



IC Newsletter

WINTER 2014



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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Note from the Editor

It continues to be an amazing experience to see the IC spirit so alive in our Alumni - both young and old. There is definitely something which binds us together regardless of age and country of each reunion event.

It's great to see you all really appreciating the value of IC coming to you.

Our reunions are not just held for you to see each other for pleasure but also to establish and widen your network communities. These events are for you and about you. Just come and enjoy.

Many Alumni contact us to donate to our Partnership for Excellence Campaign. Most of you want to help build Lebanon's future. For this is essentially what we are doing. Education is key to keeping Lebanon as stable as it can be during this period of upheaval.

This newsletter is also another one of our efforts to keep you updated on your Alma Mater and fellow Alumni. In this issue, we introduce our new President, Dr. Don Bergman. In only a short time, he has already earned the reputation of being the "Students' President." We take you with us to Turkey where the third annual Founder's Day was held. This is a wonderful event which brings together students from the last few remaining schools established by the American Board in the 1800s. We also continue our now very popular series: The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan.

In addition, we bring you the story of a dynamic young graduate who has somehow managed to establish her own NGO to help the Syrian refugees in Lebanon while studying for her PhD in the UK at the same time.

And finally, two short stories for all those who are afraid to become risk-takers.

A big thank you to all those who have supported us throughout the years. Our mission is far from over, so please continue believing in us.

Here's to a peaceful 2015.

Best regards,



Moufid Beydoun '64
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.

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) 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 Students' President: "Dr. B" – aka Dr. Don Bergman

It's 7:00am on Thursday morning, September 18th. It's the first day of school. Students are already beginning to stream in well ahead of the 7:40 am bell in an obvious parental effort to beat the intense first-day-of-school morning traffic. Amidst the youthful faces – which, needless to say, expressed quite well the farewell blues of loafing around – a voice rang out cheerfully.

"Good morning! Good morning! Welcome back!" it said.

Some students stared, some muttered back a semblance of a greeting and others answered back cheerfully.

"Who was that?" some mumbled to each other as they walked in the school gate.

They didn't know it yet but they had just met IC's new President: Dr. Don Bergman.

"I like to greet students in the morning," he said smiling widely. "I've done this in all the schools I've served. But usually there is only one major entry to the school.

At IC, there are many entries, and I rotate to all of them throughout the week!"

Just a day before, Bergman introduced himself to IC's faculty and staff at the annual plenary session. In a candid and personal presentation, he began, "my parents were simple, hardworking farmers, and although they had humble material possessions, they loved the land. I was the second of six children and all of us grew up milking cows, caring for farm animals and working in the fields."

He attended a small, rural farming community school saying he "received a very basic but solid education with no special programs or opportunities."

He also observed some of his siblings struggle at school. One brother dropped out in the eighth grade. Another had difficulty in school contributing to insecurity and a lack of confidence, while others were content doing the minimum required to pass their classes, as expectations for nearly everyone was to simply

to find a job or continue to work on the family farm upon leaving school.

He may have followed suit if it were not largely for the inspiration of two teachers at his local high school. One was a history and geography teacher and the other was his basketball coach.

"They encouraged, challenged, and exposed me to windows and doors of potential opportunity that I did not know existed," he said.

Teachers, he added, have the marvelous power to influence students. "Many forget what we say. Some forget what we do. But no one forgets how we made them feel. These feelings, positive or negative, tend to remain within us forever."

He turned to his audience. "And all of you at IC," he said, "have that same opportunity to inspire and influence the young people around you."

He asked if those in attendance could think of a teacher who had a significant impact on them as a child. After a pause, he then asked "can you now think of a student from last year for whom you have been that inspiration?"

Much to the disappointment of his father, who expected him to remain on the family farm, Bergman served four years in the Navy, including a tour in Vietnam, and later went on to university and obtained a teaching degree in History, Geography and Physical Education. His international teaching assignments have included schools in Australia, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, and Singapore.

Along the way, he earned his Master's and Doctorate degrees and was appointed as the president of several international schools. In the 12 years before joining IC, he served as the President of the International School in Santiago, Chile.

It was pure chance which brought him to Beirut. With his term in Chile almost



over, he was contacted by one of IC's former Presidents, Art Charles, who was conducting Headmaster searches for several international schools. After talking about several school openings, Mr Charles asked, "what would you think about Beirut?"

Bergman paused while visions of explosions, car bombs, and destruction came to mind. Still, intrigued by the reputation of the school and the challenges it faced, he agreed to be a candidate, was invited to visit the school, and today he stands proudly as IC's new president.

In only a few weeks since his arrival, Bergman has already been noted for his leadership style. "Most people appreciate

leadership that is thoughtful and transparent, and leadership that investigates and tries to understand all possible consequences, even those that are unintended, before making decisions," he said. "I can and will make difficult decisions, even if not popular, if I believe they are in the best interest of IC. And I will always view issues through the priority lens of the school and students."

