

# IC Newsletter Winter 2013



A new phase  
begins ...

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# Note from the Editor

Another school year has begun and I'm so proud to report that it has started off beautifully with our Elementary school children happily adjusted in their new buildings.

All the new buildings have now been named and inaugurated - with the latest being The Talal and Maha Shair Building. How wonderful to actually walk into the Hisham Jaroudi building, The R & G Irani auditorium, the A. Tayeb gym, the Maher Saidi Multipurpose Room, the Imad Taher Court, the Wael O. Bayazid Center Garden, the Anwar Mulla gym and the Chalhoub Group library. These names gave our buildings life and meaning. It is the names of alumni and parents who loved the school and cared enough to give back. These are names that will go down in IC's history. Rockefeller, Sage and Thomson can now stand side by side with Jaroudi and Shair and the others.

Now our new adventure begins: the building of a new Middle school and Pre-school and new additions to our Ain Aar campus. Yes, indeed, our Partnership for Excellence continues. Our goal, this time, is to raise an additional \$45m in two years. Can we do it? Yes, we can - with your help and support of course.

And your help has been invaluable. On every fundraising trip I find myself mesmerized at the way our alumni reconnect. These dinners are networking opportunities and I am happy to see our alumni taking advantage of them. The mood is so jovial and relaxing. Your unflinching affinity to your alma mater is commendable.

Thanks to you, all too soon, our Middle and Preschool children will soon have their own, new state-of-the art classrooms.

In this newsletter, we explain the need for a new Middle and Preschool, how the new gym has changed the face of athletics and how IC continues to expose its students to the plight of less fortunate people.

As always, we highlight the stories of two amazing people giving back to society. One is an IC graduate who is fighting tooth and nail to install windmills in Akkar and the other is an IC mom who managed to close off Hamra street to give children a special time on Halloween.

Once again, thank you for being there.

Here's to a great New Year!

Best regards,



**Moufid Beydoun**  
**Vice President**  
**Alumni & Development**



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## WELCOME TO IC ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY!

The Office of IC Alumni and Development is proud to launch its new website [www.icalumni.org](http://www.icalumni.org).

Now you can keep in touch with friends, former classmates and make new contacts with the IC Online Community. Membership is *exclusive* and *free* to alumni only. Please proceed to the **Online Community-Sign In** and fill your details. Please contact us ([alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb)) to receive the **security code**. As a member of the IC community, you will receive additional exclusive benefits such as online registration for member-only benefits, online profile, uploading resume, uploading photos and class notes (reunions, career news, family news, educational, etc). We are sure that you are going to enjoy this new exciting way to keep in touch with IC and with one another.

International College is committed to your privacy. You decide whether or not your personal information is visible to others.

# The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:



Finally, electric lights everywhere.

***When it came to his precious school and students, Protestant minister Reverend Alexander MacLachlan would leave no stone unturned. He did whatever it took to raise funds, even making his way to Skibo castle in Scotland and meeting with Andrew Carnegie for donations – only to be refused. Back in Smyrna, he continuously searched for ways to make life better for his students ...***

Reverend Alexander MacLachlan, had a new dilemma: The poor gas lighting at the school was decidedly beginning to irritate him. Some rooms didn't even have any lighting at all. Students had to study by candlelight causing him to keep a continuously wary eye for fires. "He thought it was dangerous for his boys," recalled Howard Reed, MacLachlan's last surviving grandson who lives in the US. "He wanted to power the buildings."

But anyone who knew the minister knew quite well that MacLachlan would go to extremes to make sure that his precious International College would have the best.

And thus his dilemma: Turkish authorities strictly forbade the use of all electric equipment – except for door bells. In fact, there wasn't a single electric lighting plant, private or public, in the entire Turkish Empire. So how would he, a simple Protestant minister from Canada, ever be able to convince the authorities otherwise?

Very wisely, he knew that he couldn't. By now, MacLachlan had learned there were ways to get around Turkish authorities and he waited for an opportunity. It came soon enough under the guise of a young Greek electric engineer who had heard of MacLachlan's quest. The engineer was eager to make a name for himself in Smyrna as an expert in this new world of electricity. MacLachlan

was only too glad to oblige. After several meetings, the two came up with an agreement: the engineer would bring in and install a complete modern electric lighting system, including storage batteries, while the school assumed all responsibility in dealing with Turkish authorities.

Once again, MacLachlan had taken a risk. If Turkish authorities got wind of the agreement, he and IC could easily find themselves thrown out of the country.

Still, the minister was not one to scare easily. The agreement went into effect immediately. The engineer would be paid once the electricity plant was built.

Of course there remained a hitch in the concocted plan: how could they build this electric plant if Turkish customs officials prohibited any electric equipment from entering the country?

With the bold audacity of youth, the engineer had his own plans. And so it was that for a while, customs officials found themselves inspecting strange things in big boxes: large glass jars for the storage batteries - listed as jars for preserving fruit. Boxes filled up with wires – essential in manufacturing the latest fashions of broad-brimmed hats for European ladies living in Smyrna. After all, these hats were the latest in Paris. The Turks wouldn't want Smyrna lagging in fashion would they?

And as everyone knows, fire insurance companies have stringent demands so light-

# Smyrna (Part VI)

ing rods had to be brought in big crates (they were actually coils for the dynamo with attached iron rods).

But no manufactured excuse could possibly disguise the heavy and cumbersome leads for batteries. And so one day, a strange boat quietly landed on the coast of Asia Minor opposite the Island of Samos. And very quietly the batteries were loaded onto large wicker baskets and attached to camels. IC students and teachers were probably the only ones who noted camel caravans arriving onto their campus during strange hours.

The engineer set to work. It is not certain whether MacLachlan himself helped out in building the plant, but as a hands-on person who reveled in construction projects, he most likely did lend a hand.

Bit by bit, the electricity plant was finally completed. Was it MacLachlan or the engineer who first switched it on? We don't know. But no matter. It worked! IC boys actually had electric lights in their dorms and classes.

Essentially, MacLachlan had built the first electricity plant in Turkey. Unfortunately, the name of the Greek engineer was never revealed.

About a month after his plant was built, MacLachlan got wind of the news that the Turkish government had heard rumors about electricity in the school and was sending a delegation over. The source even informed him of the exact day and hour. MacLachlan got ready. He instructed all school personnel to greet them warmly and to escort them graciously to his office. The cook was told to wait for MacLachlan's signal and enter the room carrying a wide array of refreshments.

No sooner had the Turkish group arrived than they were whisked off to MacLachlan's office. The Protestant minister enthusiastically performed the needed oriental formalities and then – as he saw the deputies about to state their business – jumped in with his own announcement: IC has its own electricity!

He proceeded to switch on and off the light in his office – an obvious signal for the cook



A common sight in Smyrna. Turkish authorities never suspected that camels were being used to smuggle in to IC the forbidden electric appliances.



MacLachlan would do anything to make sure his boys got the best.

to enter. The Turkish group found themselves munching on refreshments as they watched the lights flicker. Their frowns slowly gave way to wonder and MacLachlan (who understood Turkish by then) heard them murmur to each other "Why can't we have these things in our homes?" and "Imagine foreigners in our country having such things and yet we can't have them."

But MacLachlan didn't stop there. He quickly ushered them to the plant itself and showed off the dynamics of the plant. "Much time was spent in the engine room answering questions and showing further demonstrations," wrote MacLachlan in his 1937 diary "Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey."

The group was then ushered back to the office and served yet another array of exquisite refreshments. Deftly, MacLachlan bid them farewell thanking them profusely for their lovely 'unannounced' visit.

Turkish authorities never mentioned the electric plant again. And IC, now all lit up, continued to thrive.

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

*To be continued ...*

## A Touching Encounter

Their shock was quite obvious as the fourth graders first walked into the beautiful FISTA campus nestled in the Mansourieh woods. Some even got scared and clung on the teacher's hand. Seeing this, Reem Mouawad, the school principal, shepherded the kids into the school's buildings. Here IC students were able to watch and join in as mentally disabled students worked in pottery, candle and glass making workshops. Lumps of clay were given out to the fourth graders as they were urged to sit around the tables.

