

# IC Newsletter SPRING 2014



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# Note from the Editor

I am happy to report that the IC spirit is well and alive. It is the first thing that hits me when I attend alumni reunions during my travels. I am continuously amazed to see our alumni reconnect immediately after many years of separation. On my last trip to Boston, we welcomed many young graduates – attending top universities – who immediately bonded not only to each other but to older graduates as well. Most of them had never even met before.

Speaking from experience, I myself feel a strong bond to those who graduated near my own graduation year. I can't really explain this bizarre phenomenon except to say that there is an "IC spirit", a kind of affinity to our school that seems to connect us all.

IC is bringing us together, young and old. It's not only our foundation but we look at it as some kind of salvation for the future. Somehow we know that our future leaders will come walking out those IC doors.

And for course, we fundraise at these reunions. This is our main aim. Our Partnership for Excellence Campaign is the only way to raise enough capital to build new needed facilities and/or improve existing ones without increasing the number of students or charging those costs to the tuition.

This newsletter is another way to keep our spirit alive. In it you will read about our school's rich history in our popular Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan's series, you will travel with us to Greece to see the 'cousins' - Turkish, Greek and Lebanese students – celebrate Founder's Day and you will be amused to know about some of our youngest students who are 'catching' each other doing kind acts up in our Ain Aar campus.

Our featured alumni in this issue lives all the way in Singapore. **Andre Accad '66** not only managed to give back to Malaysian society but has turned his efforts to help his sister in Lebanon run a shelter for abused women.

We also bring to you our latest news about our Partnership for Excellence Campaign: our plans for our Ain Aar campus.

It was great seeing you all this year. Many many thanks for your support and generous donations.

Best regards,



**Moufid Beydoun '64**  
**Vice President**  
**Alumni & Development**



### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Editor-in-chief: Moufid Beydoun  
Editor/Writer: Reem Haddad

Production coordinator: Sana Yamout  
Design: Nazha Merabi

For comments or suggestions, email Reem Haddad at rhaddad@ic.edu.lb

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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:



IC on Meles Street – sideview

*Protestant Minister, Rev. Alexander MacLachlan did it again. His boys had electric lights at a time when the use of electricity was still forbidden in Turkey. He hired a young engineer and ingeniously concocted a plan to smuggle small electric parts to the country. Bit by bit, the engineer build the electric plant. The furor of the Turkish authorities was cleverly squashed - thanks to the creative charms of MacLachlan. But now, a stench was engulfing his prized school, a stench that just wouldn't go unless the minister himself did something about it. By now, it was 1908 and the Young Turks were stirring uncomfortably....*

Alexander MacLachlan eyed his precious school buildings with a critical eye. Meles Street, where IC is located, is the widest street in the city. It was originally built as an upper class residential quarter. A stream, confined between walls, ran down the middle of it. Historically, the stream was the ancient River Meles on the banks of which Homer (the author of two of ancient Greece's literary works, the Iliad and the Odyssey) was said to be born. But by the early 20th century, the river had become more or less an open sewer and a menace to the health of MacLachlan's boys and neighborhood.

Nothing would please him more than to build an arch over the stream and repave Meles street with small cube granite blocks. In addition, an engineer reported that two sewers would have to be added on as well. It was an expensive project. The Municipality would only pay 60 % of the costs. The rest was up to MacLachlan and his neighbors. Not only that, but the governor promptly placed the entire responsibility of the general oversight

of the job, including hiring the workmen and suppliers, on MacLachlan himself.

It was the last thing the Protestant Minister, with his heavy school schedule, needed. By early 1907, International College was enjoying its highest enrolment yet. The school boasted more than 400 students – day and boarding – with Greek students outnumbering Armenians.

MacLachlan himself was overburdened with a heavy program not to mention running the entire administrative and accounting side of the school.

But "the future wellbeing of the college and the general material interest of the neighborhood weighed so heavily on me that rather than see the plan fail, I finally agreed to the conditions," he wrote in his 1937 diary, *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*.

He began by inviting all of IC's neighbors to discuss the situation. Perhaps unsurprisingly, most were reluctant to help finance the project. After many months of negotiations,

# Smyrna

## (Part VII)

they finally agreed.

By now it was 1908. The Ottoman Empire was stirring uncontrollably. Asia Minor was on the point of major changes. The autocratic regime was facing many gripes mostly from young Turks who ached to see more liberal policies in their government. The end result was a revolt headed by Enver Pasha. The Young Turks assumed power, restored the defunct 1876 constitution (which under Abdulhamid II guaranteed freedom of religion and the press) and installed Mehmed V on the throne.

Indeed, the public were astonished the next day when newspapers declared strange terms such as 'freedom', 'nation' and 'parliament'. Under the slogan of "huriet" (liberty), all barriers of race, community and religion had seemingly melted away. It was a period of both social and economic liberalism. Women even began to appear unveiled in public.

At that moment, however, MacLachlan was preoccupied in this rather self-imposed project of Meles street. A month had barely past when workmen threw down their picks and shovels.