Meanwhile, thanks to his impromptu visits to classrooms and even reportedly dropping in on some field trips, Bergman has earned the reputation of being the "Students' President". Judging by the greetings as he walks through the campus, he is now firmly known as "Dr. B".

The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:

Paradise: the new site where International College would be built



In 1910, Protestant Minister Rev. Alexander MacLachlan was on his furlough and was spending some part of it at the residence of Emma Kennedy in New York. A long time believer in MacLachlan's mission, Mrs. Kennedy had just approved a large donation to the school. It was a generous amount, enough to start construction, but not enough to build the sprawling campus that MacLachlan had envisioned. But Mrs. Kennedy, it seemed, had not yet finished...

Reverend Alexander MacLachlan was, as he himself described it, walking on cloud nine. He just couldn't get himself to believe it. His dream of building a campus for his beloved International College was actually going to happen. Well, almost. He had yet to construct the three buildings, the President's house and the few auxiliary buildings he had envisioned. Not to mention finding and securing the land. This vision had been in his mind for so long that when Emma Kennedy's brother-in-law, Dr. A.F. Shauffler (widely renowned as the President of New York City Mission and Tract Society) asked MacLachlan to join him in the library for a brief 'chat', the Minister wasted no time detailing the campus, all the materials that he would need and the estimated costs of construction. He even had a ball point figure ready: \$175,000 – a whopping amount in 1911. His ambitious plans were duly related to Kennedy. Now it was her turn to summon MacLachlan to the library. With bated breath,

the Protestant Minister listened as she explained that she would be glad to provide the necessary funds to carry his plans out. One can only imagine MacLachlan's reaction. "For more than twenty years I had been under constant stress and worry to provide suitable, adequate accommodation for an ever-growing student body, from an ever-widening constituency," he wrote in his 1937 diary *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*. "The way now was clear for the most important forward step since our opening in the autumn of 1891." Upon his return to Smyrna, MacLachlan and his colleagues immediately began searching for a new site. The new campus had to be some way from the center of the city and on a hillside. Finally, the search came down to three sites. A vote was taken. It was unanimous: the new International College campus will be built in the beautiful, barren area of Paradise. The land was twenty acres, two hundred and fifty

Smyrna

(Part IX)

feet above the city and a mile and half away from it.

It was perfect. But he soon discovered that Ottoman rule required an "Imperial Firman", a royal mandate or decree issued by the government before the old campus could be shut down or the new one built.

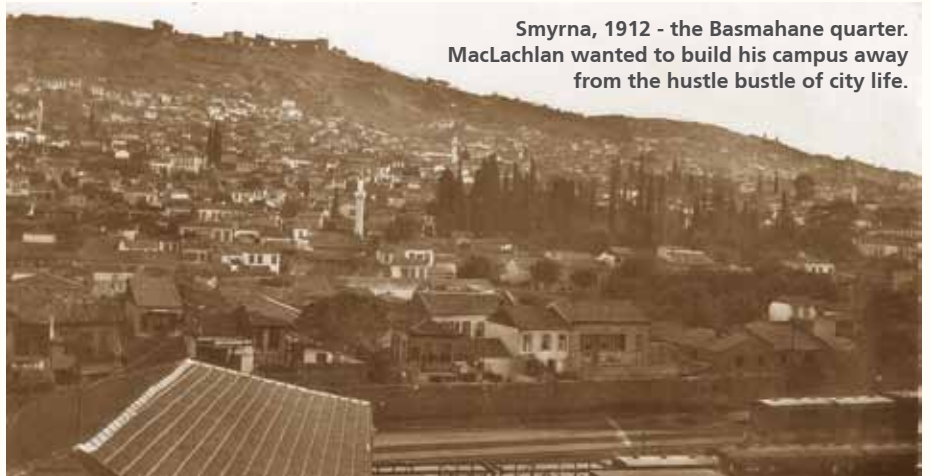
MacLachlan dutifully followed the procedures for securing one. That was in 1911. He waited for the approval to come. And waited. And waited.

Finally he did what he had been doing since his arrival to Smyrna twenty years ago: he just went right ahead and did it. Construction began in 1912. But it wasn't entirely without approval. He knew well enough to pay cordial visits to the ruling Governor at the time and "consult" with them. "I had long since found a more excellent way in a policy of absolute frankness, presenting my case directly to those in authority in a country where I was a privileged guest and unfailingly found a ready and reasonable response to my appeals," he wrote in his diary. In fact, in the summer of 1912, when construction work on the three major buildings was advanced and the school was supposedly still awaiting for approval for the work to begin, MacLachlan sailed all the way to Constantinople, to pay a visit to Mehmed Kâmil Pasha, the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

Just as MacLachlan was debating how to approach the Vizier's office, he happened to meet Pasha's son-in-law on the ship. After hearing MacLachlan's story, the son-in-law took him straight to the family home. Pasha listened attentively to the Protestant Minister and summoned his secretary. A few minutes later, he announced that "strangely enough your Firman documents have been located in the department of Council of State over which I preside, where they were apparently deposited after being passed and remained there because no one was responsible for their transfer to the next department."