As the IC children pounded the clay, FISTA students eyed them with curiosity. "I am Maria", cried out a FISTA student of about 16 who was sitting across the table from an IC girl. "What's your name?"

The fourth grader, Maria Bassil, 9, hesitated. "My name is Maria too," she answered.

"Really? Like me!" squealed the FISTA student. "I want to be Maria Montana. I like Hannah Montana. Write 'Robby' for me on this paper. I like 'Robby.'"

The other IC students smiled. There was nothing really scary about these FISTA students. The two smiled at each other.

"I love you," cried out FISTA's Maria.

Without a hint of hesitation this time,



IC's Maria promptly answered back. "I love you too."

In other workshops and around the campus, FISTA students were trying to meet these young newcomers.

There was Omar, a teenager who wanted a chocolate bar. IC students quickly obliged. There was Ali, a 20-something year-old man, who couldn't speak but was making all kinds of gestures to be understood. There was Rami, a shy looking 21-year-old, who won several medals at horseback riding at the Special Olympics. As the time passed, the fourth graders began to look more at ease as some gave high fives to passing FISTA students.

"They best way to help them," explained Mouawad, "is to talk to them normally. Treat them normally. Respect them."

As part of their PYP (Primary Years Programme) theme, "How we organize ourselves", the fourth graders were on

a field trip to see for themselves the part that NGOs play in society. Other fourth grade sections were visiting other NGOs in the city.

Established in 1993 by Dr. Wali Merhej, Sana Hamza, Suzanne Jabbour, and Dr. Jammal Ftouni, FISTA – The First Step Together Association – cares for special needs children and adults with various disabilities including emotional, physical and learning disabilities, mental retardation and autism. The school, which has another branch in Tripoli, adopted the Rudolf Steiner ideology which emphasizes artistic activity as integral to all learning.

According to a 2010 UNESCO study, "Reaching the Marginalized," an estimated 10 percent of the Lebanese population have a mental disability. Schools in the country automatically eliminate students with disabilities and only a handful them cater to students with special needs. As adults, many of the mentally disabled end up being kept at the periphery of society or hidden away in homes where they are perceived as an embarrassment to the family.

For most of the fourth graders, this was their first time meeting this unseen branch of society's members. It was a rather touching encounter.

"I feel sorry for them," said Jilan Jomaa, a fourth grader. "I don't know what else to feel."

"Yes, me too," agreed her classmate, Nadim Jawhari.

It was time to go. On one hand, there was a sense of regret. And on the other, there was a sense of relief. It hadn't been easy.

As the IC group headed back to the bus, a few FISTA students stood in the school grounds silently, but happily waving goodbye.



# Finally, A Real Gym

The new A.N. Tayeb Gymnasium is music to Tarek Moussali's ears.

"We are now accommodating everyone," the head of athletics said smiling widely. "We are offering more practice hours. We are offering more sports."

For the past few years, Moussali has been playing a frustrating juggling game in scheduling PE lessons, team training sessions and athletic games.

For one thing, team practice sessions—rather an essential component for any successful team—sometimes happened, sometimes didn't. There wasn't adequate space at IC so many teams had to practice off campus. For example, the boys and girls varsity training was taking place at ACS. But since ACS had their own practice sessions, IC had to settle for the late slots of 7pm to 10pm. Many students just couldn't make it that late.

For another, the hard concrete ground of IC's old basketball court was hard on students' legs. Moussali had to make sure not to overstrain the students.

And of course, there's the weather. "PE sessions would be cancelled and teams sent home," said Moussali. "The wet courts were useless."

But that's all history now. The athletic world is much brighter. The 1000 square meter gym, which can simultaneously accommodate two basketball courts, two volleyball courts, six badminton courts and a 300-seat bleacher, leaves no child behind. At least two new sports have already been reintroduced: badminton and table tennis.

"Every PE session is being held as scheduled," he said. "And training sessions are being held as long as we want. No excuses."

None have been offered. Moussali reports that not only are all students showing up to practice but that there is an

excess of students wanting to join teams.

"This gym, the lockers, the showers. It's attractive to them," he said. "This is great because we have many talented athletes who have been training at various clubs for years. They now see playing for IC as their priority instead."

The gym is fully booked daily from 8am until 7:30pm including Saturdays. If needed, more sessions can be added at the Anwar Mulla gym—used only for elementary school students during the day.

Known for its strong athletics program, IC offers basketball, volleyball, football, table tennis, track and field (AUB), swimming (AUB, LAU pools) gymnastics (Gymbo Club), tennis, table tennis, badminton and rugby.

"I feel that now we have a better chance to offer our students a proper program with no excuses for them not to be here," he said. "It's a whole new world."

Students themselves have no complaints. "I like it," said secondary school student Ray Kaedbey as she made her way to the gym for her PE lesson. "The old one has memories but we can make new ones here."

Her classmate, Nadim Hawa, agreed. "It feels like an American school now," he said. "It's how a school should be."



# A new Phase: A new Middle School and Preschool

## Partnership for Excellence Campaign

From 2009 through 2013, the Campaign raised more than \$40 million. Thanks to this generous outpouring of support, IC was able to construct three buildings on the Ras Beirut campus. Two of these buildings, which together comprise the Elementary School, are named for Hisham-Ezzat Jaroudi and Talal and Maha Shair. On the Ain Aar campus, a new playing field has greatly expanded opportunities for sports and recreation.

Plans are now underway to build a new Preschool and Middle School on the Ras Beirut campus, while at Ain Aar new construction will include an Activities building, modernized classrooms, and underground parking to improve drop-off and pick-up.

Over the course of the next two years, IC needs to raise an additional \$45 million, of which \$12 million has been raised to date.

Without the generous support of IC Trustees, parents, alumni and friends, we would have never been able to accomplish so much. Our plans are solid and we are positioned to move forward with the next phase of the Campaign.

It is a familiar scenario. John Johnson, IC's President standing in his office studying blueprints on his wall. Four years ago it was the blueprints of the new elementary school that took much of his time. This time, however, his mind is occupied with the construction of yet another project: The new Middle and Preschool buildings.

The current Middle school and Preschools housed in the historical buildings may be charming but lack an essential component in today's fast paced education methodology: adequate space.

"We are cramped in the Sage Hall and we are cramped in Rockefeller Hall," said Johnson. "We just need more space. It's pure and simple."

Classroom sizes vary between 45 and 55 square meters – a far cry from the required 60 to 70 square meters per classroom. In fact, the middle school and preschools are the two educational facilities with the least amount of classroom space on campus. (The construction of the elementary school was considered a priority for security reasons – bringing in the students on the campus itself.)

The new Elementary school building with its large classrooms, gymnasium, music and art rooms, drew many compliments from parents. Johnson was bemused. "This is normal," he said. "This is how schools are now. It's the way it is in normal schools."

The fact is that today's 'normal' has drastically changed from the 'normal' of 15 or 20 years ago.

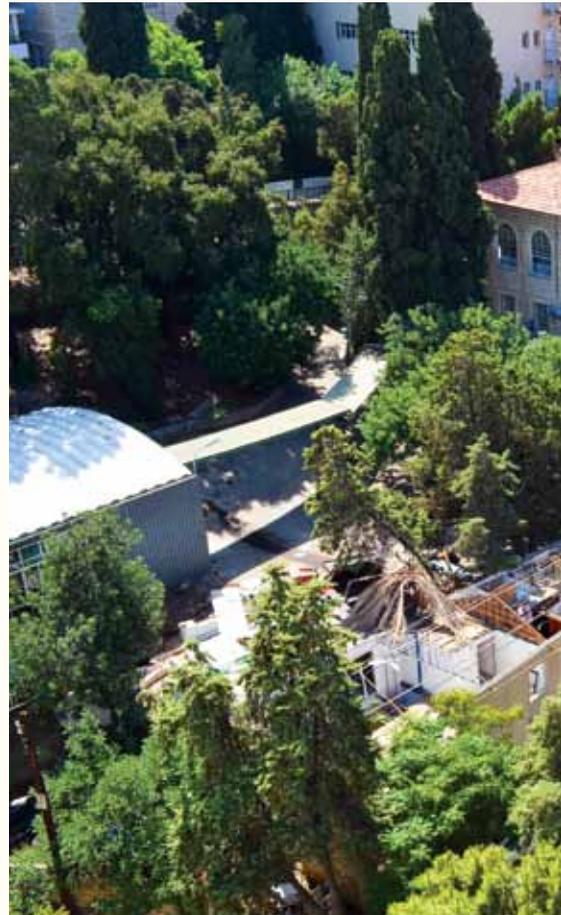
Back then a teacher was expected to stand in front of students and give the day's lesson. The students would hopefully listen, take notes and memorize. Classroom size was of less importance.

