



IC Newsletter Summer 2012

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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Note from the Editor

We are almost there. In just a few more months – on October 1st 2012 to be precise – the new elementary school will be completed. We need some time to furnish it with brand new furniture and the children can move in by January. These are indeed exciting times for us. I still cannot believe that our dream is coming true.

A big thank you to all those who support us as we continue with our quest to finance our new school.

My work is far from over, however. Our master plan is still at the beginning. Our next step is to build a new middle school and renovate our century-old buildings. We will also be starting a construction project in our Ain Aar campus.

In other words, you will still be seeing a lot of me!

At the moment, I am forming alumni groups in many cities. Every group has a fund in the name of its alumni chapter. These funds are perfect for those who cannot donate large amounts but want to help out nevertheless. Perhaps you want to donate an amount right away or perhaps you would prefer to pay in installments over a few years. The choice is yours. Every little bit helps.

On my part, I will find major donors who will either augment your funds or match your donations.

We did it before and together we'll do it again.

In this issue, we take you behind the scenes in the last few months preceding the construction of the two elementary school buildings and the activities center. We also bring you heartwarming stories about our alumni who are trying to make a difference in the country.

We tell you about one alumna who discovered her amazing hidden talent and another alumnus who gave up a luxurious life in the US just for the chance to educate his children at IC.

And of course, we continue our Alexander MacLachlan adventure series and trace back the beginnings of the wonderful school known as International College.

I cannot end this note without expressing my deep regrets over the passing away of our Dean of Journalists, Ghassan Tuéni '43.

I am proud to say that he was our alumnus. May he rest in peace.

Once again, I thank you all for your generosity.

Best regards,



Moufid Beydoun '64
Vice President
Alumni & Development



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The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:



Life in Smyrna

In 1820, Reverends Pliny Fisk and Levi Parson established a Protestant Mission base in the ancient town of Smyrna. Sixty-seven years later, Alexander MacLachlan sailed to Tarsus and co-founded a protestant school for boys – today known as The American Tarsus College. A disagreement with his co-founder, however, prompted him to accept an invitation for a holiday in Smyrna. He had heard that there was a need for a boys' school there. If he didn't like the town or if he found there was no need for his services, he decided to simply head back to the US.

If Alexander MacLachlan expected a backward city, he didn't find one. Smyrna was a thriving city in the Ottoman Empire. It was – if the phrase can be coined – the 'Paris of Asia Minor'. It was well-known for its majority Christian population, which comprised of Greeks, Armenians, Levantines, Europeans, and Americans. The city was divided into quarters: the Greek quarter across the city; the European quarter just behind the quayside; the wealthy Armenian quarter nearby, and the Jewish quarter.

It was a friendly arrangement. All were enjoying a bourgeoisie lifestyle, enjoying dining in opulent hotels, reveling in



Smyrna harbor

imported foods, and frequenting lavish clubs. The many banks and at least seven postal systems (each country set up its own next to the Ottoman system) were further testimony of the city's prosperity. Just beyond, were the overcrowded and dilapidated quarter of the Turks, most of whom were artisans and craftsmen. The most recent arrivals were the Americans who set up their homes in a large colony just outside the city: 'Paradise'. It was here that MacLachlan would eventually build his vision of a school: International College.

But at this moment in 1890, MacLachlan was solely preoccupied with Rose Blackler, the daughter of an American businessman who moved to Smyrna in 1844 to open a trading store. She was a teacher at the American Collegiate Institute – a Protestant girls' school in Smyrna. A year later, on 14 February 1891, they married. Rose would later prove to be instrumental in founding IC and supporting her husband through many upcoming trials and tribulations.

While in Smyrna, MacLachlan realized that there was a strong need for a boys' school. He knew he was the man for the job but the decision had to come from the

American Mission Board in Boston. The MacLachlans returned to Tarsus to debate their next move. Should they return to the US or wait around in Tarsus for the Board to make this critical decision?

Spring turned into summer and there was still no word from the Board. The couple was now expecting their first child and MacLachlan was getting increasingly worried. The last ship to Smyrna leaves in early October. This would be his last chance. Finally, in an impromptu move and without the formal consent of Boston (unbeknown to MacLachlan, the Board had indeed approved but slow communication delayed the arrival of the message), the couple boarded the last ship. It was already October and the school year was about to start. Barely two weeks after their arrival and armed with only a promise of \$1000 (later cut to \$500) from the Board to be delivered a few months into the school year, the MacLachlans managed to rent a small building which was previously used as a school. But "Mrs. Bartlett's Boys' School" and its meager leftover equipment were nowhere near MacLachlan's vision for a school. Still, it would have to do for now. He pulled out the few discarded pine desks and put in an order – on credit – for a supply of textbooks,

Smyrna

(Part II)

modern school desks, and a few small maps.

Next, MacLachlan put up flyers around the town and along the two railway lines near the school announcing the opening of the “American Boys’ School”. Aware that Turkish law forbade Turkish children from entering foreign schools, MacLachlan was hoping to attract Armenians and Greeks and so stated very clearly on the flyers – against the Board’s instruction to include the word “Protestant” – he added: “This school is Christian but non-Sectarian”. This statement would remain on all the school’s catalogs and publications for many years to come.

On 15 October 1891, the school opened its doors and five students were registered. All were Armenians, including a boy called Hadji Nourian. It would be years before MacLachlan discovered that the boy was actually a Turk and his parents cleverly added the Armenian patronymic ‘ian’ to his surname.

MacLachlan also cleverly managed to find a way to evade the strong scrutiny of the “Karakol” – Turkish police station – directly opposite the school. The school could be accessed by a back alley which allowed MacLachlan to turn a blind eye to Turkish boys wishing to attend the school.

Despite his arduous attempts, MacLachlan could solicit little, if any, help from the US Board. His little school, he realized, was effectively on its own. But the Canadian farmer was not one to succumb to failure. He believed too much in his mission.

“To stunt our growth at this point would mean stagnation and failure,” he wrote in a 1937 self-published autobiography *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*, of which only a handful of copies are currently in existence. “We had no alternative but to allow the school to continue to develop on its merits, as it already had demonstrated its right to exist and capacity of self-reliance.”

Meanwhile, the student body was growing steadily as the school gained a favorable reputation in town. Its success even surprised MacLachlan himself. But there



The Turkish quarter of Smyrna with the castle of Mt. Pagus in the background



Dining room 1896

was talk that the owner was willing to sell the place to the first buyer that showed up at his doorstep. The MacLachlans would essentially lose their school if that were to happen. There was only one thing to do: buy it themselves. But the asking price of £3000 was well beyond the school’s meager financial capacity. In a goodwill gesture, the owner offered the school a deduction of £1000 if MacLachlan purchased it immediately.

By pure coincidence, on that very evening, another Reverend and his wife were invited to the MacLachlan’s home for dinner. By way of conversation, the guests told them that the “London Jewish Mission” was getting ready to buy the school and convert it into a hospital. Shocked, MacLachlan realized he was about to lose his school. Suddenly, the guests excused themselves to another room. When they returned, they gave MacLachlan a startling proposition: they would be prepared to give him £2000 immediately to purchase the building.

“Praise the Lord, the building is ours,” cried out MacLachlan when he received the approval of the proposal from the US Board. The minister rushed to the owner and made the offer. The Armenian owner, Takvor Spartali, honored his promise and deducted the remaining £1000.

On impulse, MacLachlan delivered a speech about the need to make more space for his students. Other than general repairs, the long stable extension and the carriage building containing the servants’ quarters would have to be converted into large classrooms. So would Mr Spartali kindly donate £200?

Spartali did not seem too happy. “Surely having presented you with £1000 to make possible your purchase of the property, you are not serious in asking me to make a further gift?” he said. “If you really mean it seriously, I will refuse to talk further with you.”

But MacLachlan only laughed and assured him that yes that was exactly what he was doing. After all, MacLachlan argued, the school was serving the Greek community in Smyrna was it not?

Spartali eyed him curiously for a little while. “I’ll give you another £100,” he finally said and wrote MacLachlan a check. MacLachlan walked away on top of the world. The school was finally theirs.

To be continued...

‘The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan: Part III’ in the Winter Newsletter.

Historical information based on: an interview with Dr. Howard Reed (summer 2011); Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey, by Alexander MacLachlan, 1937.



Flansburgh President David Croteau, Trustee Maya Tohme, Trustee Imad Taher '58, President John Johnson, Senior VP Mishka Mourani

Just a few more months...



Mishka Mourani and David Croteau

There's a palpable sense of something in the air these days around IC. Relief for some; anticipation for others; excitement for many.

All eyes and thoughts are only on one thing: the new IC elementary school buildings will be completed and handed over in October 2012 – only a few short months away.

How it all began...

It all started in 2009 when after 10 years of negotiations with AUB, the IC Ras Beirut campus was purchased. This effectively meant that IC was now free to make any changes it saw fit. The Reynolds Hall – formerly the British Embassy – was to be transferred to AUB. IC desperately needed a new elementary school. In anticipation, IC had already been working on a master plan for the entire campus. Once the purchase was finalized, the school's Buildings and Grounds Committee started the search for the right

architectural firm. In 2008, Flansburgh Architects, a US firm specializing in the design of educational institutions, was hired. Joined by local architectural firm, Khatib and Alami, they unveiled their design which consisted of three buildings – North and West would be used for classrooms while the South would house recreational facilities (including an indoor gym and theatre) that would serve the entire student body. The South Building would also house the school's central plant. Moreover, the buildings would be LEED certified (authenticated to be environmentally friendly) with a Gold rating. The committee literally poured over the designs for weeks on end. There were many decisions to take. "Tough decisions," recalled **Imad Taher '58**, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, "every step of the way." Consultants were called in and architects were extensively questioned. These buildings were like no other. These are

structures that must be built around the school's existing educational program – a move that would be changing the standards in IC's educational system. The committee studied every aspect conceivable. Was something missing? Do these plans project the needs of the school for the future? Do they preserve the natural environment?