In an obvious gesture of friendship, the Vizier assured MacLachlan that he will "see to it that there will be no interference with your building operations."

(The friendship between the two men would



Smyrna, 1912 - the Basmahane quarter.
MacLachlan wanted to build his campus away from the hustle bustle of city life.



Mehmed Kâmil Pasha, the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire



An Imperial Firman in the early 1900s

later serve the Minister very well as MacLachlan appealed personally on many later occasions to Pasha to release Armenians imprisoned in Smyrna during the Armenian massacres). As for the Imperial Firman, it finally did appear: three years after the application was submitted and construction was completed.

To be continued ...

Historical information based on: an interview with Dr. Howard Reed (summer 2011); Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey, by Alexander MacLachlan, 1937; and Lucky Lach Becoming by Arthur Lachlan Reed, 2007.



FOUNDERS' DAY: IC STUDENTS CELEBRATE IN ISTANBUL

If the founding missionaries were alive, they would have been very proud indeed. They would have seen ten IC students from Lebanon getting together with students from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria in Istanbul for the recently established Founders' Day event. They would have cheered for all sides during the inter-scholastic basketball game. They would have been amused to see students going through a series of icebreaking sessions.

In fact, once upon a time, they probably did. For there was a time when we were all in Turkey – all founded by the Protestant missionaries: the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM).

Dubbed a 'cousins reunion', the three-day Founders' Day event in November brought together students, faculty and administrators from the seven remaining schools – out of an original 15 established by the ABCFM. Each school brought a handful of students. IC students, all from grade nine, were accompanied by Middle School counselor, Ghada Itani, and IC Newsletter writer, Reem Haddad.

Other participating schools were: Üsküdar American Academy, American Collegiate Institute, Tarsus American College, American College of Greece-Pierce, American College of Sofia and SEV American College. The host this year was the Üsküdar American Academy (ÜAA).

"The American Board schools were born with a vision of providing excellent education, a strong co-curricular program and a commitment to social service. This vision is still alive today," said Eric Trujillo, ÜAA's Headmaster, during the opening ceremony of the event. "When we celebrate our commonalities, we do not feel alone. We can see that there is something bigger than just us and these connections only make us stronger and richer as educational institutions. With these links to each other, the spirit of the Founders of these schools lives on."

Students presented their schools and participated in many activities. Among them was a competition to come up with a Founders' Day logo.

These kinds of gatherings were probably common in the 1800s and early 1900s. But the Ottoman Empire's demise led to a struggle for Turkish self-determination and schools were subjected to



heavy restrictions. The role of the ABCFM and its missionaries diminished considerably. With the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923 and the US depression in 1929, some of the Board's schools eventually either shut down permanently or relocated to other countries, as in IC's case. Some, however, remained.

Only those that remained retained some link with the Board. Others, like IC, went on to form their own independent secular boards.

As the years passed and as they adapted to their new environments, the schools lost touch with one another. This

reunion in Istanbul marks the 78th year since IC left Turkey.

The event had obviously affected IC students as they discussed the trip at the airport.

"This was a unique experience," said Antoine Semaan. "We're all somehow part of the IC family tree."

Judging by the immediate bonding of the students, culture was not an issue.

"It was really great to be there and meet all these new people," said Dalia Maktabi.

Johanna Asfour couldn't agree more. "It's great learning about different cultures first hand like this," she said.

In fact, after a while, students from the various schools seemed to sense something familiar about each other.

"We are so different" said Christina Accad, "but yet so similar, aren't we?"

Marie Nour Karam agreed. "Yes," she said, "and yet when we look at the different cultures, we are looking at different parts of the world. And this is a great way to see our world."

For Marwan Bou Nassif, Ramzi Fathallah and Abdullah Chaarani, the trip "was about bonding and connecting with new people," they said. "We were communicating with people who share the same roots of education."



But perhaps the highlight of the event was the impromptu traditional dancing that broke out on a boat trip along the Bosphorus Strait organized by ÜAA. Students joined in and vied with each other

to teach their country's traditional dances. "I just loved these dances from other cultures," said Aya Akl. "I could go on dancing forever with them." Apparently, so could Aya Tarabey.

"We're all friends now," she said. "We all have to stay in touch." Since their arrival back in Beirut, IC students have reportedly already started skypeing sessions with their new friends.





Graduation 2014

"My first message to you is: Be active citizens. You deserve a better Lebanon and you can make change happen.

My second message to you is: Be global citizens. Addressing global problems will require both your vision and your activism. Half of the earth's population is under the age of 25. You are part of this largest generation of youth in

world history. And you have at your disposal the new and all-powerful tools of social networking that allow you to communicate more effectively and to mobilize more widely.

Young people, a better Lebanon and a better world are your right and your responsibility. The future is yours. Shape it."

Nawaf Salam '71, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the U.N.