But somewhere along the way, education has changed. New methods were introduced. The era of interactive education began. Students need to be engaged. Teachers need space for cooperative learning and activities.

Not one to be left behind, IC quickly joined this education revolution. Classroom space is a main component. In fact, organizing a learning space has become an art in itself. One of the challenges is to create a classroom environment that informs and engages the student. Moreover, teachers need to have the option to arrange and re-arrange seating as required by the lessons. Materials and other whatnots are ideally stored in the class eliminating the time spent waiting for things to appear.

### So what's going to happen?

Excavations are planned for this fall and the



entire project is forecasted to be completed within two years. The Boston based Flansburgh architects have again been commissioned to design the buildings – along the same lines as the Elementary school. The construction will be in coordination with local architecture firm, Rashid Karam Architects & Consulting Engineers.

Once the Middle school and Preschool buildings are completed, Sage Hall and the Preschool building (officially called elementary school from the old days) will then be fully renovated. Sage Hall will be turned into a center – for music, art, small performing areas and science. The old Preschool will serve as an extension for the new Preschool building and will also house about half of the Preschool classrooms.

### Green space

More buildings less green space, right? Not so.

"Nobody wants to eliminate any green space," said Johnson assuredly. "We are very sensitive to the environment. That was one of the school's first goals, to preserve the environment."

One building has even been designed



Site of new Middle School

around an old carob tree— creating a big challenge for the architects. More green space will be created on the rooftops of the buildings.

Like the Elementary school, the new buildings will be Leed Gold certified.

### Money, money, money

When all is said and done, it essentially all comes down to funds. Can IC raise the capital needed?

A floor down from Johnson's office, vice president of Alumni and Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64**, is getting ready for another trip to the US. He has spent many a day on such journeys in the past five years soliciting funds for the new elementary school from different places including Lebanon and abroad. This time he has a new goal: \$45 million, of which \$12m have already been pledged for 'Bricks and Mortar, scholarships, and educational programming. Fortunately, he is not alone in his quest. There is a newly formed capital campaign committee, headed by board member **Mu'taz Sawwaf '69** and the development office at his disposal not to mention Johnson who often accompanies Beydoun on his solicitation travels.

Still, it is quite a big sum and they have only three years to come up with the money. If Beydoun feels daunted, he doesn't show it.

"Of course, we'll raise it," he says looking rather surprised at the question. "Why shouldn't we?"

Indeed, the Partnership for Excellence Campaign launched in 2009 has been a resounding success. The proof is three beautifully designed buildings with a view of the sparkling Mediterranean sea just below.

Beydoun's itinerary for the year promises to be full. Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Emirates, the US, and Europe beckon. The target? Alumni, parents and IC friends.

"There are many out there who care deeply for the welfare of the school and its students," he said. "They know what IC is doing here and they want to make sure that it continues to graduate students who will be able to take the lead in local and international communities."

### Ain Aar

At Ain Aar, a brand-new playing field, completed in 2010, has significantly expanded opportunities for sports, recreation and physical education. Plans are now underway to construct a gymnasium, auditorium, and ad-

ditional recreation spaces, as well as underground bus and parking.

### Parents, relax

No, the tuition will not be funding any of these projects. To be blunt, tuition – even with hikes – barely covers the school's operating expenses (which are quite a few!) let alone attaching an extra several million dollars on the bill. And no, the number of students will not increase.

### IC needs you

This is where alumni, friends and parents come in. Again. No extra proof is needed to show that donations truly go to work. Just ask the 750 elementary school students who finally have state-of-the art classrooms.

As for Johnson, he will not see the completion of the new buildings. He returns to the US at the end of the year. "But," he laughs, "I certainly hope I'll be invited to the inauguration!"

# The Talal & Maha Shair Building

The dedication of the Talal & Maha Shair Building took place on Thursday, October 24th in the IC Elementary school grounds in the presence of government officials, American University of Beirut President Dr. Peter Dorman, IC Board members, IC President John Johnson and other school officials. As the school choir rose in song and the sun set behind the majestic new El-

ementary school buildings, Johnson took to the stand thanking the Shairs for their generous donation.

"This dedication and the completion of this new Elementary school is about a dream coming true and members of our community "holding fast" to their dreams," he said. "When I first arrived in Beirut I met the wonderful head of our Ras Beirut Parents' Committee who was Maha Shair. She and her committee gave all of us at IC the encouragement to think big and to improve the facilities at IC. Her husband, **Talal Shair '83**, shared that dream and, as a member of the IC's Board of Trustees, he also worked hard to realize this dream. Talal has also been a member of the Board's Buildings and Grounds Committee and they have worked countless hours on this dream from beginning to end. I think we all agree that they did a great job."

Shair had spent ten years at IC. Today, his four sons attend the school. For his part, Shair credits IC for building his character and helping him to become the man he is today. He stressed that the only way to create a free society is by freeing minds at an early age.

"It is crucial that we invest more in Elementary education to rid our children from those fixed prejudices that are so often forced upon them by ourselves or greater society, unrestricted technology and media, etc..., etc... let us keep IC as a bastion of illumination and openness."

His wife, Maha, then spoke a few words. "I love this building," she said confessing that, when the couple first moved from Cairo, she almost withdrew her kids from IC. The old Elementary school building had not impressed her. But the main reason for coming to Beirut was so their children could attend IC. She left them at the school and worked hard – as head of the Parents' Committee - to change many things in the old building. But when she saw the newly built Elementary school building sparkling just above the Mediterranean sea, she asked her eldest son whether he thought it wise for the family to invest in IC. The son promptly gave his support and encouraged his parents to invest in the best education system in the country.

Afterwards, the Board of Trustees and the Administration presented the "IC Partnership for Excellence" plaque to the Shairs, as the couple with their children then removed the IC flag covering a part of the building to reveal the name in bold letters: Talal & Maha Shair Building.

The event was followed by a reception.



# The Chalhoub Group Library

The Chalhoub Group Library was dedicated on June 7 in the presence of IC President, John Johnson and directors. **Patrick Chalhoub '75** personally came to the library and met some of the students. After a brief poetry reading by CM2 and grade 5 students, Mr. Chalhoub sat with the students on the floor as he talked to them about the importance of helping the community. He was also asked to unveil the flag outside the building to reveal the name: "Chalhoub Group Library". He was also presented with a book containing copies of his old grades at IC and several pages of notes from Elementary school children thanking him for the library.



## AMIS

Six Middle School boys accompanied by IC Music Director, Randa Sabah, represented IC at the Annual European Middle School Boys choir in Aberdeen, Scotland. The boys, Afif Fakhred-dine, Adam Hallab, Omar Baghdadi, Naim Sgheib, Alex Nassar and Omar Tayyara, sang in the theater donated by Queen Elisabeth of England just a week ago. They had a standing ovation as they sang Highland Cathedral, a song almost considered as the national anthem of Scotland.

They also shared on skype the song that was especially composed for this festival -singing at the same time as the Middle School boys choir in Jakarta.

The boys managed to find time to visit the famous Dunnattor Castle, enjoying the magnificent view from the cliff to the sea.



# Ras Beirut Parents Fundraising Dinner



The IC Parents Committee of Ras Beirut organized a fundraising dinner under the theme of a traditional Lebanese night attended by IC parents, administration and board of trustees. The event took place in the Elementary School Playground. IC music teacher and singer Tina Yamout performed accompanied by a pianist. The dinner was prepared by Souk Al Tayeb. A draw was held and many attendees walked with valuable gifts.