"The most difficult decision was actually to agree on a conceptual design because this was the defining moment," said Taher. "Once you accept the final design you are hooked to that. It is irreversible."

Finally, the design was deemed perfect. The Board gave its approval. In November 2010, the ground was broken. There was no going back.

And so began IC's first major construction project since a century ago.

"Do I feel a little anticipation?" said Taher.

"Of course. There's always a little apprehension to see whether the result will come out exactly as you had envisioned. But I feel that we are watching a new transformation for IC and these buildings are the first landmarks of this big change."

Money – lots of it - would help...

In 2009, the Partnership for Excellence Campaign was launched. The goal was to raise \$55m not only to cover the cost of the new elementary school, but also to finance a master plan which would include the renovations of the IC's historical buildings and the building of a new middle school. Another master plan is being drawn up for the Ain Aar campus. Alumni, parents, and IC friends were approached. It was essentially up to them to fund the project.

Enter Vice President for Alumni and Development, Moufid Beydoun. The 1964 alumnus, a public relations natural, was tasked with the challenge.

And so the travels began and still continue. Every few months, Beydoun – frequently accompanied by IC President John Johnson – heads to the US, Europe, and the Arab countries. Many alumni reunions and meetings are held. Speeches are given and pledges collected (see Development section).

"It's worth it," said Beydoun, who despite the hectic traveling schedule always seems jovial. "This is something that I have been dreaming about for a long time. We worked on it so much that I never thought it would actually happen." Far from being disturbed by the construc-



"This is something that I have been dreaming about for a long time. We worked on it so much that I never thought it would actually happen."

tion racket just beyond his office window, Beydoun smiled contently.

"I'm very proud," he said, "especially that a good part of my work was to help secure the financing of these buildings. They are our babies."

Thousands of hours later....

On the last floor in Thomson Hall, Johnson and Senior Vice President, Mishka Mourani, are conferring in the president's office. The mundane budget talks aside, they are continuing the never-ending discussions about the new elementary

school. Over the past two years, Johnson has become well versed in every detail of the new buildings – he had to, seeing that his speeches at various IC reunions are instrumental in soliciting the needed funds. Recently, however, he's been facing another challenge: furnishing the three buildings. For the past few weeks, directors and interior architects (with the advice of international school consultants) have been trying to figure out and choose the suitable fittings and equipment – a rather overwhelming task. "Relief?" he said. "I won't feel any relief



David Croteau, John Johnson in front of the South Building

until the furniture is in place, the kids are moved in, and all the bugs ironed out.” His eyes suddenly sparkle. “But I am very excited,” he said. “When people see the new school they are going to say: ‘wow!’ And then they are going to say: ‘what about the rest of the school?’”

Mourani listened attentively. Out of the players in this latest chapter, she is the earliest witness to IC’s modern history. Hired as an English teacher in 1975 when still in college herself, she wore many hats, including the director of the elementary school from 1987 to 1992, and was pivotal in heralding in the latest education methods in IC’s curriculum. In only a few short months, she will be walking into buildings especially designed to fit an education program that she envisioned many years before.

“I can’t wait for our kids to move in,” she said. “I’m very excited about it.”

At the moment, however, she is still trying to get her head clear of the “thousands and thousands of hours we spent discuss-

ing everything from false ceilings to copper piping to PVC”, she said laughing. “I think I will only feel the exhilaration once the building is finally in use.”

Overtime but who’s counting?

But when it comes down to it, the daily grind of moving into the new buildings will fall on the shoulders of current elementary school director, Julia Kozak. It will really be up to her to assess what is working and what isn’t. Only two years ago, she dreaded the move. She had grown to love Reynolds Hall and in fact lovingly made many changes to the old British Embassy building. It didn’t look crowded but “cozy”, as she put it.

But as the new buildings began to take shape, she couldn’t help joining in the excitement. Until an unfortunate fall broke her leg a few weeks ago, she was walking daily to the construction site and noting the progress.

The work ahead for her and her team is enormous. There will undoubtedly be

many overtime hours. “I know there are going to be glitches that come along,” she said. “It’s going to be exhausting and we know it.”

Many decisions are still up in the air. Should recess be staggered? Should the schedule change? Many questions will only be clarified once the move is complete. “There are many people with a vast wealth of experience and expertise who are collaborating together to answer concerns and questions,” she said. “It’s going to be great. We have wonderful memories at Reynolds Hall but we will say goodbye and celebrate a new beginning.”

Behind the scenes...

In his workplace – squeezed in the corner of the Alumni office in Thomson Hall – Youssef Abi Abdallah, the Director of Facilities, is swamped with maps. His job is to make sure that designs are executed as planned, on time, and according to the budget. At times, he has been seen smiling widely; other times, he admi-

rably showed much self-restraint. As the deadline of October approaches and everything is going as planned, he seems undeniably relieved.

There have been unexpected problems. The ground, for one thing, turned out to be rockier than expected. Delay. Later on, some cavities were discovered. The shoring system had to be redesigned to stabilize the ground. The delay would have been minimal except that the excavators should have had - but did not have - the proper resources on hand. More delay. "It's a chain reaction," he said. "If one thing gets delayed then everything else gets delayed. It was very frustrating." The good news, however, was that no archeological finds were discovered. Although exciting, an archeological find (a possibility in a city continuously inhabited for more than 5,000 years) would have caused a significant setback.

Finally, the excavations were over and Abi Abdallah sighed with relief. Unfortunately, the delay in the excavation means that there will be a delay in the construction of one of the buildings. Fortunately, that building— South Building – is for recreational purposes. Classrooms will not be affected. Now, he can focus on implementing the design. Fortunately, the chosen contractor proved to be efficient and well-equipped. "Of course we encountered problems," he said. "But they are normal construction problems you may have in any construction site."

Any glitches that suddenly appear in the process were effectively the contractor's domain now. Except for the South Building, it is up to them to deliver the buildings as planned on 1st October, 2012.

And the clock ticks...

In his makeshift white cubicle, tucked into the corner of the construction site - just one of many spread over two floors and comprising the projects' engineers, architects, safety inspectors, secretaries, and project managers - Richard El Cham, the site's project manager from MAN Enterprise, seems - well - stressed. The center of his world at the moment is the looming and ever approaching deadline.

The clock ticks.

"All engineers must report to work on Sundays from now on," he suddenly declared. He and his team are basically in charge of the project from A to Z, including indoor finishing.

"We'll make it, we'll make it," he said nodding emphatically. Still, he admitted, it's been "stressful".

In a volatile Middle East region, 'surprises' can be common but even he didn't foresee half of his construction workers disappearing when the uprising in Syria began. A large number of the Syrian workforce suddenly fled from Lebanon at one point leaving El Cham with barely a handful of laborers. Lebanese workers apparently refused to replace them.

The clock ticks.

In desperation, El Cham considered employing Indian workers. Fortunately, after some monetary incentives, El Cham managed to lure his workers back. (Ironically, as the Syrian uprising continued, he later found himself inundated with laborers).

To rush things along, he was granted permission to extend working hours until 8pm (instead of 6pm). But neighbors complained and El Cham had to stop. But that clock keeps ticking.

More unforeseen problems were encountered. Materials coming from or through Syria could no longer be delivered. The clock ticks.

El Cham looked elsewhere. Finally, a sea

shipment of much needed gravel just arrived from Greece.

He quickly initiated a recovery plan and his 400 or so laborers were put into action. "We're all on edge now," he said. "If we were driving a plane before we are driving a rocket now. We are in full acceleration mode."

And the clock ticks...

What excitement?

Unperturbed by the excitement around them, the workers continue their daily tasks. Syrian national Ibrahim Bardawil, 26, shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly. As long as he does a good job here, he knows that MAN will hire him again. "I'll just move on to another project when this is done."

As for Hassan Sharidi, 32, the end of any project means that he can take a longer holiday in his Syrian hometown with his wife and three children. "But I just have to finish here first," he said.

It's just another day's work.

According to the master plan, subsequent phases include the renovation of the existing buildings and the construction of a new middle school, scheduled to begin in 2013. The Ain Aar campus will have its own master plan, which includes the building of an indoor recreational center.

For donations to the Partnership for Excellence Campaign, contact Moufid Beydoun at mbeydoun@ic.edu.lb or call: 961 1367420.



IC translates NETS into Arabic and French

IC has done it again. It can proudly boast that it has taken the lead in guiding all Arabic and French speaking schools around the world into following educational technological guidelines.

These guidelines, called NETS, are issued by the The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), which specializes in advancing the effective use of technology in schools. The NETS, more specifically, sets various levels of standards (for teachers, students, and administrators) to efficiently integrate IT into the classroom.

Mahmud Shihab, IT's Educational Technology Program Administrator, came across the NETS in 1999 when the IT component in the Lebanese curriculum had not yet been updated. In search of new guidelines, "I started exploring and came across ISTE's books and standards," recalled Shihab, "and we started using them a little bit."

In 2000, IC rewrote its entire curriculum and subsequently initiated the gradual disintegration of stand-alone computer classes and the introduction of fully integrated IT classes.

Ten years later, the school began revising the curriculum again. By this time, IT was fully and successfully implemented into the classrooms with Shihab adhering to the NETS guidelines. Over the past few years, he has attended many ISTE conferences and workshops and, in 2010, was appointed as an ISTE Ambassador for the Middle East region.