"I hereby promise to give from my money and time back to IC when I can and as much as I can so others can enjoy privileges of belonging to this great institution."

Mona Bawarshi '67,
Board member,
asking students to take
a pledge during
graduation rehearsal





IC Scholars
2014 - 2015

Marathon 2014





Farewell ICPC

The old Parents Committee bids the school goodbye.

The ICPC (IC Parents' Committee) is elected every three years.

"It gives us great pleasure to close our term with the PC 2011-2014 Travel Activities Fund. This fund will last in perpetuity with a yearly yielding that will be used for the support of talented and deserving IC students participating in school activities abroad.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all IC parents, teachers and administration, who supported us these past three years. We couldn't have made it successfully without your invaluable trust and cooperation."

The ICPC

MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ALL SCHOOL:

1-Tuition fees: reduced the intended increase of the tuition fees and changed its due date.

2- Emergency vehicle: raised funds to buy an emergency vehicle for IC.

3- Training Workshop on the emergency vehicle: trained sports teachers and school staff to use the equipment.

4- Red Cross training for bus drivers and bus staff from both Beirut and Ain Aar campuses.

5- Red Cross training for all parents.

6- New sports outfits: These suits are 100% cotton and maintain IC colors. All articles may be sold separately and most importantly they are made in Lebanon!

7- Phone Book: an electronic phone book was sent to all Elementary School parents.

PRESCHOOL:

1-Preschool Spring Fling: students between the ages of three and eight were invited with their parents to enjoy a fun day of games and entertainment.

2- Graduation shirts: produced personal T-shirts (decorated with their own drawing) to all graduating preschoolers.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

1-IC No Bullying Week: lecture by Dr. Raed Mohsen to parents and a whole week dedicated to learning positive citizenship and respect of each other's difference. The idea has since been integrated in the Elementary School curriculum under the title of

Positive Citizenship.

2- Arabic Book Club: held at the elementary school library for fourth and fifth graders. Administration decided to adopt the concept and integrate it in the Elementary School program.

3- Sports and Fun day: for Elementary School students and their families with lots of games and a football match between parents and the junior varsity team.

4- Graduation souvenir photo: a framed class photo to all graduating elementary school students.

5- Play for Elementary students: "Le Magicien OZ for lower elementary students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1-Awareness lectures on road safety: to all students in grades eight and nine by YASA.

2- Drug awareness campaign: a lecture by Dr. Fadi Maalouf, professor of child psychiatry at AUBMC to students in grades seven, eight and nine.

HIGH SCHOOL:

1-Career Guidance Day: which gathered career men and women from all professions was held for the third year in a row. Its success led the IC administration to adopt it as part of its Advisory Program.

2- Awareness on the consequences of substance abuse: lectures given by Dr. Farid Talih and Judge Ghada Abou Alwan Attallah highlighted the physical dangers and the legal consequences of substance abuse.

3- Lectures on Social Entrepreneurship: Mr. Kamal Mouzawak, founder of Souk El Tayeb, and Mrs. Hala Fadel, head of the MIT business plan competition and founder of Ruwwad NGO explained to IB1 students about the importance of giving less fortunate people the opportunity to become full-fledged entrepreneurs.

Fundraising events: dinner at Le Maillon restaurant and a "Lebanese Night" dinner at IC premises.



New Parents' Receptions

New IC President Don Bergman, Senior VP Mishka Mourani, VP for Alumni & Development Moufid Beydoun '64 and Directors welcomed new Ras Beirut and Ain Aar parents at the beginning of the school year.

After a warm welcome, Dr. Bergman gave a brief presenta-

tion about the school. Then Mrs. Mourani talked about IC's state-of-the-art education, emphasizing the high performance of students and the ongoing training of teachers. A reception followed to give a chance for new parents to get to know the Directors and mingle with each other.

Elementary School students planting trees in Baabda forest





20th Anniversary Reunion - Class of 1994

The 20th Anniversary Reunion for the Class of 1994 was held on the rooftop of the Marwan and Hadia Ghandour Courtyard of the Jaroudi Building on August 2nd and was attended by more than 90 people, including children of the former students. A magic show was especially organized for the children. The organizers (from the Class '94) honored their previous teachers

Abdel Latif Mneimneh, Sami Nasr, Abdel Kader Bashir, Iskandar Abu Kasm, Khalil Khoury, former Dean of Students Mona Shbaklo, and former Secondary School Director Nabil Rahhal.

They visited Rockefeller Hall and remembered their last three years at the school. The organizers also held English vs French football and basketball games.





25th Anniversary Reunion - Class of 1989

The 25th Anniversary Reunion for the Class of 1989 was held on the rooftop of the Marwan and Hadia Ghandour Courtyard of the Jaroudi Building on June 20th. More than 75 people attended the event, including some of their teachers. Those teachers included Jeanette Franjeh, Abdel Latif Mneimneh, Mohamad Mon'em, Hamdi Houalla and Roger Nabaa. Due to the civil war, the Class of 1989 did not have a graduation ceremony. To make it up to them, a "graduation ceremony" was held and special diplomas handed out (they even got to put on caps!).