The dinner revenue will go towards purchasing equipment to benefit the entire student body.



## Inauguration of the Elementary School

International College officially inaugurated its new Elementary school buildings on Tuesday June 18, 2013 under the auspices of Prime Minister Najib Mikati. Also present were several government ministers, mayor of Beirut, IC Board of Trustees, school president and administrators.

IC President John Johnson first took the stand and traced back IC's rich history to 1891 and marveled at how the school kept its mission of producing open minded and liberal students. Amazingly, this was the first official inauguration held for IC since 1914 when the official IC campus was built in Smyrna, Turkey, before relocating to Lebanon in 1936.

Imad Taher, head of Buildings and Grounds Committee, then explained the intricate details of the environmentally friendly buildings which earned it a Leed Gold certificate.

Chairman of the Board, William Turner, remembered the many trials that IC went through since he took over the board 37 years ago. There were many difficult decisions to make and he came under a lot of pressure to decide one way or the other. At one point, there were even ideas to move IC to another country. But Mr Turner insisted that IC will remain where it is until it runs out of money. He also announced the latest Board decision: to build a new Preschool and Middle school.

Mayor of Beirut, Bilal Hamad, thanked IC for providing such a wonderful education to both Lebanese and foreign children. Most important, he said, it taught students to think outside the box.

Finally, Prime Minister Mikati, whose children attended IC and grandchildren are current students, said that education is key to alleviating sectarianism in the country. IC is an example of coexistence and has given Lebanon and the international community its best leaders thanks to a curriculum which enforces building a strong personality, loyalty and integrity. He called on students to feel patriotic and to spread the message of peace and love among themselves.



# Independence Day

Lebanese army performing for Ras Beirut elementary students.



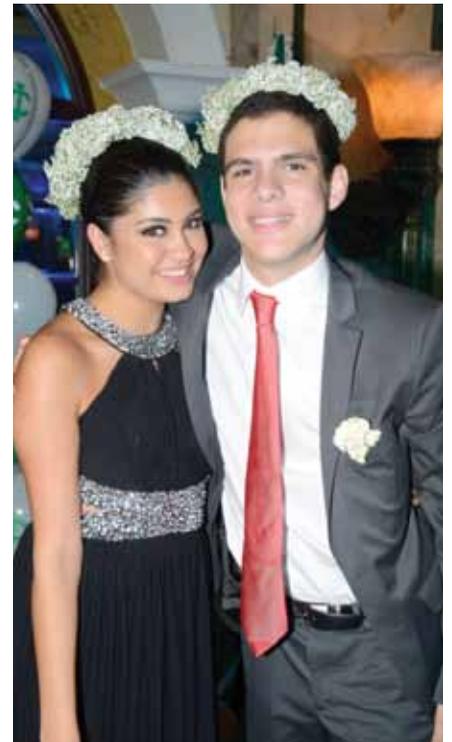
Ain Aar students celebrate Independence Day

## Under 14 METS Football Tournament



The JJV soccer team of IC RB participated in the METS conference tournament held from 7-10 November in Amman, Jordan, alongside teams from Jordan and Egypt and hosted by the ABS (Amman Bacculaureate School). Both IC Team A and Team B came back with trophies; Team A with a bronze and Team B as champions in first place. Team members also won four individual awards (in alphabetical order); Rami Beyhum (8th), Ali Huballah (8th), Imad Jaber (5me) and Atef Jubayli (7th).

## Mr and Mrs Prom



Yara Alamaeh and Sammy Abou Mansour

# Baccalaureate Results 2013

Our 146 Brevet students outdid themselves this year, with half of the IC students obtaining honors both at Ain Aar and at Ras Beirut.

Once again our IB results have been great, with all but one of our students obtaining their diplomas, with averages well above the norm. Four of our students obtained exceptional scores above 40. Our average score of 5.40 per subject has been the

highest since we started offering the IB diploma, and so has the mean total score of 34.

We have had exceptional Lebanese Baccalaureate results this year with our students performing above the average of the country in every single subject including Arabic.

All of the 93 candidates passed and 80% received cumulative average scores above 12. This compares favorably with the French Baccalaureate results, where we obtained 84% mentions with 100% honors in the Mathematics and Sciences options.

<b>LEBANESE Ranking in LEBANON</b>	<b>BACCALAUREATE July 2013 Ranking in BEIRUT</b>		
General Sciences Ahmed Ghalayini 3rd	<b>Ahmed Ghalayini</b> <b>Daniel Farhat</b> <b>Dana Karout</b>	<b>1</b> <b>2</b> <b>10</b>	AUB MERIT SCHOLARSHIP* LEBANESE REPUBLIC FULL SCHOLARSHIP
Life Sciences Omar Najjar 4th	<b>Omar Najjar</b> <b>Omar Itani</b> <b>Samer Salame</b> <b>Tarek Aridi</b>	<b>1</b> <b>3</b> <b>6</b> <b>8</b>	AUB MERIT SCHOLARSHIP* LEBANESE REPUBLIC FULL SCHOLARSHIP
Economics and Sociology	<b>Rawan Mahfouz</b>	<b>5</b>	
* GIVEN TO 10 HIGHEST ACHIEVERS AT AUB- COVERING ALL EXPENSES	8 IC students occupied 10 highest achiever slots in the LEBANESE BACCALAUREAT EXAMS Among those, 2 were IC Scholars, 2 started with us at the Middle School – one from Ain Aar and one from Ras Beirut and 4 started at the PRESCHOOL level..		

All our graduates are college-bound. 92% of our applicants were accepted to AUB, and their SAT scores were significantly higher than those of the total applicant population.

In terms of overseas admissions: our graduates were accepted to some of the best universities abroad, including NYU, Cornell, U Penn, Yale, Penn State, Wake Forest, Boston University, the UCs – UCLA/San Diego, Irvine, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, UM Amherst, University of Miami, Tufts, Trinity, USC Chapel Hill, Syracuse, UT, GWU, McGill, U of Toronto, University of London, University College London, Exeter, Bristol, Glion, and Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne.

**Mishka Mojabber Mourani**  
*Senior Vice President*



IC scholars 2013-2014



IC President John Johnson and Mary Johnson with the graduates



Commencement Speaker, Imad Taher, honored by Youssef Sayegh (below)

## Mabrouk 2013 Graduates!

"If you are passionate about one thing like music or writing or architecture, then by all means go for it. Do not major in something solely for the money. The world is changing very fast. What applies today might not be true tomorrow ...

Be your own harsher critic in whatever you do. The way to succeed is to learn from your mistakes and failures ...

Members of the class of 2013 go forth with your life. Realize your ambitions, reach out for your dreams, but do not forget where you have started, here at IC."

**Imad Taher,  
IC Trustee and Alumnus,  
Commencement Address, June 12, 2013**



# New Parents Reception



...ing his IC teachers, Sadik Umar and



## Ain Aar



## Ras Beirut

# To Wadi el Safi, love grade 1 Ain Aar



To honor Wadi' El Safi Green Day on November 1st, the first graders in Ain Aar decided to take action in his memory. Each student chose a plant, learned how to take care of it, and took it home to a balcony or garden.



On that day, the great singer went aboard an army helicopter and flew over Lebanon, landing in many Lebanese villages and planting cedar, pine, olive and oak trees. Since then, this yearly tradition has continued and the number of trees planted has reached one million.

## Dedication of A.N. Tayeb Gymnasium

The A.N. Tayeb Gymnasium was dedicated on Thursday June 13 in the presence of Mr. Ahmed Tayeb, IC President John Johnson, school administrators, parents and friends. The opening was marked by a remarkable performance by IC's gymnastics team.

Mr. Tayeb and his three IC boys gave speeches stressing the importance of an athletics program in academics.

He was presented with the Partnership of Excellence plaque and was invited to officially unveil the name of the Gymnasium.

The dedication was followed by a reception in the outside courts of the Elementary school.