While revising and developing the IT component of the curriculum, Shihab came across a considerably large obstacle. The NETS were only available in English, therefore excluding their application to the school's French and Arabic programs. "How could we ask French and Arabic



language teachers to revise their curriculums using English language standards?" he said.

Shihab quickly realized there was only one thing to do. "We had to translate them ourselves," he said. ISTE seemed thrilled with the idea and asked Shihab to later share the translations.

This was easier said than done. The project may not have seemed much at first glance but saturated with highly technical IT terminology. "Every single keyword in the NETS could be expanded into books," said Shihab. "Standards are supposed to expand into activities. If you don't use the right word, you have the wrong activities. It was a big responsibility to find just the right word, especially in Arabic."

With the aid of Ghinwa Sabra, IC's on-site translator, Shihab threw himself into the task. He admits to being stumped many times but "it was a challenge," he said. "There wasn't a reference or dictionary that I didn't look into."

After two months of intensive researching and writing, Shihab finally announced the completion of the translation. IC could now move on with writing its IT curriculum.

In April, ISTE published the translated NETS on its website for the use of all Arabic and French speaking schools worldwide. Shihab was profiled in the prestigious Learning and Leading with Technology Magazine with an article aptly titled "Bringing the NETS to the Middle East and Beyond" (March/April 2012 issue)

"I experienced how wonderful the NETS can be," said Shihab. "Other schools many not know about it because it wasn't written in their language. But now they can see for themselves. IC has indeed pioneered the use of NETS standards in French and Arabic worldwide. It feels really good to have had a hand in it."

The NETS in English, French and Arabic can be found: <http://www.iste.org/standards.aspx>



Teacher's Day Dinner at the Phoenicia Hotel

Retiring

Miss Lama Khayr – Ain Aar
Mr. Rida Saleh – Secondary School

45 Years of Service

Mr. Miled Khoury – Pre School

35 Years of Service

Mrs. Samia Boulad – All College
Mr. Ibrahim Farhat – Elementary School
Mrs. Gladys Haddad – AA- Lower Elementary
Mrs. Maha Okaily –Elementary School

25 Years of Service

Miss Mona Beyhum- Elementary School

Mrs. Mahitab Feyttrouni- Elementary School
Mrs. Hala Hamiyeh- Middle School
Mrs. Wadad Hoss – Middle School
Mrs. Danielle Khati- Pre School
Mrs. Ghada Maalouf – Pre School
Mrs. Samira Morcos- Elementary School
Mrs. Randa Sabbah – All College
Mrs. Mary Sakr – Elementary School
Mrs. Mireille Tavitian- Middle School

AWARDS

Albert Abella Distinguished Teacher Awards:

Miss Victoria Abboud (Sec), Mrs. Nayla Abou Fadel (Pre AA), Miss Mona

Beyhum (Elem), Mrs. Mary-Helen Gholam (Upper AA), Mrs. Rola Haj Ismail Fallaha(Elem), (Elem), Mrs. Rabia Kaddah (Mid), Mrs. Fatima Kammoun (Pre), Mrs. Jocelyne Kobeissi (Sec), Miss Jaana Lundholm (AA), Mrs. Fatmeh Turbah (Mid), Mr. Adel Yamout(Elem)

Randa Khoury Innovation in Teaching Award: Mr. Dagher Mehanna

Edmond Tohme Outstanding Educator Award: Miss Lama Khayr

George O. Debbas Staff Awards: Mr. Ziad Hanoun & Mrs. Vicky Sakr

Ain Aar kids present wheelchair to the disabled

Three years ago, the Parents' Committee, in collaboration with IC Ain Aar, planned to put a smile on the face and brighten the day of a misfortunate person. Since then, we have been encouraging our children to collect plastic caps for the recycling program 'Bouchons Roulants' of Arcenciel. This simple act not only contributed to helping the environment, but also enabled them to collect one ton of plastic caps (approximately 500,000 caps).

On May 9th, the representatives of the classes visited Arcenciel, and were offered a tour by Mr. Michel, who was maneuvering around on his wheelchair with pride. He explained all the main features of the equipment used and required by a handicapped person as well as how they are manufactured. A wheelchair was presented to Arcenciel, who will then donate it to someone in need.



Francophone Competition



IC Junior and Senior Choirs were selected as the best choirs of the 2012 Francophone de Chant competition held at UNESCO Palace in March. Choirs were directed by IC's Head of the Music Department, Randa Sabbah.



Opera

CM2 grade performing a selection of Arias



The Big Dance

Twenty middle school students participated in the 2012 Big Dance, a huge global dance event held in Nijmeh Square in Downtown Beirut on May 18th - the same day the Olympic Torch arrived to the UK. Over 1,000 students from schools across Lebanon erupted into a choreographed and well-rehearsed dance routine inspired by the Olympics and provided to the schools (through a DVD) by the British Council. Broadcast live, they were performing simultaneously with thousands of others around the world.



Participants were part of an attempt to set a new world record for the largest dance routine across multiple venues. Big Dance was founded in 2006 by the Mayor of London in partnership with Arts Council England. It is part of London's Legacy Trust UK program. The school dance program aims at increasing cross-cultural relationships between participating countries while encouraging children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. More than two million people have taken part in the project since it began.

PYP Exhibition

The Primary Years Program Exhibition (PYPX) was held in May and opened to parents. The exhibition marks the last PYP project before fifth graders graduate to the middle school. Their final project encompasses all the skills they have been learning since preschool, which include research, inquiry, communication, presentation, social, writing, and IT skills. Every PYPX project is required to have a service component. Fifth graders are divided into groups – with a mentor (teacher or parent) assigned to each.





IB/IC in-cooperation workshops
summer 2011

IC to host IB/IC in-cooperation workshops

For the fourth year in a row, IC's Educational Recourse Center (ERC) will host the IB/IC in-cooperation workshops on campus this summer. The three-day workshops are aimed towards IB and non-IB schools which have adopted the PYP (Primary Years Programme) in their preschool and elementary levels. So far, over 60 educators from Lebanon, various other Arab countries, and Europe have registered. PYP teachers - including IC teachers, many of whom are attending the workshops - are required by the International Baccalaureate Organization to take IB approved workshops. "It's an invaluable international event bringing together educators from various educational systems and backgrounds to explore and discuss common concerns and to gain insight into each other's experience," said ERC Director Lina Mouchantaf. The workshop topics are: the role of ICT in PYP; the role of mathematics and PYP action; and the role of IC in PYP.



IB Art Exhibit

The 2012 IB2 VISUAL ARTS SHOW was held in the downtown souks of Beirut in March. For the past year and a half, students - led by Director of the Art Department, Samia Boulad - have been preparing for the Art Exhibit - part of the IB program coursework. As dictated by the IB program, an IB officer flew in to inspect the students' work. The results will be out during the summer.

Artwork by:
Lara Inja
Holly Gavin
Racha el Khalil
Yasmeen Arkadan
Sarah Sibli
Leah Soweid
Juliana Nahhas
Dana Kayssi
Nader Taher
Nadia Asfour
Selina Shawki



International Day

Yet again, International Day proved to be hugely popular this year as around 2500 people showed up to watch elementary and middle school students from Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campuses perform the songs and dances of various countries (thanks to the uncanny predictions of IC's physical plant, almost all were able to find seats!). This year's nations included Bulgaria, Ireland, Macedonia, Ukraine, China, Japan, Pakistan, and Venezuela. Grade 3/CE2 and Grade 6/sixième students have been studying their assigned countries for the past few weeks. Following the performances held at the IC football field, guests were treated to the delectable national dishes of each country – mostly served by the happy but tired mothers, who had wholeheartedly joined their children in researching and preparing the dishes for "their" respective countries.



Middle School students participate in Math competition



IC middle school students, French and English sections, participated in a math competition in March. Run by "Maths Sans Frontières" and conducted in Lebanon under the supervision of the GREM (Groupe de reflexion en Mathématiques), the competition is an interclass initiative for all French "homologuées" and "conventionnées" schools. The competition was translated by the IC math department in English to give a chance for English section students to participate as well. The aim of the competition is to emphasize group work spirit and encourage students to solve problems based on real life scenarios which require math skills. The results are out: 5th C (Ras Beirut) gained the 3rd price among all Seconde/ 5th in Lebanon and the 6eme B (Ain Aar) gained the 2nd price with another school among all 6eme/ 1st.



The Giving Tree

*"Once there was a tree,
and she loved a little boy."
- Shel Silverstein, The Giving Tree*

On my daily walk around the campus, I came across a scene that filled me with delight: A bunch of preschoolers [Class of 2026!] sat at the foot of IC's landmark Banyan tree, in the company of their teacher. She was reading Shel Silverstein's classic story *The Giving Tree*! To complete the moment, I saw that the teacher was an alumna of IC, Rasha Fakhreddin, Class of 2006. A perfect picture of IC students past and present, under IC's signature tree, that has provided shade and more to many, reading about giving! There, in the shade of that old Banyan tree, the IC Spirit bloomed.

*"Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest."
And the boy did.
And the tree was happy."*

*Mishka Mojabber Mourani
Senior Vice President*

Carnival Ain Aar 2012



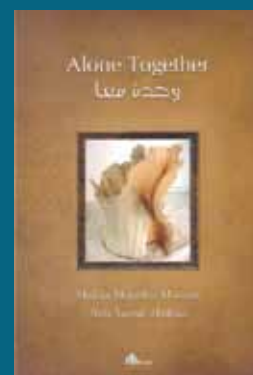
Ain Aar students go on many field trips

Since field trips help students interact with what they are learning, the teachers at Ain Aar have been organizing numerous ones all over town. It's been a welcome break in the routine. Students look forward to and prepare for the field trip for several days, spend the day in a different environment, then complete a lesson on the topic covered after the trip is over. Learning in assorted ways can appeal to varied learning styles, helping children to succeed whether they are visual (seeing), auditory (hearing), kinesthetic (moving), or tactile (touching) learners.