IC 50th Anniversary Reunion - Class of 1964

The IC 50th Anniversary Reunion for the Class of 1964 took place at IC at the Marwan & Hadia Ghandour Courtyard on the rooftop of the Jaroudi Building on June 19th. More than 70 Alumni were present. They all arrived on time for the campus tour organized by Moufid Beydoun '64. They enjoyed the tour and loved seeing how IC managed to keep the old landscaping and trees untouched while adding three new buildings.



Back to School Fundraising Dinner



IC Alumni and Development office held a "Back to School" Fundraising dinner on October 25th 2014 which was attended by more than 300 Alumni, parents and friends at the Elementary and Pre-school playground. The highlights of the dinner were the entertainment provided by the Accapella group, Beirut Vocal Point and a band and percussionist group from Exclusive Production.



Faqra catering installed various cooking and dessert stations around the playground while Hallab offered and put up a "knefeh" station. Attendees were particularly delighted to meet up with the IC infamous nurse, Garo "Panadol," and Shawki, the King of the "Roasto sandwich."





But most intriguing was a little stand with newspapers and various candies. Much to the surprise of the guests, Mehio himself seemed to be standing there selling his usual stuff – just like the old days. A closer look, however, revealed a blown up cutout of Mehio – providing a perfect picture opportunity for many.



A tombola was held and many prizes were given out. All proceeds of the dinner will go towards IC's Scholarship Fund.

The dinner was sponsored by:
 Platinum sponsor: Creditbank
 Gold sponsors: Blom Bank, CCC, Patchi
 Silver sponsors: Amana Capital, Jammal Trust Bank, Nsouli, Obegi, Pepsi, Sukleen

A special thanks to Calmbear production for the sound, lighting and stage, Caractere for the beautiful set-up, Fawaz Holding for the alcohol, Domaine des Tourelles for the wine, M. Farhat Est. for the lovely glassware that were used for the flower arrangements, and Ghandour for all the sweets on Mehio's stand.



IC Sponsors 'House of Lebanon' Reception in Los Angeles



In October and in support of the first Lebanese American Cultural Center in Los Angeles and House of Lebanon Artists Group, IC became a sponsor and held a reception for Alumni and various attendees. VP of Finance and CFO **Talal Jundi '86** and VP for Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** attended the event. They talked about IC's role in education and its various projects.

Beyond Borders Art Exhibition is one of House of Lebanon's annual events. It is produced by House of Lebanon Artists Group, which is comprised of emerging and professional artists including visual artists, performers, composers, musicians, actors, filmmakers and writers using various mediums to express themselves and highlight their heritage and culture through their work.



Rabih Saliba '03, Yahia Beydoun '00, Moufid Beydoun '64, Talal Jundi '86



Talal Jundi '86

Dinners and Events

London

A welcome dinner for IC Trustees and Administrators was held in London in November at the Goring Hotel.

Another dinner was hosted by Trustee **Fouad Malouf '56** for Alumni, Board members and Administrators at Saville Club on November 6th, 2014.

The board was also welcomed by Mrs. Hadia Ghandour at a reception in her home.



Mishka Mourani, Ramzi Kurban '68, Emile Chammas '76, Mrs. Jabr, Fouad Malouf '56, Aida Chammas, Imad Taher '58, Hanan Malouf, Sadek Sawaf '63, Gilbert Jabr '62



Don Bergman, Sophia Crawford, Frederick Crawford, Peter Thorson, Farid Fakhreddine '85, Anwar Al Mulla '63, Fouad Malouf '56, Mishka Mourani, William Turner



IC board meeting



Salem Beydoun, Saad Mattar '69, Walid Daouk '77, Hadia Ghandour, Moufid Beydoun '64, Vouty Mattar, Adnan Kronfol '65, Tamima Bayhum '69, Farid Kanazeh '67



Miami, Florida

In Miami, **Salah Izzedin '65** hosted a dinner at the Texas de Brazil (Mr Izzedin is the founder and CEO of the restaurant) in October which was attended by 24 Alumni and friends. The Vice President for Alumni & Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64**, talked about the Partnership for Excellence Campaign which aims to build up IC's Scholarship Fund and launch new construction projects on both its Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campuses.



Wael Tamim '86, Alex Zakharia '54, Moufid Beydoun '64, Ziyad Mneimneh '76, Marwan Iskandarani '70, Ziad Khatib '80



Toronto

In Toronto, an IC Alumni dinner was organized by **Issa Kavar '70** and **George Karam '69**. It was held at La Grille Restaurant in October and was attended by 18 Alumni and friends. VP for Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** gave a presentation about the school and talked about its Partnership for Excellence Campaign.





Montreal

In Montreal, thirty-two people attended a reunion in October held at the Restaurant Sol  mer organized by IC's ambassador, **Khaled Hajjar '84**. The event was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old news, meet new IC friends and most of all, network.