Moufid Beydoun '64, Isaf Tayeb, Ch Maya Tohme, Imad Taher '58, John

## The last link

Ian Reed, the great grandson of IC founder, Alexander MacLachlan visited the campus during the summer with his daughter, India. Reed and his sister, Aida, are the last link to IC's history in Turkey.



Marine Tayeb, Ahmed Tayeb, Nazhet Tayeb, Johnson, Yusuf Kan'an '71,



# Dinners and Events

*In September, Vice President for Alumni & Development Moufid Beydoun '64 travelled to the US and Canada and met with various alumni and IC friends.*

## US

In Los Angeles, his first stop was at **Dr. Ray Irani's '50** office in Los Angeles to thank him for his donation. The G & R Irani Auditorium (Ghada and Ray Irani) was being used extensively by the entire school.

The next stop was to meet with the LA Alumni chapter. **Mohamad Ahmar '80** and his wife **Hania'92** hosted a small dinner to discuss new ways of reviving the chapter. **Dr. Paul Wakim '65**, **Karim Kano '74** and **Talia Khalil '00** volunteered to help out and together brainstormed various great ideas.



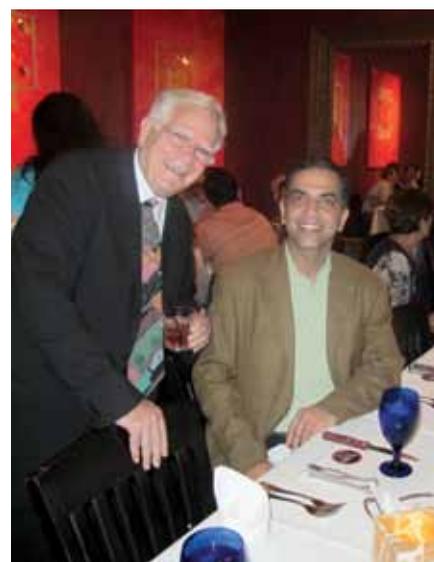
Karim Kano '74, Mohamed Ahmar '80, Rabih Aridi '78, Hania Ahmar '92, Dr. Paul Wakim '64, Moufid Beydoun '64, Yahia Beydoun '00, Rania Kano, Talia Khalil '00



Miami dinner



Dr. Marwan Tabbara '76, Dr. Alex Bezjian '59, Ziad Mneimneh '76, Chirine Mneimneh, John Johnson, Ziad El Khatib '80



Dr. Alex Bezjian '59 (standing), Dr. Ziad El Khatib '80

In Miami, Mr. Beydoun, who was then joined by IC President John Johnson, attended a dinner for IC alumni and friends at the Texas de Brazil restaurant organized by Dr. **Alex Bezjian '59**, Dr. **Ziad El Khatib '80** and Mr. **Imad Bazzi '85** and hosted by **Salah Izziddine '65**, CEO and founder of the restaurant. After a slideshow, Mr. Johnson talked about the school and its future plans. Dr. Bezjian gave a small, warm welcoming speech. The dinner was also attended by Board member **Wael Bayazid '70** and his wife, Maria.

There was much interest among the alumni in creating a South Florida Alumni Chapter to help out the school in its fundraising efforts.

In Washington D.C, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Beydoun visited the DC Chapter made up of **Nizar Zakka '85, Hind Soufi '87, Gigi Koraytem '84, Raed Hamdan '86 and Noura Steitieh '03**. The group set to thinking about fundraising ideas in the DC metropolitan area and planned for a big dinner on November 17. A dinner for alumni and friends followed, attended by over 24 alumni.



Left: Moufid Beydoun '64, Raed Hamdan '86, Gigi Kraytem Saghir '84, Hind Soufi Ahdab '87, Noura Steitieh '03, John Johnson, Nizar Zakka '85

Below: Washington DC dinner



# CANADA

In Toronto, Beydoun attended a small alumni dinner where plans were made to set up a Toronto Chapter.

In Montreal, head of the Montreal Chapter, **Khaled Hajjar '84**,

had organized a dinner attended by over 40 IC alumni and friends. It was a wonderful chance to reminisce and update attendees on the latest exciting news of IC.



Toronto dinner



# Montreal dinner



Khaled Hajjar '84



Right and below: Montreal dinner



## IC mom brings Halloween to Hamra



Goblins, witches, pirates and princesses of all ages strolled along Hamra Street on Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> running to various activity stands and vying for candies being doled out by older looking goblins and witches. On the side, a dance troop was entertaining curious onlookers.

In their midst, an old haggard and frightening witch wandered around. A closer look revealed a beaming smile. "Don't you recognize me?" she suddenly laughed. "It's me. Iman."

And so it was. Iman Assaf is the brains behind the Halloween festivities. This would be her second year. An IC mom of three (Ziad, Wadad and Rawad), she began quite modestly in her Hamra apartment.

"I would distribute boxes of candies to neighbors and take my kids and their friends trick or treating," she said.

Before long, the children were no longer satisfied with only knocking on a few doors. Assaf obligingly took them down to the side road of Hamra to continue trick or treating. Every Halloween saw more kids showing up at her doorstep to join the fun.

"At one point, I had 90 kids in my home," she exclaimed.

Finally, last year she hit up upon the idea of turning Hamra street into a mini Halloween area. Several IC moms loved the idea and together formed their own group called Ahla Fawdah ("the best chaos") because "it really is such chaos," said Assaf laughing. "But somehow it works."

But behind the fun and games, there is a just cause: to improve the district of Hamra.

Last year, the proceeds of the day (LL 15,000 per ticket) allowed "Ahla Fawdah" to rehabilitate a small dumpsite at the beginning of the street and turn it into a small garden.

From the way Assaf talks about Hamra, you would think that she was born and reared there. But nothing would be further from the truth. Born and reared in Africa, she finished her studies and



worked as a financial consultant in the UK. Assaf only moved to Hamra when she got married sixteen years ago. But it was love at first sight.

"I love Hamra," she said. "It's the heartbeat of Lebanon. To me, Hamra is Lebanon. It's Jean and Omar and Mohamed. It's the priest and the sheikh. The hippie and the fundamentalist. The artist and the scholar. All of the diversity of

Lebanon is right here."

But would people really show up to such an American themed festival?

Last year was the first experiment. "It was beautiful," she said. "Very chaotic, yes. But beautiful. Kids had a great time."

The event had not gone unnoticed. Sponsors were lined up immediately this time around. The municipality itself got on board quicker. True, the Ahla Fawdah started organizing only a few weeks before the event, but things seem to have fallen into place quickly enough.

This time, the proceeds will partially go towards rehabilitating ramps for the disabled in Hamra. At the moment the ramps are unfortunately being used as flower pot holders or motorcycles parking spots.

"We want to paint these ramps with clear signs," she said. "We want to get students from schools to do this as a community service."

Her second project is to get Ras Beirut schools to hold an art competition and the best art work will be chosen to be implemented on different walls in Hamra. Other projects include adding greenery in the area and installing a better lighting system at night.

As for Assaf, somehow between being a mother, a wife, running her household, volunteering for various associations and planning the Hamra Halloween, she somehow found time to turn herself into a mesmerizingly frightful witch.

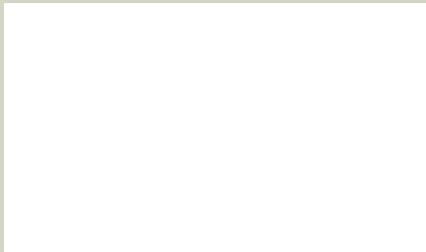


# All Alumni Reunion July 2013



Board member Imad Taher '58 was presented with an appreciation plaque by Alumni Association President Farid Fakherddine '85





# The Vision: Hawa Akkar

It was enough to make anyone turn their heels and leave. But not **Albert Khoury '90**. It will take much more than the notorious Lebanese red tape, the never-ending bureaucracy, the endless procrastination to deter him from his idea.

And his idea is a quite brilliant one: install windmills in Lebanon to generate much needed power in the country.