Alone Together

"Alone Together" is a collection of poems in two languages that resulted from a correspondence that started by post and continued virtually. **Aida Y. Haddad** lives in Washington DC. She used to live in Athens. She writes in Arabic. **Mishka Mojabber Mourani** (IC Senior Vice President) lives in Beirut. She writes in English. They have been sharing their writing, and translating each other's work, across continents and years. This book began as an airmail correspondence between them when Aida lived in Greece. The letters eventually became emails and travelled between the USA and Lebanon. Dualities of space, time and language were very much a part of "Alone, Together." (Excerpt from back cover)



Class of 1963 - then & now



1. I. Shammass, P. Afnan,
2. U. Tulcan, F. Fakh,
A. Shehrastani, M. Shehadeh.



Picture courtesy of Issam Shammass

Elie Sehnaoui resigns

After 40 years of service, Elie Sehnaoui '56 announced his resignation from the IC Board of Trustees for personal reasons. His love for the school spurred him to donate around 3000 titles, DVDs, CDs, and videos to IC's library earlier this year for the benefit of future generations. In 1982, he donated enough funds to build an Olympic swimming pool at IC's Bchamoun Campus both in his name and the name of his late wife, Caroline (Cally) Rogers Neill. (Unfortunately, Israeli warplanes attacked the very day the pool was to be inaugurated and destroyed the entire campus). In the 1980s, he established the Callie and Elie Sehnaoui MIT Teacher Training Fund, allowing IC teachers to attend MIT's annual educational conferences.

For Sehnaoui, some of his lifetime memories are those of his Alma Mater.

Q: What does IC mean to you?

A: When I joined the 'classe de 6e' in late 1949, it offered the best liberal and quality education, plus sports, and a strong formation of a sound and reliable character, plus developing our thinking abilities and expressing them somewhat freely. These attributes are not as well developed at other schools. I also enjoyed discovering scouting; its principles and fun activities. IC still means the same thing, and though close to the top, it can still improve in several areas.

Q: What is your fondest memory at IC?

A. The eagerness French and Science teachers had to make us love their subjects – they did so for the most part – and very successfully. The somewhat relaxed and friendly atmosphere between students and many teachers. I developed some of my best and strongest friendships ever with some IC schoolmates.

Q: Why did you decide to join the Board?

A. I didn't. One doesn't. One is invited to join. Perhaps under the encouragement of my good friend, the late Bob Groulx, then President of Mobil Oil, Lebanon; also my dear friend Makram Alamuddin. Makram and I had lunch with the late Tom Schuller, then IC's President, at the Saint George Hotel to discuss the eventual IC Board of Trustees' invitation for me to join.

Q: What are the achievements that you are most proud of?

A. Perhaps IC prepared me best for my higher education at Loughborough University in the UK, MIT in the US, and INSEAD in France. The French language and literature were of a very high level, certainly equal if not better – in my days – than the Jesuit and other top French schools; and though English was a secondary language to those of us in the French Program, IC offered a strong learning of its principal language taught mostly by English and American teachers in my days.

Q: What are your future hopes for IC?

A. The successful expansion and completion of its construction development programs in Ras Beirut and Ain Aar, with new installations and equipment that will improve its learning environment, the new trends in education, and the use of 21st century tools.

Dinners and Events

The Partnership for Excellence campaign continued strongly this spring as Vice President for Alumni and Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64**, made his way to Geneva, London, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Jordan.

Accompanied by IC President John Johnson, Mr. Beydoun's first stop this spring was in Geneva to attend the IC alumni annual reception organized by Mr. John McCarthy and sponsored by Banque Audi (Suisse) and attended by over 60 alumni and friends.

In London, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Beydoun met Mr. **Marzouk Badr '87**, Mr. **Fouad Maalouf '56**, Mr. **Kareem Sakka '82**, Mr. Imad Fathalla, Mr. **Faisal al Kudsi '67**, and Mr. **Saad Mattar '69**.

In Jeddah, he met with Mr. **Saeed Hatlani '72**, Mr. **Nabil al Zaben '68**, and Mr. **Said Baarima '70** who are setting up a fund for all Saudi IC alumni in Jeddah. Mr. Beydoun then met with Sheikh **Mohammed Basamah '65** who generously offered to match all contributions to the fund. A meeting was also held with Mr. **Mohamed El Zameli '81** who is forming a group of Lebanese IC alumni residing in Jeddah. Other meetings were also held with Mr. Mohammed al Fadel and Mr. **Samir Kreidieh '65**.

In Riyadh, it was a pleasure seeing Sheikh **Mohammed Al Soleiman '59** and attending an IC alumni dinner hosted by Mr. **Mohamad Rayes '67** at his home.

In Al Khobar, meetings were held with Sheikh **Khalid Al Turki '61** and Dr. **Marwan Gholmieh '65**. Mr. Beydoun also met many Al Khobar alumni gathered at an IC alumni dinner hosted by Mr. **Fathi Coptan '74**.

In Dubai, Mr. Beydoun was joined by IC President John Johnson and the Director of Annual Fund and Alumni Affairs, Ghandi Fala, in attending an IC alumni dinner organized by Mr. **Karim Ghandour '89** at the Fairmont Hotel.

Messrs Beydoun and Johnson continued on to Abu Dhabi and met with Mr. **Sami Sidawi '59** and were joined by Mr. **Farid**

Geneva



IC alumni annual reception organized by Mr. John McCarthy and sponsored by Banque Audi (Suisse)

Fakhreddine '85. A meeting was also held with Mr. Elias Salloum.

After returning briefly to Lebanon, Messrs Johnson and Beydoun traveled to Jordan to meet with Mr. **Issa Halabi '78** and attend an IC alumni dinner hosted by Mr. **Said Darwazah '76**.

In May, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Beydoun, IC

Vice President Mishka Mourani, and Chief Financial Officer Talal Jundi traveled to London where the Board was meeting. It was a great opportunity to attend an Alumni Board Dinner hosted by Board Member, Mr. **Fouad Malouf '56**. Another wonderful dinner was organized by Mr. **Oussama Kaddoura '74** in Paris.

London



Board meeting in London

London



Fred Crawford, Karim Karjian '64, Fouad Malouf '56, Mavis Haddad



Anwar Al Mulla '63, Ahmad Tayeb, William Turner, Maya Tohme

Riyadh



Samir Kabbara, Moufid Beydoun '64, Mohamad Rayess '67, Maher Mahmasani '65



Riyadh alumni with host Mohamad Rayess '67

Al Khobar



Al Khobar alumni with host Fathi Coptan '74



IC Alumni Dinner in Al Khobar

Dubai



Ned Jaroudi '83, Nasser Saidi '69, Imad Ghandour '85



Karim Ghandour '89, Elias Hanna '61

Jordan



Salma Jaouni '91, Moufid Beydoun '64, Marianna Darwazah, John Johnson, Said Darwazah '76



Dinner in Jordan hosted by Said Darwazah '76

Paris



IC Alumni Dinner in Paris hosted by Oussama Kaddoura '74



Oussama Kaddoura '74, Luigi Molinari '74, Samir Tannous '74, Rafic Abou Fadel '79

DC dinner

Alumni dinner held in Washington DC on April 18 hosted by Hind Soufi Ahdab '87 in her home.

Hind Soufi Ahdab '87, Rami Soufi '95



Rabi Shatila '63, Basim Kattan '78, Camille Nowfel '38



IC Alumni dinner in DC





Dr. Ali Ghandour '50



IC Spring Luncheon
at the Phoenicia Hotel

IC Spring Luncheon



Seated: Nader Hariri, Saad Azhari '80,
Omar Shawaf
Standing: Moufid Beydoun '64, John
Johnson

Over 170 parents attended an IC Spring Luncheon on May 16th at the Phoenicia Hotel. Guest speaker, Dr. Ali Ghandour '50 – president of ARAB trading and Technology, was presented with a Partnership for Excellence campaign plaque.

Ghandour attributed much of his success in life to his days at IC. "IC helped shape the man I became and the life I lived," he said during his speech. "Of the many memories that make up my life, there is none that tugs at the heart and lifts the spirit quite like IC."



Mishka Mourani, Ali Ghandour '50, John
Johnson



Walid Sleiman '63, Najah Taher, Imad Taher '58, Jad Taher '91, Lola Suleiman, Yusuf Kan'an '71

Help and Heal:

IC Mom reaches out to the children of 'the hill'

Twelve years later, Marina Kettaneh still looks rather overwhelmed.

"I'm not sure how all this started really," she said laughing. "But I know that I can't just seem to stop."

The mother of three IC children was attending a bible study session with a group of women in 1999 when some nuns approached them. They told them about a hill in the Roueissat area (near Jdeideh) where families were living in poverty stricken slums. The nuns were part of the "Mission Enfance" – an organization founded by a Monacan priest in 1991 which supports children in distress and does its best to cater for them. But they need help. Would the women be willing to provide some food for the families of the 'hill'?

Curious, Kettaneh immediately went to visit the 'hill' – home to about 35,000 residents. Until this day, tears stream down her cheeks when she recalls the scenes.

"It was awful," she said. "I had never seen such poverty. There were kids with scurvy. In one household, there was garbage on the floor and excrement on the bed. Seven children lived with an alcoholic father. I had to stop myself from crying in front of them." Even more humbling, she stood silently as the nuns began cleaning up the mess. The nuns had chosen to live on the 'hill' and opened their center to residents in need.