The Little Bookshop

Adib Rahhal '94 finally opened his little bookshop. And he named it just that: The Little Bookshop. It's been a dream of his since his secondary school days at IC.

Even he cannot explain this continuing, gnawing urge to open a bookstore. Maybe because he was and still is an avid reader. Maybe because he tends to read the reviews of all the latest books. Or maybe because books were his salvation during difficult times.

No matter. When the opportunity came in the guise of a kind landlady offering a small shop for rent in Ras Beirut, he grabbed it.

"It had to be Hamra," he said. "This kind of bookshop would only work here."

Tucked away in a side street just off Jeanne D'Arc Street, The Little Bookshop specializes in English books. Next to today's lavish bookstores, the titles are relatively few. But each and every title has been carefully and lovingly handpicked. Rahhal himself is familiar with all of his books – either through reading them or by carefully analyzing their reviews.

"I like my books to offer some kind of message," he said, "as opposed to regular commercial bestsellers, some of which only entertain. I think a book should always change you one way or another."

He is by no means competing with the big stores. Nor does he want to. His clien-

tele tends to be, shall we say, the more intellectual or academic type. It is those who want to spend time not only choosing from an already preselected pool of books, but who prefer to discuss the book before purchasing it. Rahhal likes nothing better. Sitting by the glow warm of the lamp at his little wooden desk and relaxing to the soft music (his favorites of jazz, oldies, classics) in the background, he is ready to discuss his treasured books with all those who wander in.

More often than not, there are those who know that they want to read something. But what? Rahhal spots them immediately.

"It's all about mood," he said. "Some come in with a melancholic mood, for example, so I suggest a few books to fit this mood."

It's called bibliotherapy - a theory which holds that reading can be therapeutic.

Perhaps it is because he studied psychology as a major (though he denies it) or perhaps it is because of his own personal experiences, Rahhal has become quite apt in reading his clientele's mood.

The Little Bookshop is lined with wooden shelves many of which contain rather picturesque looking covers. A closer look reveals sets of classic and poetry books bound in colorful designs.

"Books," explained Rahhal, "should also be beautiful enough to be displayed in your own living room."

Since he opened last May, the bookshop has managed to attract enough customers to keep its doors open.

"That's the idea," said Rahhal. "I am not out to make money from this just to make a small living."

For him, the Little Bookshop is much more than just a small business. "It is something I've always wanted to do," he said quietly.

"I was never really happy in anything I did before. Now, I have found contentment and peace. I never want to do anything else."

The Little Bookshop is located in Makdisi Building Jeanne d'Arc Street, Hamra and is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Contact: thelittlebookshop.beirut@gmail.com. Tel: 01740270.





SAWA to make a difference

Anyone who believes that one person cannot make a difference has not met **Rouba Mhaissen '06**.

At only 26, she is finishing her PhD, teaching at her university, running a very active NGO and speaking internationally about the plight of Syrian refugees – most recently at the World Economic Forum in Davos sharing the speaking panel with the worlds' leaders. It all happened so suddenly. A student at SOAS, University of London, she was in Lebanon during the summer of 2011 doing the needed field research for her dissertation about women in labor markets, when she came across hundreds of refugee families sitting dejectedly in a field in the northern parts of Akkar. Back home, she found herself brooding about it. On impulse, she grabbed her phone and sent a WhatsApp message to her friends. Would they be willing to donate blankets, mattresses, clothes, food or money? Her idea was to take a few emergency relief items and distribute them to the families. The good deed done, she could return to the UK with some peace of mind.

But destiny had other plans for her. Her WhatsApp message went viral. For the next few days, friends and complete strangers knocked on her door and handed over all kinds of items. Many would knock and hand over envelopes. To her amazement, she opened them to find money. "It was amazing," she recalled. "I didn't know a lot of these people and here they were handing me cash or checks. Some were \$20 and others went up to \$2,000." Altogether, she – now joined by a group of friends – managed to raise \$10,000 in the first week only. No sooner had they distributed all the items, than more waves of refugees arrived. The UK had to wait. Mhaissen and her friends threw themselves in collecting donations. At the beginning it was simple. They would choose a café and send out messages for volunteers to join them. Fifteen to 20 people would show up every time. But there came a time when her home could no longer contain all the donations. Mhaissen knew it was time to establish an NGO. SAWA for Development and Aid was officially born in 2011 and in addition to



providing basic items, it concentrated on development: education, psychosocial support, youth and women are some of the project's focus.

The word went out. Many schools got involved. Some held bake sales and donated the proceeds to SAWA while others donated busloads of back packs and books. Students volunteered their time to help sort out the donated clothes. Factories donated basic supplies. One celebrity even offered to put on a Christmas performance for refugee children. Various artists also offered to spend time with the children.

"This is not like a bureaucratic hierarchical NGO where one person rules," said Mhaissen. "This is a youth initiative where everyone feels they are stakeholders and they can all do something. At any time, when needed, we have 100 volunteers who will show up."