As luck would have it, testing showed that the region of Akkar in northern Lebanon has high winds – more than enough to generate electricity on a commercial scale. Moreover, the windmills will create hundreds of desperately needed jobs in the poverty stricken region. Thus, Hawa Akkar was born.

The \$100 million project would guarantee from 60 to 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity which tidily fits into the government plan, adopted in 2010, for Lebanon to generate 12 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2020.

Research was conducted. Investors found. A large plot of land in Akkar was secured - its residents heavily on board. It was ideal.

There was one problem: 'Someone' in the government needs to sign the papers allowing the project to proceed. For the past five years, Khoury has been shuffling back and forth between government departments to no avail.

He is stumped. "I don't understand," he said. "This is not costing the government anything. We are giving hope and jobs to so many people. We will provide electricity to the entire country for much less cost, we are not hurting the environment, so what's the problem?"

As an expert in renewable energy and electricity distribution utility, Khoury immediately saw a solution to the country's power cuts when he returned from abroad in 2000.

"I thought it would be interesting to promote energy in a way which is not just environmentally friendly but is also sustainable, economic and competitive," he said. "At the moment we have a very high cost of energy production that is inefficient and badly managed."

In other words, we are all suffering from the familiar power cuts in the country, breathing in the pollution generated from thousands of generators, and paying unnecessarily high utility bills. In 2008, Khoury created a small team to research the possibilities of using the country's natural energy.

Many self-conducted and costly studies later, Khoury found that Akkar has an outstanding Class I wind (according to wind classification) which can produce 2000 MW of energy.

Armed with his studies he approached the government and presented his case.

Presently, he explained, Lebanon produces 1500 MW of electricity – well short of the needed 2500 MW - and experts predict that in only a few years, the demand for electricity in the country will reach 4000 MW.

Hawa Akkar, on the other hand, will contribute 60 MW of electricity to the national power grid. Moreover, the cost of energy in Lebanon at the moment is 22 cents per kilowatt hour. A windmill project could generate power at 12 cents per kilowatt hour. The savings to the Lebanese government? \$48m.

Patted on the back, Khoury was told that unfortunately Lebanon doesn't have the necessary laws to support such a subject.

Not easily deterred, Khoury threw himself into lobbying the parliament. To make a long story short, the now exhausted

but determined Khoury and his team, managed to present the constitutional argument for private power generation in parliament. Studies and files were submitted again.

This time he was told that the project should be put out for tender and the successful bidder would need to have a minimum turnover of \$100 million, as well as experience of generating 20MW of wind energy.

Again, Khoury was stumped. He had just established his new company with rather modest means. Where would he get \$100m?

There was only one thing to do: seek it out. Khoury began travelling to various countries seeking investors. After several months, he managed to come back with two major international partners: The Greece-based Construction Contractors Company (CCC) and Chinese turbine manufacturer, Goldwind.

Upon his return, Khoury boasted a whopping \$7billion in turnover and 16,000 megawatts of experience.

Surely, that was more than enough to spur the government to sign the papers?

Apparently not.

Government officials declared an intention of forming a ministerial committee. Khoury found himself back to square one.

"I have secured two of the biggest companies in the world," said Khoury. "They believe in us. The Chinese believe in us. The CCC believes in us. We have 160,000 employees between these two companies. Akkar believes in us. Why doesn't the Lebanese government get their act together and believe in us?"

The last straw for Khoury came last October with news of the Australia-bound ship carrying dozens of impoverished migrants from the Middle East that had just sunk off the coast of Indonesia. The Lebanese Foreign Ministry had announced that there were 68 Lebanese, including children, on board the ill-fated vessel. Few survived.

Almost all came from Akkar fleeing the impoverished area. Khoury was livid.

"These people didn't have to die if the windmills were working," said Khoury angrily. "They wouldn't need to leave Akkar to look for employment outside. Hundreds of jobs are waiting for them right here. There is hope right here in Akkar. They didn't have to emigrate. These people died for nothing."

Judging by Khoury's Facebook and Twitter accounts, he has quite a big local and international following.

"This project is about hope," he said. "It's no longer my dream alone. This is about saving our environment, saving our government cash, providing cheap electricity to the country, providing jobs to hundreds of poor people. This is about Lebanon."

To support Albert Khoury's fight for Hawa Akkar, go to:

<http://www.hawaakkar.com/Home>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hawa-Akkar/370035739676789?ref=hl>





This is the pollution of generators in our cities, while in the background are the wind turbines that Khoury dreams of.



# Updates

‘42

**Zuhair Annab** was honored by Princess Basma Bint Al Hussein as pioneer and founder of medical laboratory in Jordan in Mach 2013. Annab, graduated from AUB in 1948 during the war in Palestine. He was offered a job in Altounyan Hospital in Aleppo to establish a med lab. The hospital had no laboratory then. It was a hard job and it was the only and first laboratory in Aleppo. In 1952 he quit and went to Amman where he joined the Medical Services in the Jordan Army. He was attached to the army hospital in Amman. He established a laboratory for the hospital and it was the first lab in the army medical services. The army arranged for him to have a course in bacteriology, virology and mycology



at The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. After he was offered the post graduate diploma the Jordan army arranged for him to have training at the forensic lab at Scotland Yard

Police in London. In 1956 he went back home and resumed his work at the army hospital. In 1962 he resigned and his rank was a major then, and started his own private med lab, which was one of three labs in the country.

‘51

**Munir E. Nassar** is writing a second edition manuscript about the clinical medicine history of the Faculty of Medicine of AUB: 1920-1974. The first edition was published under a different title and is unavailable.

‘65

**Henry Nasrallah** is currently the Sydney W. Souers Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurology and Psychiatry, St. Louis University, Missouri. He previously served as Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at The Ohio State University and as Associate Dean at the University of Cincinnati. With his wife Amelia Nasrallah, MA [AUB '70] they have two children and five grandchildren. Henry has fond memories of his IC days especially working on the school journal's editorial staff. He is currently Editor of two journals: Schizophrenia Research and Current Psychiatry. For classmates who would like to reconnect, his email address is: hnasral@slu.edu

‘74

**Dr. Yusuf A Hannun** recently moved to Stony Brook University to become the Director of the Stony Brook Cancer Center. His wife, Lina Obeid, moved to become the Dean for Research in the School of Medicine

‘75

**Reem Rashash-Shaaban** is on leave of absence this year from her job at the English Department, AUB. She has been working on her hobbies: writing and photography. Three of her poems have been published lately: Sixteen Again in the Rusty Nail, Molten Lead in a Spoon - Poehemians and The Artistic Muse, and Cool Water in The Missing Slate. She has also participated in two photography exhibitions held at AUB and Dar el Mussawwir. She is presently in Austin, Texas writing and taking pictures.



‘80

**Dr. Rana Zeine** has an MBA with Distinction and was recruited to join the faculty of Saint James School of Medicine in February 2013. She has been teaching pathology and radiology to the medical students at the Bonaire campus, and has been active in the administration which is headquartered in Chicago IL, USA. In June 2013 she presented a paper on 'External Adaptability of Higher Education Institutions: The Use of Diagnostic Interventions to Improve Agility', at the 13th International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations, which was held at the University of British Columbia Business school in Vancouver, BC, Canada. This paper has been accepted for publication in 'Change Management: An International Journal'. In August 2014, the conference will be held at Oxford University in the UK where she will be presenting two papers, one on Considerate Leadership and one on Customer Service focus in Higher Education Institutions.



# Updates

‘81

**Dr. Nicholas Chbat**, a Senior scientist at Phillips Medical Research, New York, was selected to receive the highest award presented by the IEEE organization which is the largest society representing Engineers all over the world (over one million members). It was a very tough competition with hundreds of international nominees. He was selected along with a Harvard professor to receive the highest technical Award of this organization for his research work in Bio Robotics engineering. He travelled to Osaka, Japan to receive the Award. Dr Chbat will not only be the first Lebanese but the first Arab to receive this prestigious award.