The women's weekly bible studies soon turned into visits to the 'hill' as they tugged bags of food with them.

A year later, Kettaneh suggested buying Christmas presents for some of the center's children. The women agreed. Unbeknown to Kettaneh, she had just launched a tradition that would stay and expand in the years to come.

As children do, each one had a Christmas wish and Kettaneh found herself staring at a long list of presents.

She knew then that she had just gotten herself involved in a much bigger project that she and her small group of women couldn't possibly handle. Quitting was out of the question. There was only thing to do: turn to the more affluent women in the country.

Fortunately, she is one of them. "I am privileged," she said. "I have been privileged all my life."

Well, she thought to herself, let's give these children some hope.

She soon became known as "Marina with a list in her bag". Luncheons and dinners were never the same as Kettaneh approached friends with her lists. Would they buy a present for a child? One by one she checked the children's names off the lists. The bemused nuns approached her one day and wondered if she could help them out in setting up a summer camp for the center's children. Kettaneh immediately found herself offering to provide the food to feed several dozen children. And friends found themselves approached

displayed some items she had bought from her trips around Europe. To her surprise, she quickly sold out.

Over the next few years she expanded the bazaar – and her group of supporters. "We kept selling and selling," she said. She was finally making a noticeable profit – extra money which immediately went to hire the services of a psychologist, a full-time teacher, and a speech therapist for the now expanded center. She is currently looking for a librarian for Help and Heal's newly donated library at the center. Friends were becoming more involved. One took over the responsibility for the Christmas lists, another chose the books for the library, and one raised money for vaccinations (after a hepatitis outbreak in the 'hill').

Kettaneh and her partners soon involved their own children and had them selling Christmas cookies for the organization.

In April 2010, Kettaneh was diagnosed with breast cancer. She thought of "her" children's faces opening their presents at Christmas. She thought of her own three children who had been promised a long summer holiday in Spain.

"Nothing is going change," she said determinately. "I am not changing my life because of cancer. I will continue to get those Christmas presents and my family is going to Spain. If I can

fight cancer here, I can fight cancer there." Kettaneh underwent surgery to remove the tumor and began her chemotherapy treatment. She continued to run Help and Heal as before and the family went on their holiday exactly as scheduled (with chemotherapy sessions in Spain). Six months later, Kettaneh received a clean bill of health. Unfazed, she continues to run Help and Heal with her usual zest. "We will consider ourselves successful if we can get just ten kids out of that horrible 'hill'," she said. "All it takes is one person in every family to make it out of there. The rest will follow."

For more info, contact: helpandheal.lebanon@gmail.com



again with new lists that suddenly appeared from Kettaneh's bag: sacks of rice, sacks of flour, gallons of cooking oil, etc. The camp was followed with annual summer trips to Waves resort in Mansourieh (Waves generously waived entrance and meal fees for the first five years), trips to the circus (free or discounted tickets), scholarships, and provisions of much needed vaccines.

A friend suggested a name for her efforts: "Help and Heal". Kettaneh liked it and her organization – albeit unofficial – was born (it became an official NGO in 2012). To survive, however, Help and Heal had to become self-sustainable. So far, Kettaneh had been filling in all the financial gaps. In 2005, with a few friends, she tentatively organized a Christmas Bazaar and

IC or I won't leave!

Would you leave a successful cardiovascular practice, a sprawling home on a green golf course, and twenty-six years of life in the US?

Dr. **Walid Alami '81** did. When his wife suggested the move, Alami was not too thrilled. He was used to living in the US but she wanted their two children to grow up in Lebanon. Alami remembered his best friend, **Basel Fuleihan '81**, who was severely burned during the fatal attack on Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's motorcade in 2005. Fuleihan was subsequently transferred for treatment to Paris where Alami immediately joined him. Sadly, Fuleihan succumbed to his wounds. Hundreds attended his funeral – many of them old IC friends.

"If we stay in the US, my children will never have the kind friends like we did," said Alami. "The friends that will keep in touch and be there for you 35 years later. I know that I can go anywhere in the world and an IC friend will be there for me. That's the culture of IC."

Alami agreed to the move granted that the children will only attend IC – it's the family tradition after all.

Fortunately, the children were accepted and the family moved in 2010. Alami arrived a little later in the spring of 2012. Barely a few weeks after his arrival, Alami is looking a little dazed. "I can't say it's a cultural shock as I've been visiting Lebanon every year," he said. "But it's certainly different." After graduating from IC in 1981, Alami received his MD at the University of Oklahoma and completed his residency and cardiology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. In 1995, he completed his Cardiology and Peripheral Vascular Interventional Fellowship at St. Vincent's Heart Institute in Portland, Oregon. He then moved to Arizona in 1996 where he became the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories, Chairman of the Medicine at the Department, and Director of the Heart Failure Clinic at the Arizona Heart Institute.

In 2008, Alami was the first physician in North America to use a diamond-coated



Dr. Alami with son, Jad

atherectomy device to clear a blocked artery in an arm to prevent an amputation. He was cited in Phoenix magazine as one of the top Interventional Cardiologists in 2010, 2011, and 2012, as voted on by his peers in the medical community. "It's a new start here," he said. "I like to think that I'm bringing new ideas, improving the system with my expertise, and feel that I'm serving my own people." His two children, Nour and Jad, are reportedly thriving at IC and will hopefully be making their own IC memories. Alami's own poignant memory is of 1981

when he and his sister, Rima, walked off with five trophies, including the "athlete of the year award".

Alami's memories are many and he feels "goose bumps" as soon as he arrives on campus. But most important, he added, is "that I can look up old friends in the Torch and call them up. It would be just like yesterday. And this is what I want to give my children."

Dr. Walid Alami has set up his clinic in Clemenceau Medical Center (CMC). For more information, go to: www.alamimd.com



Silent Language

She wasn't picked out as an artist at school. Not even at university. In fact, **Salma El-Turk '77** showed little interest in art herself (well, except for having an amazing knack of crocheting colorful hats for everyone). But after a particularly emotional day four years ago, she grabbed a piece of paper and began to doodle. And doodle. And doodle.

"I had this need to keep going," recalled El-Turk.

And before her astonished eyes her "doodles" became a sophisticated series of line and curves. The lines began to take the shape of a woman's face, elephant or bird. Suddenly, El-Turk knew exactly what she was drawing and the emotions she wanted to convey.

She hasn't been able to stop drawing since. "There were so many emotions that wanted to come out," she said. "My thoughts suddenly became clear in my mind."

The mother of four grown children unrelentingly produced drawing after drawing. It was her daughter who finally grabbed some of her mother's work and showed it to Omayma Soubra, the owner of the Art



Workshop in Hamra. Impressed, Soubra called El-Turk and encouraged her take some formal art lessons.

A year later, El-Turk held her first exhibition (last March) at the Art Workshop. She displayed 51 of her best pieces, including her early work when she started to use colors. Later on, as her talent

unraveled, she used black ink - sometimes tinted with just a dab of colors.

Many aspects of El-Turk's own life are weaved into the designs. "The more I drew, the more I began to realize that part of me is in that picture," said El-Turk. "Most of the drawings are about women. There are many birds too. So somehow I'm in every single design."

The significance of each design depends heavily on the perspective of the observer. El-Turk listened enthralled as visitors translated her drawings into different meanings.

"I don't know myself what they mean until I begin," she said. "I start with my energy, emotions, feelings, pen and paper. I don't where I'm heading. The images come to me as I start making shapes." Hundreds of curves and lines come together to form one of El-Turk's drawings. If one single line gone awry, Turk discards the entire effort. Unruffled, El-Turk starts a new design.

"Drawing is my haven," she said. "I feel like somebody understands me. This is my silent language."



In the summer of 2009 my father was diagnosed with lung cancer. In a few seconds, the safe world that I had known tumbled around me. It was the beginning of a role reversal that would last for 10 months. Suddenly the rock in my life was crumbling. A doctor himself, he took charge at the beginning – as he always did. But all too soon, the chemotherapy and radiations therapy took their toll. His strength was leaving him. “I’m sorry to do this to you,” he told me sadly as he handed the reins of his medical care over to me and my distraught mother.

Stumped, we didn’t know how. Somehow we had to put our emotions aside and become caregivers. But we had never dealt with cancer and didn’t know where to begin. Seeking advice from his oncologist turned out to be useless. Years of dealing with the terminally ill

had long desensitized him. The internet became my best friend. Horrible things happen to cancer patients. Frightening things. At most, we could only watch helplessly. We did the best that we could but I knew it wasn’t enough. I had read about the term “hospice” in the internet: a group of doctors and nurses who voluntarily come to your home and look after a terminally ill patient. They also give the desperately needed compassionate support and advice for caregivers. At that time, hospice didn’t yet exist in Lebanon. If there was a geriatrics care unit we hadn’t heard of it either.

Many times we broke down and cried (out of my father’s sight). We needed hospice care desperately.

On June 8 2010, my father succumbed to his illness and I lost the most caring and loving man that I had ever known. Until this day, our lonely and frightening caregiving days continue to haunt me. My father – and all terminally ill people and their caregivers – deserve better.

These two articles are dedicated to Dr. Fouad Salim Haddad – my father.

Reem Haddad

Dying with Dignity

Those who have been through it know only too well the agonizing frustration and petrifying responsibility of taking care of a terminally ill loved one. Questions are many. Am I doing the right thing? Is this a normal reaction to a medication? Why is he doing this? Should I rush her to the ER? What am I supposed to do now?

