of pain, not of regret, it was merely sadness from missing all of you and the good times he had.

I feel so fortunate to have had so many years and fond memories with such a wonderful man. His infinite wisdom, his contagious charm, and his inspirational spirit will be with us forever.

I leave you with one of Zee's favorite quotes and a true testament to how he lived his life:

«And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.»

- Abraham Lincoln

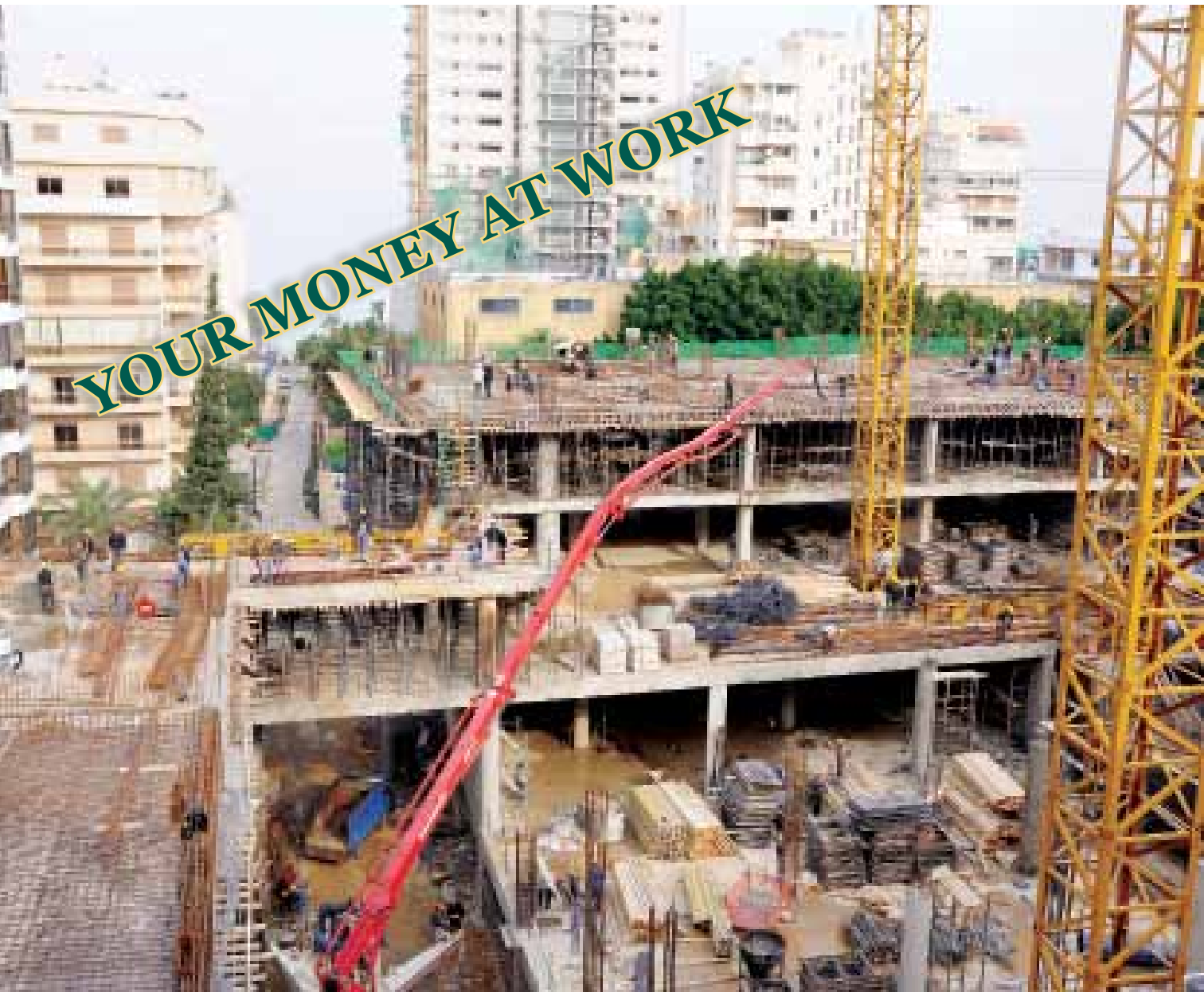
He was more than a big brother to me. He was the biggest person and the brightest star of my life. I will miss him dearly as I am sure most of his IC family and friends will, but he is at peace now.

Amer El-Hajj (Hage) '73

If you are inclined to memorialize "Abul-Zooz" with a donation to the ALS Association in his name follow this link to their website: https://secure2.convio.net/alsa/site/Donation2?idb=1520250513&df_id=15880&15880.donation=form1

In memorium

Lebanon needs IC and IC needs YOU



YOUR MONEY AT WORK



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