‘83

**Rula Freiji-Mouawad** lives in Chapel Hill North Carolina with her husband Dani Mouawad whom she met 14 years ago in a rural town hospital in Louisiana. They both worked in underserved areas to obtain green cards and eventually the US citizenship. They are establishing an ecological medical healing center where they will practice integrative medicine, pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases. ([www.imevpc.com](http://www.imevpc.com)). They have four children: Dalia 12, Rania 10, Michael 8 and Raphael 6 who attend the Emerson Waldorf school.

“I hope one day we can move back and continue their education at IC then AUB,” she writes.

“My days of high school at the precious International College are coming back to highlight in my memory now that my eldest daughter is a tween. I share with her the fantastic learning pearls I gained there, the funny memories, the creative moments we all shared and I hope to show her around this summer. IC equipped me with the necessary tools to become a fulfilled person, happy in continuously searching for knowledge and self-improvement.”

‘84

**Imad Rubeiz** received a BA in psychology, TD in Social Studies, and an MA in Educational Psychology (all from AUB), then a BD in Theology from (UoB).

He has since been working in education (University instructor), counseling/psychotherapy, orientation, and school principal for four years (two in KSA and two in UAE). He is back with his family (a wife and a 9.5 year old son) since December 2010 and currently occupies a high position at UoB – this is in addition to being an instructor in the same university.

“IC has always marked my life. The activities in which I used to be involved have told me how to use authority, and how to lead. Two of these activities were being a Head Usher (during end of Middle School; I can’t remember exactly when) and being a Scout and eventually a Scout Leader (Beirut 1; my scout ID was actually numbered 1). IC has indeed marked my life,” he writes.

**Firas A. Hamdan**, M.D has a double Specialty as a Plastic

Surgery and Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. He is American Board Certified and World Board Certified. He is the founding Member and Member of the Board of trustees of the World Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (WAOCS) - Switzerland in 2009. He started his professional career in Florida, USA and has since then moved to Lebanon to Establish the Cosmetic Surgery Clinic in Beirut at the Gefinor Center ([www.cscbeirut.net](http://www.cscbeirut.net)). He has branched out to Dubai, Kuwait and Riyadh where he has a strong and leading presence on the cosmetic surgery field.

Dr Hamdan is specialized in Body Lipo-sculpting (laser, RF, Vaser Hi Def and 4D) as well as the most innovative advances in facial and body cosmetic invasive and non-invasive procedures. He is a sought after speaker for International conferences on body sculpting, as well as a trainer for other plastic surgeons in the Middle East for many leading companies. Most recently, he was named in the Esquire Magazine Best Dressed 2013 issue.



‘88

**Sam Khodr** reports that after last year’s contract to deliver NOURA UNIVERSITY in January, his company PIS [www.pisleb.com](http://www.pisleb.com) has been selected to purchase and install the carpet and wall covering for an expansive 26-hotel project currently under construction in Makkah (Mecca), Saudi Arabia. The purchasing for the multi-billion dollar project has been developed by Jabal Omar Development Company (JODC). The first five hotels, a 637-room Conrad, a 797-room Hilton Convention Hotel, a 562-room Hilton Suites, a 744-room Hyatt Regency and a 455-room Marriott, 3,195 rooms in all, are expected to open in 2013.

‘93

**Bachir EL-Smadi** was married to Abeer Lotfy (Egyptian) but the couple later divorced. He has repatriated to Toronto, Ontario,

# Updates

and is currently working with International Financial Data Services Group (IFDS) as Senior Account Coordinator.

## '95

**Reem Shehab** is married to Wael Sleiman and has a daughter, Mira (kg2-IC)

Reem worked as a senior architect in Bahrain with davenport Campbell and is now working in Solidere.

## '96

**Azza Yehia** is a quantitative researcher who just recently moved back from Dubai after spending six years there. In Dubai, she worked with a multi-national media conglomerate servicing the Arab region. She also became involved in comedic acting, where she took part in the first all-female stand-up show in the region, Funny Girls. Now back in her home country, Lebanon, Azza is setting up her own specialized research consultancy that monitors digital platforms and social media to provide comprehensive assessments for individuals or organizations undertaking socio-developmental projects in the MENA region. Read more about her initiative on [www.zoomaal.com/dalala](http://www.zoomaal.com/dalala).



**Rawan Shayboub** and Ziyad Mahfoud have been blessed with another girl. Zoya was born on September 27th, 2013. Together with three-year-old Rasha, they are living in Qatar, where Ziyad works in Weill Cornell Medical College and Rawan is a happily stay-at-home mom.

## '97

**Jean Sfeir** and Yara Feghali married in Possitano Italy on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.



## '99

**Sary Richat** is now living in Bogota, Colombia where he is working as a Regional Communication Planning Lead working at Mindshare and covering the Latin American region with Kimberly Clark as his main client. He just had a baby girl called Maya.

## '00

**Nabil El-Cheikh** and Raissa Batakji were married September 20, 2013 at Elliniko - Argiroupolis' Municipality, Greece.

**Najwa Mroue** moved to the UK in 2005 to complete an MA in Gender Studies. She then worked in various human rights organizations. She has since changed careers and completed a diploma in Interior Design at the KLC school of Design in London. She has teamed up with a business partner and formed Studio KN, a boutique interior design studio based in London that caters to local and international clients. She lives in London with her husband and three-year-old son Ramsey.

## '02

**Osmat Kamal Awar** is now working for McDonald's Saudi Arabia - as head of the Corporate Communication Department. In January 2014, Osmat will celebrate his 8th working year in the Kingdom and is looking forward for the next eight years! This August, Osmat finally tied the knot with his other half and is now experiencing a new chapter in his life filled with greater responsibilities, deeper stability and profound happiness. His dedication and love to the International College remains robust and unmatched and is looking forward to his next visit to Beirut to visit IC premises and reminisce on the beautiful memories he had there.



**Sara Mukallid** and her husband Amine Hammoud are delighted to share the news of the birth of their baby boy, Sam Hammoud, born on May 19th, 2003.

# Updates

‘04

**Ibrahim Imad El Kaakour** is currently working in Advanced Vision for Electro-Mechanical Works, part of CPC group, part of Saudi Binladin Group which has over 180,000 employees in total and is considered the number one E/M contracting company in the region. He started with Vision in 2007 as an intern when it was first established, recruited directly after graduation in August 2008, and has worked since then in more than six prestigious multibillion Riyal Projects in Saudi Arabia (such as King AbdulAziz new Airport, Private Jet Airport in Jeddah and Masa'a Extension Project in Makkah). He is currently residing in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, holding the position of Project Manager for the project of Kudai Transportation Center in Makkah and considered to be the youngest PM in the company and one of the youngest in the group.

He is also the founder and owner of Lebanese Genco Olive Oil Establishment which deals with gourmet cooking produce such as the luxury brand of organic extra virgin cold pressed olive oil: Gardens of Laila (بساتين ليلي) with both its green and gold labels.

‘05

**Hadi El Hassan** attended the American University of Beirut where he earned his bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering with a minor in Mathematics. After graduating from AUB, he worked as a management consultant for three years across the Middle East and North Africa. Over the past summer, he worked at Goldman Sachs in New York. He is currently pursuing his MBA at Harvard University (Harvard Business School) in Boston, Massachusetts. "I have a lot of appreciation/ reverence/ respect for this great institution. I will forever remember and cherish my memories from IC and is grateful for the enduring friendships that I built during my time at the school."

**Mirna Hamady** is currently working at Kashida, a product design company she has co-founded in 2011. Kashida creates bespoke home accessories and furniture pieces based on 3D Arabic typography ([www.kashidadesign.com](http://www.kashidadesign.com)). After a BFA in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut, as well as work experience in branding and publication design, Mirna ventured along with co-founder Elie Abou Jamra to set up the company which is based in Beirut. Mirna is a published winner at Communication Arts Typography Annual 2012, and her work has been mentioned in over 35 media portals. She was a speaker at TasmeemDoha 2011 and Nuqat Creative Conference 2012, and Qatari Business Women's Forum 2013. Mirna has received the Maurice Fadel Prize, TasmeemDoha Entrepreneurship winner, and was a finalist at OECD MENA100, MIT Grow my Business, and the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards.