The confusion is very scary. You have one chance to do it and do it right. If you don’t, it could be disastrous.

And then, of course, there’s the huge emotional factor of helplessly watching your loved one suffer psychologically and physically. Dr. **Hibah Osman ‘86** had purposefully stayed away from this domain during her doctoral studies in the US and chose what she described as ‘happy medicine’ – “mothers, birth, babies,” she said. “Family medicine.” When she returned from the US, she joined the Department of Family Medicine at AUBMC and successfully practiced her “happy medicine”.

And then came in an elderly patient. She was diagnosed with cancer. Despite her family’s wide knowledge of medical care, they were at a loss. Osman stepped in and began managing her patient’s care. As her family’s anxieties begin to ease, so did her patient. A short while later, the

woman passed away. The family mourned, of course, but there was a distinct feeling of peace in knowing that they had given their mother their best care and allowed her to die with dignity.

It was a turning point for Osman. “I realized what a major difference palliative care can make to patients and their families, and that there is a big need for palliative care in Lebanon,” she said. Most of the time, patients and their families are left on their own to figure out how to manage and deal with an illness. Osman noticed her patients’ stress and confusion and began to look into palliative and hospice care. She attended international workshops and studied hospice care organizations abroad. Finally, she felt ready to found an NGO. Colleagues expressed great interest and before long she had established a five-member Board of Trustees.

Balsam, the Lebanese Center for Palliative Care, was born in 2011 with the aim of giving everyone – regardless of religion and nationality – end-of-life care. Families are never billed for the service. “We completely depend on donations,” explained Osman. “We can’t burden distraught families with bills.”

So far it’s a skeleton staff of seven but the

word is spreading quickly – even quicker than Osman expected. One morning, she received an email from a man residing in Sweden. His mother-in-law, he wrote, lives in a Palestinian camp and is dying from cancer. Her elderly husband is unable to care for her. All her children are abroad. Could Balsam help out?

Osman and her team showed up to the camp and located the woman. Much to the distraught husband’s relief, they took over managing her care. Despite donations, Balsam’s funds remain meager and the woman needed a nurse to bath her regularly. In fact, it was her fear to die while unwashed.

As luck would have it, Osman (mother of three children) was on a play date when she received a call that a nurse was willing to do the job at reduced rates. Still, those rates were beyond Balsam’s capacity. Then and there, the host mother took out her checkbook and offered to pay for all the baths the dying woman needed. A few weeks later, the woman died. She had been bathed that same morning – as was her wish.

“A lot of what we do is social,” said Osman. “The medical part is making sure that the patient is comfortable and not in pain or getting bed sores. But a major part of our job is sitting down and telling the families

what to expect, what to do, and making them feel comfortable in what they are doing. Most of them are lost and scared of doing the wrong thing. There's nothing out there to guide them. I tell them we are here and just a phone call away."

A 2010 study of 151 patients published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* demonstrated that getting early palliative care helped people with lung cancer live three months longer, compared with those given standard care.

Balsam currently boasts a team of Osman, two part-time nurses, one full-time nurse, one psychologist, and a pharmacist. Once a week the team meets and discusses each patient. At the moment, the small team can only cover Beirut but Osman's ultimate goal is to train medical staff all over the country in palliative care. "Everyone should have a right to this care," she said. "In Beirut, in Akkar, in Baalbeck, in the south, everyone."

Taking it a step further, Osman has been lobbying to change laws and policies for palliative care to be recognized in Lebanon (currently, there are major restrictions on medication).

Last May, Balsam and the Lebanese Cancer Society established a committee, under the Ministry of Public Health, to set a strategy for palliative care in Lebanon.

"This is a huge accomplishment," said Osman proudly.

In class, Osman repeatedly tells her medical students that their job ultimately goes well beyond physical care. "Hold their hand," she advises. "Talk to them. Listen to them. Empathize. Put them at ease."

Just a few weeks earlier, Balsam was called in during the last stages of cancer. As soon as the medical team walked in, the patient began to cry. "Look what I've been reduced to," she said. "My children carry me to the bathroom. I feel so humiliated". The Balsam team controlled her pain.

They arranged for the patient to have a portable toilet right next to the woman's bed - making her more independent. An air mattress was placed under her, easing the bed sores creeping up her body. Two days later, the patient died. "You have no idea what you have done for us," her daughter told Osman. "My mother became so much happier and actually got up to have a meal with us."

Sometimes that's all it takes.

"This is the most rewarding thing I have ever done," said Osman. "Yes, I lose my patients. I feel their loss and I cry over them. But at the same time, I know that what we have done for the patients and their families is so immense. We are

giving them back their dignity and their families are in peace."

For more information or donations to Balsam, go to www.balsam-lb.org or call 9611748574.



It's all about CARING

To Dr. **Ramzi Hajjar '83** every patient who walks into his clinic is a friend. He knows only too well, that at this latter stage in life, his patients need to talk. And he is willing to listen. He carefully schedules his appointments to give each patient a full 45 minutes. Even more if they need it. Some only need to be there for a few minutes really, perhaps just to go over some test results.

But it doesn't matter to Hajjar. He quizzes them about their spouses, children, grandchildren, or anything that is bothering them lately. Some burst into tears as they talk about lost loved ones. Others impart age-old wisdom to an eager listener.

It may seem like chit-chat. But actually it's the best therapy for the elderly. "Most of them are lonely," he said. "They may be widows, single, childless, or have children who live abroad. They need to talk. That's just as therapeutic as giving them medicine for their arthritis."

On his desk is a big bowl of colorful tablets – easily mistaken for delectable candy. "These are the medicines I confiscate from my patients," he chuckled. "You would be surprised how much unnecessary medications are prescribed to the elderly. I just tell them to hand them over."

He has repeatedly noted that loneliness and inactivity are the worst enemies of the elderly. That's when pain and aches seem to increase. A big part of geriatrics is to keep healthy elderly – healthy.

His patients need him to care. And he does. He cares enough to follow up patient visits with personal telephone calls "to ease their burden of having to come to the clinic all the time," he said. He cares enough to visit terminally ill patients at home free of charge.

But, he sighs, it's a lonely job. The need is great but how much can one geriatrician accomplish on his own?



Unfortunately, Lebanon's care for its elderly – which comprise 9% of the population (among the Arab countries, Lebanon has the oldest population) – is characterized by a health care system which drops them once they retire, costly private insurance (completely rejected if over 70), lack of retirement communities, gloomy nursing homes, non-existent palliative care, and a deficiency of community or recreation centres for the elderly. Even simple things like senior citizen discounts rarely exist. Shockingly, there are only a handful of geriatric physicians across the country that care for an increasingly ageing population. Having spent time volunteering in Palestinian camps and other deprived areas in Lebanon, Hajjar had already experienced his country's negligence in addressing the plight of the elderly. However, it was when he was living and working in the US that he noticed the extent of the medical community's neglect. During his visits to Lebanon, he was deeply concerned by the comparison between his active and productive patients in the US and their somewhat discarded Lebanese counterparts.

It was a difficult decision but he packed his belongings and moved back to Lebanon in 2010. He felt he could make a difference here.

That same year, he established the first geriatric medicine program at AUH. At present, Hajjar operates almost independently but he is intent on convincing his employers for the need to expand the

department and – as Lebanon's only board certified doctor in hospice care – establish an inpatient palliative care service for terminally ill patients.

His other challenge is to convince medical students to study geriatrics – or at the very least change their perception of caring for the elderly. With a rapidly aging population and without a coherent program in place or a viable recruitment strategy, Lebanon's medical establishment will find itself considerably under-prepared and ill-equipped to confront the issue.

"This is not about seeing as many patients as you can in one day," he tells them.

"And it's not about finding cures. You won't. This is about managing symptoms and improving the quality of life. This is about knowing how to handle death, how to talk to the patients and how to prepare the family for that. It's also about going to their homes and being there for them so that they won't feel abandoned if diagnosed with a terminally ill disease. This is about caring and having a loving attitude. This is not about making money (you won't!). This is a calling."

Hajjar and Othman (previous page) often coordinate their efforts to give their patients the best care.

"Lebanon is where the US was 30 years ago in geriatrics," said Hajjar. "There is a huge need here there's no doubt. I am so much more useful here than in the US. There's still a lot I can't do here but we are slowly filling in a gap. If we didn't do it, who will?"

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‘52

Adel E. Berbari, M.D. is a full-time Professor of Medicine and Physiology with tenure. At the American University Medical Center. He has been there since 1967. His duties include patient care, teaching, research, and publishing. Over the years, he has held several administrative and academic positions. “I always have excellent memories from my student years at IC and cannot have words to express my appreciation about this great institution,” he writes. “The education which I received from IC has molded my personality and has had a significant impact on my achievements during my life.”

‘59

Sami Wadiah Sidawi graduated from the American University of Beirut in 1964 with a B.S Civil Engineering. He is currently the Managing Director / Partner of Al Nasr Contracting Co. in the U.A.E. (<http://www.alnasruae.com/>). Sami is married to May Elias El Khoury, with whom he has two children. Their daughter, Rana Sidawi, is married to Marwan Naaman and has two children, Serena and Dani. Samer Sidawi is married to Ghalia Jalanbo and also has two children, Leyanna and Sami Jr. He resides between Abu Dhabi and London. (e-mail: sidawi@emirates.net.ae)



‘60

Nicolas Khairallah would like to get in touch with all those who graduated with him. nicolaskhairallah@gmail.com

‘64

Bassem W. Naamani sent in the following pictures of his classes at IC as well as his graduation photos in 1964 with the late President of IC Mr. Thomas Schuller.