When international aid agencies took over the Akkar camps, SAWA moved to the Bekaa and concentrated on tent clusters. First, volunteers received training in psychological social support. Then, they surveyed the refugees and noted those with specific skills. Teachers were specifically noted. SAWA then put up its own tents, as well as community centers. During the day, they are used as informal schools for children (they later managed to rent buildings). In the afternoon, the tents become a gathering area for women. Here they learn knitting, sewing, literacy courses or whatever skills offered. All too soon, SAWA stumbled on many educated refugees. "They were just like us but had lost everything in the war and didn't know what to do here," she said. "We call these our 'talents'."

Among them were a group of young singers and a graphic designer who had fled Syria leaving his equipment behind. SAWA immediately raised funds so the band could record their song and invested into a laptop for the designer to continue his work. Those are only a few examples of the small projects this NGO is trying to support.

SAWA depends mostly on fundraising efforts. Several Lebanese musicians, hearing of its work, donated their proceeds to SAWA's projects. While funding from some donor institutions, donations from religious or political institutions are politely rejected. "We want to stay strictly independent," she said. "We don't want to be affiliated with any religious or political organization."

Still, as all NGOs can testify, funding remains a challenge. The group depends on various events such as gala dinners,



targeted campaigns and personal appeals. Meanwhile, Mhaissen finds herself juggling SAWA, speeches and her PhD studies. She is currently in the UK finishing up her studies but comes back to SAWA (who has since raised enough money to hire three full time employees) at every chance. "The NGO is growing with or without me. It's not about

me. It's bigger than me or anyone," she said. "This is not my accomplishment on my own. Everyone is doing amazing work and giving his and her all. It's really the least we can do with what is happening."

For more information about SAWA, go to: <http://www.sdaid.org/about-us>



Letters to the editor

It is very challenging to sum up all the experiences and memories that I have of IC in a short paragraph because I don't know from where to start.

I was in IC all my life, it began as a school for me and then became my home after 15 years, giving me lots of memories, tough times, challenging obstacles, memorable moments, wonderful people, and great skills. I remember starting out my school years during Preschool as years that I dreaded going to school, crying most of the time, and missing home. That changed little by little. I adjusted more and accepted IC as a place that I have to go to everyday of the week for five days throughout nine months, more or less, every year for 15 years. That was still not something to look forward to but at least it was adjusted for me. Maybe what made me get more comfortable and used to it was the fact that we went on to the next year every year with almost the same people, building bonds with each other every step of the way. These were the same bonds that accompanied us from childhood Preschool years, to youthful Elementary years, up to adolescent Middle School years, and finally adulthood Secondary School years. Those were the same bonds that were hard to say goodbye to when we were all spreading out to different countries, universities, and futures, but these bonds are the type that will not be forgotten I hope.

IC shaped the first 15 years of my life, which were the foundation years in any human's life and I'm glad to be right around the corner in AUB now. Thus I must say, there will always be that place in my memory at least for the good, the bad, the terrible, and the awesome parts that I spent at IC with valuable experiences, great people, and a great heavy load of studies.

I wish amazing experiences for all the three-year olds up to the 18 year olds at IC who will hopefully have such words as alumni later on.

Thank you IC,

Leila Charafeddine 2014



I graduated from IC in 1971, the best class ever! My name is Nayla Boulos married Rathle. We celebrated the end of our last year at IC with a fashion show that took place right after the graduation ceremony but before the dinner. We were helped by the Women's Program Director (I forget her name, Phyllis something or other?) and by Patty Morgan Chamoun (now deceased), who was Dany Chamoun's first wife and Tracy Chamoun's mother. She had also been a great model in her youth. She helped us with walking on the runway, deportment, head and shoulder positioning, in short, to walk like a model! We assembled a group of models and others who went to Hamra to borrow dresses and other fashion clothes and accessories from stores who were willing to do this for free. The "models" tried on the clothes in the stores and picked up whatever worked. We also borrowed wigs for those who wanted them. I was one of the models and wore a size 10, so I was labelled the fat one! We hired a make-up specialist from among the girls in the graduating section, and we set up back rooms for prepping, dressing and make-up in the bathrooms adjacent to the large exam/meeting room on the 3rd floor of Nicely Hall. That room was transformed into a runway running down the center from the stage to the end. We had audio installed and the presenter (Corinne Brenner '71) would announce the models as they appeared, and the origin of the clothes they were presenting. Chairs were placed on both sides of the runway for families and friends to watch the show. The room was of course dark except for lighting on the stage and along the runway. Because I was very short-sighted but being one of the models, I could not wear my coke bottle-bottom glasses, so I posted my father at the bottom of the side stairs of the stage, and I would throw myself in his arms so that he could run me back (literally) to the changing rooms. This day is etched in my memory. President Thomas C. Schuller was seated in the front row as were other dignitaries. The photo sums it up.

Nayla Boulos Rathle '71

Updates

'42

Zuheir Annab sent the following picture.