‘06

**Mohamad Karim Majbour** recently came from Canada after finishing his higher studies in Business Law at the University of

Montreal. He is now working in Beirut as a lawyer. Karim can be reached at [karimmajbour@lawyer.com](mailto:karimmajbour@lawyer.com)

‘08

**Wael Ayache** earned his undergraduate degree at the American University of Beirut, in Economics with a minor in Mathematics. He then moved to New York City to study at Columbia University, and graduated with an MS in Financial Engineering. He joined Bank of America Merrill Lynch in June 2012. He started in Charlotte, North Carolina, then moved to NY as an associate in the Investment Management & Guidance team of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. He is also pursuing the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation and is currently a Level III candidate.

**Nassmah al Ghousein** graduated from the Department of Architecture and Graphic Design at AUB as an architect on June 15, 2013. She received an award for my graduation project titled Treading the Line: Beirut's Interactive Hackerspace. The project was selected among four others across the Middle East to be granted the Excellence in Architecture award by Omrania. Please find here the link to the press release: <http://www.omrancia.beaward.org/node/480>

‘10

**Gide Sleiman Haidar** has been studying architecture at the Lebanese university. After receiving her bachelor's degree she plans to pursue her master's. In her second year, she trained at FMC, an architecture company and in her third year, she trained at Scrapers sarl. She is looking forward to intern this summer in Paris, France, especially because she might be traveling for a specialized master degree in sustainable architecture and eco management. "I am really grateful for my years at IC and miss my teachers and classmates. I realize that IC has given me very good opportunities so far and is considered among the top schools in Lebanon," she writes.

‘12

**Aya Cheaito** is currently majoring in Neuroscience, minoring in French literature, psychology and chemistry at New York University. She is a member of the Presidential Honors Scholars Program, a Health Leader on NYU campus, and is currently working in a neurobiology research Lab. "I couldn't have done it without the great education I received at IC," she writes.

# Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

As I read the IC Newsletter Spring edition of 2013, and examined all the amazing school improvements that have been done and looked at the pictures of the classrooms, auditoriums, the basketball court, elementary school, the large gymnasium, the lovely science lab, the music room, the library, the green teachers' lounge, and the playground, I realized that "where there is a will, there is certainly a way" and I am so proud of being an IC Alumni.

Since I graduated,, there remains a certain nostalgia which surfaces whenever I see a young child wearing the green PE sports suit with the IC logo on it. I can't help but stop and say to that child that IC is the best school ever and that I was a student and graduated proudly from IC. I am sure this feeling is shared by all alumni alike.

The titles in the pictures read "the Big Move, April 2013" and yes I believe that IC has accomplished what it set to be its first goal, alf mabrouk, and I am sure that many more goals and achievements will follow.

As to the human potential, there is something that all parents and students alike realize about IC and that is that if you want to send your son or daughter to IC then you must be prepared to work with your son or daughter both academically and socially.. And time and time again, it has been proven that those parents who depend totally on IC and do not participate with their children, supervising homework or joining social activities at school as well as other activities, find themselves consistently out of the loop.

IC does a great job because it takes a child and teaches them leadership and independence not to mention the ability to compete with any other individual in both the academic world as well as eventually in life.

Thank you IC for teaching me these qualities and I am sure that for many decades to come, IC will continue to do the same for the next generations. I wish you all a great academic year 2013-2014.

**Khaled Ahmed Taki 69**

Following my high-school graduation from I.C. in 1964, I ended up at AUB for a B.Sc. in Environmental Health ('68), and then at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

for an M.Sc. ('72) and eventually a Ph.D. ('82) in Occupational Hygiene. I started my professional career as an Instructor at the AUB Faculty of Health Sciences. , I Then moved to the USA (Johns Hopkins, Rutgers University, Medical Service Corporation International), Europe, the Far East and later back to Beirut where I retired after 23 years with the International Labour Organization, working as a Regional Advisor in Occupational Safety and Health, and Director of the



Multidisciplinary Team.

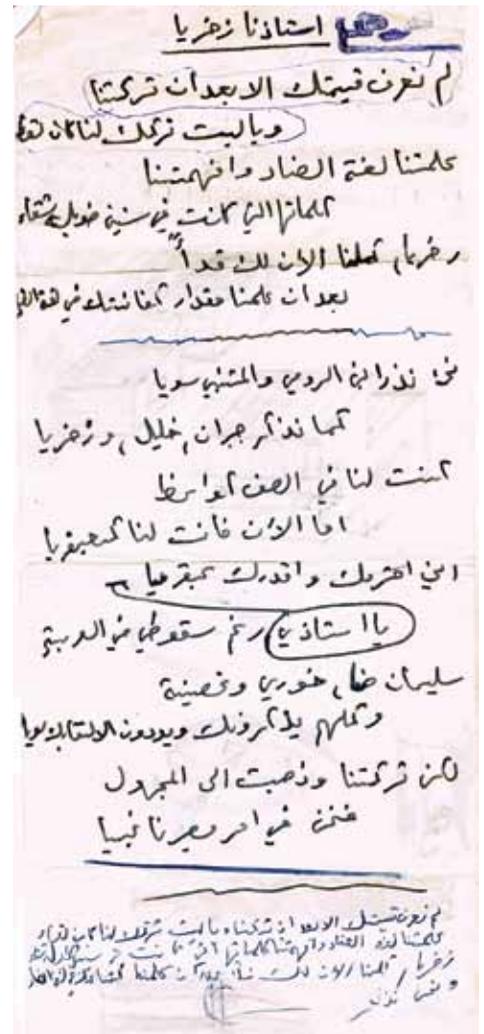
Student life at IC was different. Culture, tolerance, leadership, and first class education (to say the least) were and seemingly still are certainly among IC's values. Life at IC was also fun.

My apologies, though belated, go to the area residents who had to put up with our class follies on graduation day, and the chaos we caused. In shorts and t-shirts, our motorcade made it through Bliss Street, uninterrupted by the Hbeich Police Station, all the way to the Corniche.

Surprisingly, IC's administration used to schedule our history class right after our athletics session, which took us for a one-hour swim at the AUB Beach. This meant late arrival back to the history classroom. Our mischievous group decided one day (upon our return from swimming to history) to enter the classroom one at a time, each one of us knocking at the class door for the teacher to open! After answering the 5th knock, and weary of what was happening outside, the teacher rushed out of the classroom only to find the rest of us lined up in preparation to continue the plot. Don't ask what happened!

**Nabil T. Watfa, '64**

Submitted by  
**Khaled Y.  
Daouk '62**



# Letters to the editor

I carry with me tons of fun memories from IC. In the classroom, I think French was the most enjoyable class. We were always trying to put words together, and I'm sure every sentence was a complete disaster! The greatest memories though were with the football team. I really enjoyed the tournaments and practices, especially the ones where no one felt like playing and coach Rabih went crazy. I still recall our trip to Egypt and how fun that was ... Great times!

Wael Ayache '08



Varsity Football Team in Egypt

Roger Valla, then Director of the Secondary School French Program, used to often participate with our 1ère and Terminale daily "excursions." I recall one day when he had told us we'd be walking a gentle slope around a hill to get to the top; I had decided as an athletic young man and senior scout to take the short cut and escalade the rocks. Some five minutes later, upon reaching the summit simultaneously, he had exclaimed 'mi-figue, mi-raisin' with his old sense of humor: «Monsieur Sehnaoui, la ligne droite n'est pas toujours le plus court chemin!»

Elie Sehnaoui '56

# In Memoriam



We regret to inform you that **Philip Mishalany '70** passed away on January 2nd 2013. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Mishalany family.



We regret to inform you that Issam Sarieddine, IC security guard from 1977 until 2010 passed away in September 2013. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Sarieddine family.



We regret to inform you that **Constantine (Costi) Baramki '64** passed away in Huntington Beach, California, in June 2013. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Baramki family.



We regret to inform you that **Nabil Haddad '83** passed away in July 2013. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Haddad family.



We regret to inform you that **Zouehir Rawda '51** passed away in October 2013. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Rawda family



*Season's Greetings!*



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