‘65

Marwan Stambuli is a Multicultural Creative International Management Consultant and leading global educator who has been transferring knowledge into value for 44 years in 65 countries. He has served some 193 Clients, hosted 6860 participants in 291 workshops, and overseen the graduation of approximately 3375 BBA, MBA, and EMBA students. Marwan has also conducted 108 initiatives focusing on the future challenges of governance, innovation, globalization, growth, change, and technology. “I miss these wonderful years at IC and all my living friends,” he writes, “and pray for those dear ones who passed away.”

‘78

Dr. Kevork M. Peltekian received his medical degree from the American University of Beirut, followed by postgraduate

training in internal medicine and gastroenterology at Dalhousie University (Nova Scotia, Canada) and an additional two-year fellowship training in hepatology and liver transplantation at the Toronto Hospital. In 1995, he returned to Dalhousie University as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology at the Department of Medicine. In July 2003, he was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine. Until September 2004, he was the only full-time hepatologist east of Quebec. Dr. Peltekian has been an advocate for all patients with liver disease in Atlantic Canada. He has been promoting research, education, and patient care in this area. In June 2005, he succeeded Dr. Eve Roberts – a well-known pediatric hepatologist from Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto – as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Liver Foundation, the first organization in the world devoted to providing support for research and education into the causes, diagnoses, prevention, and treatment of all liver disease. In March 2010, Dr. Peltekian was voted in as president-elect for the Canadian Association for Study of Liver (he will start his term as president from Spring 2012). In addition to his undergraduate and postgraduate education in the Department of Medicine, Dr. Peltekian is also the recipient of various Department of Medicine undergraduate and postgraduate education and also research awards. His research focuses on the impact of fatty liver and Hepatitis C viral infections in Atlantic Canada. Dr. Peltekian has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles in Canadian and International medical journals and he enjoys public speaking in the field of hepatology and liver transplantation with a unique ability to incorporate humor into his presentations.

‘82

Dr. John Magnotta, IC Director of Physical Education and Athletics from 1980-82, will be retiring from the City

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School District of New Rochelle, New York (USA), in June. Dr. Magnotta has spent the last 25 years as a District Director in New York State.

'85

Fouad Hamiyeh graduated with a BA in Business Administration from AUB. He left Lebanon in 1989 to start his banking career in London, where he also obtained his MBA. Fouad is currently heading the Credit Agricole (Suisse) office in Dubai after previously living in London, Riyadh, Bahrain, Geneva, and Doha. In 1996, he married Rima Younes, with whom he has three children: Dalia (14), Tamara (12), and Adel (9).

Ali Siblani is the President and Chief Executive Officer of EnvisionTEC. In 2012, he received the American Arab of the Year in Technology Award. EnvisionTEC is a global leader in innovative 3D printing technology and materials.

'87

Dina Abou-Ayache married Kamal Khodr in 1985. She is living in Beirut and is a Managing Partner at an advertising/graphic design company. She has three daughters. The eldest, Suraya, graduated last year from IC French Bacc/S and is currently in the UK studying Biomedical Sciences/Genetics at U.C.L. Zein is in 9th grade and Loulwa is in 8eme.

Rima Nasser lived in the US for 20 years before returning to Beirut a year ago to be close to her family. She is an orthopedic surgeon, currently at Rizk hospital.

Zeina Annan left Lebanon in 1983 for Geneva, where she acquired her MBA and carried out her professional career in marketing. She has been married for 10 years to Wassim Kabbani, who despite the name is a "Manchester Lad", as he would put it. They have been blessed with two lovely girls, Aya (9) and Zea (6), who

are both flourishing at IC. Zeina is the Marketing Director of CHRONORA. Based in Downtown Beirut, CHRONORA is the exclusive representative in Lebanon for several luxury watch and jewelry brands including Rolex, Tudor, Girard-Perregaux, Ralph Lauren, and Mikimoto. "Many continue to ask me why did we choose to come back after all these years (from Switzerland en plus)? Unfortunately, most Lebanese find any other country a better option than their own and my answer is that one must experience immigration to know that the feeling of "belonging" is a luxury that is not acquired easily, not even after years, decades. With all the diversifications and instabilities, Lebanon will always be home no matter what; a legacy to be proud of, fight to keep, and pass on to my – strangely enough – non-Lebanese children (as of course a Lebanese mom is still not entitled to pass on her nationality!). This summer will be our Class's 25 year Reunion (for me it will be 29 since I last saw most)! At the time we could've never even imagined it...an occasion worth the wait!"

Jihad Srage serves as the Senior Vice President and President for Qualcomm's Middle East and Africa operations. In this role, he leads Qualcomm's business operations in the region and manages the company's strategic relationships with regional customers, including network operators, infrastructure equipment providers, mobile handset vendors, and value-added service developers.

'88

Nada Cheaito is married to Ali Sabbah and has three beautiful children: Sevine (15), Sara (13) and Malek (7). Nada and Ali have been married since 1995 and live in Beirut. Ali works in the movie industry. Nada would love to get in touch with her old classmates. "My years at IC were the best years, lots of beautiful memories", she recalls. Nada's email is nada@sabbah.com.

Karim Sarkis recently started a new company in Dubai Media City after several years of management consulting and running television channels. The company, called Sync Media, produces video content for television, web, and mobile in collaboration with advertisers and broadcasters. "On a personal note, my baby daughter Yasmina turns 1 on May 19th!", he writes.

'89

Mazen Damiani relocated to West Africa in April 2011. At the beginning of the following scholastic year, his wife and four kids followed him to Dakar, Senegal. Mazen continues to work with Transmed and is now the General Manager for their West African business that encompasses nine markets in the region: from Senegal all the way to Cote D'Ivoire.

Despite the significant cultural differences with the last assignment in Jordan, the Damianis are making the best out of Africa. Newly developed interests, such as surfing on the Atlantic, deep sea fishing for blue tuna and swordfish, kayaking next to mangroves, or camping in the baobab trees "make all part of our vacations and weekends", he writes. "We tremendously miss Beirut and IC. The search for IC graduates and Alumni in Senegal continues..."

Nada Ghazal is a Designer, Founder, and Managing Partner at Nada G jewelry. Jewelers Circular Keystone (JCK), one of the most respected voices in the jewelry industry, has chosen Nada Ghazal to be featured as a Rising Star at the 2012 Las Vegas jewelry show, the biggest and best jewelry convention in the world. Nada G™ will be taking this opportunity to officially launch a distinctive collection to the most desired audience in the business at the incredible Design Center from the 1st until the 4th of June 2012.

Albert Khoury is the Deputy General Manager of the Electrical Utility of Aley (a private power distribution company),

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and the Chairman of Hawa Akkar SAL. Hawa Akkar is hoping to develop Lebanon's first commercially viable wind farm, with a capacity of 60 MW (enough at its peak to provide electricity for 60 000 consumers). This project will provide clean electricity to the national grid and create jobs for the area of Akkar, all this at competitive rates for the Lebanese government. They are now waiting for the Lebanese government to issue the required licenses in order to make this project a reality in 2013.

"It was in James Sullivan's art class, some long time ago, that I was thought how to build a wind chime," he writes. "Unbeknown to me then, that this experience will lead me into trying to develop Lebanon's first commercial wind project. Albert received his bachelor's degree in commerce from Canada then got his masters In Shipping Trade & Finance from City University, London. He is married to Nour Khoury and the father of Leila. She will be joining IC soon to become the third generation of the family to do so.



'95

Fadi Mirza graduated from the American University of Beirut with a medical degree in 2002. He then relocated to the United States where he pursued a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tufts University in Boston, MA. He subsequently joined Columbia University in New York, NY, where he completed a 3-year Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship, accumulating additional expertise in

the management of high-risk pregnancies and specialized prenatal ultrasound. Following his graduation, he joined the faculty of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and cared for patients at Columbia University Medical Center. This year, Fadi was recruited to join the faculty of the American University of Beirut, where he practices Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC). He currently lives in the vicinity of IC with his wife, Lama, and 5 year-old son, Jad, who attends IC.

'98

Samer Chebaro got married on April 27, 2012 to Lina Zein. They live in Beirut.

'99

Akaber Halawi received a B.S in Biology (2002), Medical Doctor (2006), and Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (2011) at the American University of Beirut. This year, he finished a Fellowship in Rhinology and Paranasal Sinus Disease at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (2012). He will be doing another fellowship in Advanced Rhinology and Anterior Skull Base Surgery at the Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois (2012-2013). He is a member of the American Rhinology Society, Women of Otolaryngology, and Arab Rhinology Society.

Dima Zogheib graduated from AUB in 2004 in Landscape Design and Eco-Management. She worked in Beirut for two years then moved to London in 2006 to pursue her Masters degree in City Design and Social Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She still lives in London and works as a Senior Landscape Architect in the Urbanism and Landscape department at Arup.

'00

Ziad Taha has lived in France since September 2001. He graduated with a Masters of Science in Micro-Electronics in 2005 from Université de Lyon and received another Masters in Electrical Engineering from Institut National de Sciences Appliquées de Lyon in 2007. He currently lives in Montrouge next to Paris and works for Dassault Systèmes as a Software Engineer in Product Life Cycle Management. "I miss my IC student days and I am so proud that Mrs. Taha is still teaching there," he writes. Please find attached a picture from IC Prom 2000.



'02

Hassan Makkouk moved to Australia in 2003 but is moving back to the northern hemisphere after being accepted to the University of Oxford to undertake an MBA.

Sara Mukallid and Amine Hammoud would like to share with you the news of their wedding on July 10th, 2012 in Biel.

Jad Tabbara received his MBA in July 2009 from the Solvay Business School in Brussels, Belgium. He is currently working in Abu Dhabi with PwC. In September 2009, he married Reef Al Mokadem. The couple has an adorable baby daughter, Julia, who was born on 16 December 2010.