"I am 92 years now and still remember IC campus," he writes. "Thank God I am still fit and enjoying life."

Please visit my website: zuhairannab.com

My Google Blog: <http://zuhairannab.blogspot.com/>

My Public Profile: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/zuhairannab>



IC Grade 1942

Zuheir Annab, front row, third from left

'63

Akram Najjar sent the following picture:



Spring 1963 in the Acapulco Beach (Beirut)

L to R: Akram Najjar '63, Khalil Khoury '63, Aref Farra '63, our dear friend whom we lost in the tragic shooting down of the Libyan Airways flight from Cairo.

'64

Said Abu Izzuddin sent the following picture.



Class of 1930-1931

'69

Abdel Wadoud Nsouli sent in the following picture:



'87

Rima Nasser just celebrated her four year anniversary of being back in Beirut. In addition to Rizk Hospital, she now performs orthopedic surgery at the Clemenceau Medical Center.

'90

Hamdi Salhab has assumed the role of Regional Head of

Updates

Capital Efficiency for Southern Europe & North Africa Region in Swedish Telecom Company, Ericsson AB. He is also halfway through his executive MBA. The MBA program is a joint program between Georgetown University in Washington DC and ESADE business school in Barcelona Spain.

‘92

Razan Magrabi gave birth in to a baby boy, Gobran. “He’s getting ready to be an IC student just like mommy and his family member and close friends,” she writes.

‘97

Maya Mouhaidly is currently a full time middle school science teacher at the American Community school (ACS). She has presented a workshop about STEM implementation in the science classroom at the NSTA conference that took place in Boston last spring. She is married to Abdel-Aziz Aziz, a pilot in MEA, and is a mother of a two year old boy Mohammed Aziz.

Hadeal Houjaij has recently moved to Marseille. She is married to Walid el Fadl and has welcomed the couple’s first baby boy, Zad, on the 17th of September 2014.

Lamice Joujou, the Smile Holding Founder and CEO has received “The Stevie Award” in the “Female Entrepreneur of the Year in Europe, Middle East & Africa” category. Presented November 14, 2014 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. More than 1,500 organizations of all sizes from across the world submitted entries for the 2014 Stevie Awards. Finalists were determined by the average scores of 260 executives and professionals who served as preliminary judges. Stevie Awards committee praised Joujou’s outstanding and efficient performance all through providing an innovative growth within the services of Smile Holding’s subsidiaries regardless of the circumstances surrounding the region. Receiving such an award enhances efforts to achieve excellence across the Holding’s operations and proves again that Lebanese women in the world can make a difference.” Joujou explained. The Stevie Awards for Women in Business are the world’s top honors for female entrepreneurs, executives, employees and the organizations they run. All individuals and organizations worldwide are eligible to submit nominations – public and private, for-profit and non-profit, large and small. The 2014 awards received entries from 60 nations and territories.

‘01

Loubna El Amine completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University, now Assistant Professor of Government at Georgetown University. Her book, *Classical Confucian Political Thought: A New Interpretation*, will be published by Princeton University Press in August 2015.

Reem Beydoun married Ali Salameh on April 30 2014. Reem will be joining her husband who works for Al Zahid group in Jeddah.



‘02

Nader Houella changed his job from a Project Manager in Lebanon Opportunities to Marketing and Business Management Instructor at the Lebanese International University. He has also published his first book: *Green Business Handbook for Lebanon* and has plans to publish the second edition soon.

‘06

Maria Beydoun married Ramez Turk on September 12 2014. Maria works as a media planner for Starcom in Dubai. Ramez works for Johnson and Johnson in Dubai.



Sara's legacy

"I chose not to hide. I chose not to be **Sara Khatib '10**, the cancer patient and amputee, but to continue being Sara Khatib, the fourth-year pharmacy student who is clumsy, loves Nutella, and just happens to have cancer and a missing arm," she said to a standing ovation during a TEDxLAU talk entitled "4 lessons I learned while battling cancer".

On September 5th, just two weeks after her talk at LAU, Khatib, 22, succumbed to cancer on September 5th which has already claimed an arm and caused her continuous pain.

Her strength in the face of adversity has become a model for many and her words continue to resonate to this day.

"You always have the option to smile in spite of your pain and enjoy every second of your life," she said.

IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Khatib family. May she rest in peace.



IC PE teacher and all time student favorite, Shawki Damous, passed away leaving behind a reputation of somewhat being a legend. Generations of students passed through him and until this day remember him for his booming voice which usually berated them for being an "h..m...a...r.... Ghazal". Damous was beloved by all. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Damous family.



We regret to inform you that Haifa Dargouth (IC teacher from 1957 to 1961), former IC teacher, passed away in September 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Dargouth family.



We regret to inform you that **Saeb Jaroudi '47**, passed away in September 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Jaroudi family.



We regret to inform you that **Talal Shamel '66** passed away in May 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Shamel family.

In Memoriam



Season's
Greetings



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