'03

Maher Abdel-Sattar moved to California and graduated from UCLA in 2007 with a major in Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology and a minor

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in Human Complex Systems. He then took over a year off to work as a program director for an outdoor science education camp where he had the chance to teach over 3000 5th and 6th grade students. After that experience, he got accepted to the UCSF School of Pharmacy in San Francisco, which is the highest ranked school of pharmacy in the US. His experience at UCSF has been very rewarding and he looks forward to graduating from there with a PharmD degree in May 2014. "I will always miss my days at IC," he writes, "and I look forward to visiting the campus again on my next trip to Lebanon."

Bilal Khreiss started his career in Ernst & Young and is currently an Assistant Manager at Pricewaterhouse Coopers (Kuwait Office) and a Global MBA candidate at IE Business School. He is simultaneously establishing his own boutique consulting firm that provides audit and consulting services to medium sized firms.

'04

Mohammad El Habbal graduated from the American University of Beirut in 2008 with a Bachelors degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is now serving as a construction manager for several government and private sector projects at a leading contracting company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At the end of this year, he will move to the United States to begin an MBA degree followed by a one-year construction management program.

'05

Sabine Bachian will be working from the CNN office in Paris as of June 2012 after spending a year working for CNN in Singapore. She got married to Stephane Petrossian this April and has now settled in Paris.

Balsam Khodr graduated from AUB in 2009 with a Bachelor in Business Administration. She has been working at the Phoenicia InterContinental Hotel in Beirut since April 2010, where she was promoted twice and now holds the position of Human Resources Senior Supervisor for the Talent Resourcing Section.

Tarek Najdi and **Carla Antar** got married in July 2011. Tarek finished his undergraduate studies in Mechanical Engineering from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 2009. He continued his graduate studies in Engineering Management at the University of Southern California (USC) and graduated in 2010. Carla finished both her undergraduate (in 2008) and graduate studies (in 2011) from the American University of Beirut (AUB). Her undergraduate degree is in Political Studies and her graduate degree is in Public Administration (emphasis Human Resource Management). Carla worked in Haigazian University as a student recruiter on a project funded by USAID for one year before she moved with Tarek to Algeria after getting married. Tarek is currently working in a family-owned electromechanical company in Algeria. "Being classmates for several years, our memories of IC never fade," they write.

Sara Barazi graduated from AUB in 2010 and has established Optimal Solutions, which offers all IT solutions for businesses. www.optimalsolutions.it Mirna Hamady '05 co-founded Kashida along with her partner Elie Abou Jamra, two years after graduating with a BFA in Graphic Design from AUB. 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 Tasmeem Doha 2011 and ranked

3rd out of 503 at the Maurice Fadel Prize for best business plan, which was published in Communication Arts Typography Annual. View the designs or order a custom product at www.kashidadesign.com <<http://www.kashidadesign.com/>

'08

Hani Haidar sent in this picture. "I'm on the left, Sami Eid is in the middle, and the guy on the right is Ziad Naous," he writes.



Rayan Beydoun recently graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, CT, and will soon be attending Boston University's School of Management for a masters degree. He would be very happy to get in touch with IC alumni in the Boston area. He can be reached at rayan.beydoun@gmail.com <<mailto:rayan.beydoun@gmail.com>

'11

Hussein Charara is currently studying Economics and Political Science at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, "all thanks to my success at IC," he writes. "IC! I LOVE YOU, and I miss every single detail of my IC years, especially the last 2 IB years."

The loss of our ‘Dean of Journalists’

On June 8th 2012, Lebanon lost one of its most prominent citizens and its renown ‘Dean of Journalists’. And IC lost one its most outstanding alumni. If anyone had told Ghassan Tuéni when still in his early years at IC that he would grow to become of the country’s most influential leaders, he probably wouldn’t have believed it. Born in 1926, the young Tuéni, was destined to a life of leadership.

Never a great student sciences or math, he was passionate about literature, history and poetry. In one challenging chemistry exam, Tuéni decided to transfer chemistry formulas into poetry. The teacher was not pleased and Tuéni was forced to leave IC for one year and return the following year to finish his Baccalaureate II, Philosophy section. By the time he was in secondary school, Tuéni was showing definite signs of rebellious leadership qualities. One of his own fondest memories was when he once convinced the class to present a petition to remove a teacher because they could not understand his lectures or interact with him. The class succeeded but soon after realized that the joke was on them: the new replacement teacher doggedly insisted on a quiz at the beginning of every class.

Tuéni was showing definite signs of journalistic talents when he founded a school publication. At the beginning, he handwrote the articles and displayed them on a bulletin board. He also distributed copies to students. He finally offered to print the articles at his father’s newspaper press and so it was that *Al-Ibtidayah* was printed and sold to students. Tuéni graduated from IC in 1943. He went on the AUB where he received his BA in Philosophy and an MA in Political Science from Harvard in 1947. He cut short his PhD studies and returned to Lebanon when his father died to take over the family’s newspaper business.

In 1948 – at the height of regional political turmoil around him – Tuéni became the Editor-in Chief and Publisher of the *AnNahar* newspaper. The next sixty-four years would be marked by elations and



tragedies which repeatedly tested Tuéni’s resilience. At the forefront of a political and journalism career, Tuéni’s fiercely independent character frequently came through many times whether as young parliamentarian inspiring a spirit of renewal in the country or as Minister of Education resigning in protest, or even as the ambassador of Lebanon to the UN when he exclaimed: “Let my people live! My country is not for hire nor for sale!” in an effort to get resolution 425 adopted by the Security Council.

As an avid believer in the Arab identity, he took part the foundation of the first Arabic University of Law, Political Sciences and Economy in 1950. A recognized intellectual, he published numerous works including *The Beirut Spring* and *Allow my people to live: Lebanon to the UN*.

To all, Tuéni seemed to have it all: a prosperous career, a prominent position in society and a loving family: his poet wife, Nadia and three children: a girl and two boys. Nayla, Gebran and Makram. (Gebran also graduated from IC in 1976).

But in a series of horrific tragedies, Tuéni lost his entire family. In 1963, Nayla died at the age of eight. In 1983, Nadia succumbed to cancer. In 1987, Makram, 21, was killed in a car accident. And in 2005, Gebran – who had taken over the publishing of the *AnNahar* newspaper was assassinated. It was enough to destroy any man but Tuéni refused to bow to tragedies and at the age of 80 became the Deputy of Beirut to take over the torch of freedom previously held by his son.



With Regrets

During the past two months, these are the words I have heard the most from my friends, relatives, and even acquaintances since my father, Jacques Sawaya, passed away: he was kind, generous, he listened, he advised me, he helped me, he taught me things, he always had a smile on his face, he was always positive, he had so much energy, he filled a room, he knew so much about politics, he seemed bigger than life, he was always a fine gentleman, he was a humble soul... To me, Rana, my sister, Zeina, and my brother, Nadim, he was all that and the best dad a child could ever ask for. To our mother, Dalal Asfour, he was the best husband a woman could have had. They had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last June and we were all going to celebrate it together this summer. His love for mom and us was endless. We mourn that loss. He was, most of all, a devoted husband and father.

Dad came to IC as a boarder when he was 12 years old. From day one he fell in love with the school and we, as children, knew every story of his escapades with his friends. We knew the names of the buildings; we even knew the names of his classmates. We enjoyed his stories and I can still see him telling them to us.

After graduating from AUB, he joined IC as its Director of Public Relations - a brand new job at the time. He was with IC for 13 years.

In 1965, my father was awarded a Leadership Grant by the U.S. State Department to visit America for

three months. He visited all the Ivy League schools and the major universities from the West Coast to the East Coast and everything in between. He was very well received everywhere he went and maintained friendships with many of the people he

visited. He came back to IC with fresh ideas that were integrated into the IC program. My father played a huge role in promoting IC and obtaining scholarships for needy and deserving students.

When we moved to Greece during the Lebanese civil war, at which point my father had already left his position at IC, he remained faithful to his school. My father started the IC Alumni Chapter and was very active in his new role. A few years later, he also became the president of the AUB Chapter, promoting both schools simultaneously.

Later on, my father went into the marble business. For years and years he exported marble to Korea, China, Japan, and the Middle East. In 2001, he retired to his hometown Latakia, Syria, where he was very happy.

His retirement did not last very long as a few years later, dad was asked to establish a branch office of Solidarity Alliance Insurance company in Latakia, where he excelled and was loved by all his employees until the day he suddenly went into a coma and left us all in shock.

It is with incredible difficulty that I write this note. My father's goal was always for us to have the best education and he made sure of it. All three of us went to wonderful universities and have had incredible experiences throughout our education that he made sure of giving us. My one-year at IC was unforgettable.

I am glad I had it as I am able to feel what he felt during his time there.

Rana Sawaya Ryan '82

We regret to inform you that **Alfred E Nassar '48** passed away in Aril, 2012 in NJ, USA. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Nassar family.

✽✽✽

We regret to inform you that **Samir Mishalany '42** passed away in London, UK on May 6, 2012. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Mishalany family.



We regret to inform you that Dr. **Kamel Fuad Muakkassa '68** passed away on Sunday May 13, 2012 in Akron Ohio at the age



of 62. He was the founder, president and CEO of The Center for Neuro and Spine Inc. (CNS) in Akron, Ohio. In addition he was the Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Akron and Associate Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at Northeastern Ohio Medical University. He most recently co-founded Akron General's Neuroscience Institute. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Muakkassa family.

In Memoriam

Lebanon needs IC and IC needs YOU



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