"It was a time of wild rejoicing," wrote MacLachlan in his diary.

Unfortunately, property owners translated 'huriet' as being absolved from paying for the renovation of Meles street and it would be another eight months before MacLachlan convinced them that they still had to bear up to their responsibilities.

"In due course the work was completed and again Meles street became the finest street in the whole city of Smyrna," he wrote proudly.

For IC, the 1908 Turkish revolt meant that Muslims could now freely attend the school. Turkish students began to flock to the school. (Indeed, by 1914 they represented a quarter of the students).

With the influx of Turkish students rapidly increasing the already large and growing student population, the school was practically bursting at the seams. MacLachlan had to rent additional properties on the opposite side of Meles street. Eventually, however, there were no more properties to rent. Unable to accommodate any more boarders inside the school, a large number of students boarded in restaurants and lodging houses "expos-

ing them to dangers and temptations of the city," wrote MacLachlan in the 1908 Annual Report of the school. "We must emphasize the imperative necessity of providing additional accommodations at the earliest possible dates."

The Protestant Minister began to envision a bigger campus. Perhaps on a land a bit further away. Somewhere where he could finally live out his dream: a large campus with ample playing fields, a large gym area, theatre, and perhaps even a farm where students can learn agriculture and tend to animals.

He began to get excited about his idea. By now, he knew quite well that where there's a will then there's a way. Unbeknown to him, it was an idea that would ultimately save IC from being completely destroyed only 12 years later.

To be continued....

*Historical information based on: an interview with Dr. Howard Reed (summer 2011); Pot-pourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey, by Alexander MacLachlan, 1937, the 5th Annual Report of the International College (June 30th 1908), Between the Great IDEA and Kemalism: The YMCA at Izmir in the 1920s by Samuel David Lenser (Master thesis for Boise State University)*



IC students pose on or near Meles Street

# THE 'COUSINS' MEET AGAIN

Once again, the 'cousins' meet. This time the venue was PIERCE – the American College of Greece. One after the other, school administrators – with students in tow – arrived to the campus in February to attend a three-day Founder's Day Reunion. There was much ado. After all, this is only the second time the schools meet after a 77 year separation. The first reunion was held a year ago, in Izmir – IC's birthplace. And once again, everyone was amazed that all shared the same 'spirit'.

The President of the American College of Sofia, Dr Peter Johnson, couldn't help commenting on it. "I am really struck by the familiarity of everything," he said. "The pictures, our stories, our students, everything."

Of course, explained Alison Stendahl, one of the attendees, "this is the spirit that was handed down from generation to generation," she said. "You are all the children of the same founding fathers."

Those founding fathers were none other than the ABCFM (the American Board Commissioners for Foreign Missions) - Protestant missionaries who established schools and universities throughout the region in the 1800s. Stendahl is the last member of that Board. In Turkey, since 1980, she is now the sole remnant of an all-encompassing undertaking begun by two Protestant missionaries, Reverends Levi Parsons and Pliny Fisk, in 1820. Her retirement, this year, marks the end of that mission.

"Look for the things in common," she continued. "You will find many, many

things in common and very little which will make you different."

It didn't take long for the 'cousins' to find those things in common. Greek, Turkish and Lebanese students took to one another as school administrators were left to mingle and compare notes.

Out of the 15 schools that were originally established by the Board, only seven schools survive today: International College (Beirut), American Collegiate Institute (Izmir), Anatolia College (Greece), Pierce (The American College of Greece), Tarsus American College, Uskudar American Academy (Turkey) and the American College of Sofia.

Eight students from IC (Ain Aar) accompanied by music teacher, Arlette Akl and IC Newsletter writer, Reem Haddad, attended the reunion in Athens. For the next three days, students held debates and gave presentations about their schools. IC's students also gave a little 'extra' performance by reciting Lebanese proverbs and performing a Fairuz song.

"They (the founders) are not with us anymore," said PIERCE President Dr. David Horner, "but I am sure that they are proud their children are together today."

Indeed, these kinds of gatherings were probably common in the 1800s. But their lives were shattered by the many troubles that came to the area. The Ottoman Empire's demise led for a struggle for Turkish self-determination and schools were subjected to heavy restrictions. The role of ABCFM and its missionaries dwindled 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.

"We are indeed cousins," said Olga Julius, the Principal of PIERCE College. "We were all founded by the same visionaries who set out to change the world. It is up to us to continue with this mission."

IC students, who had just become aware of their school's rich history,

**Greek students performing their traditional dance at the Founder's Day Reunion**





The 'cousins':  
Lebanese, Greek and Turkish students

seemed to be in awe themselves.

"It's like we are one big family, isn't it?" said Adriana Zraick, 14.

Sam Kebbe, 14, agreed. "I never knew about our heritage," he said. "It's really important."

In only a few hours and judging by the photos, students managed to secure lifelong friends among their Greek and Turkish counterparts.

"It was really interesting to see our cultures mix," said Anthony Flouty, 14.

But most important, the new generation of 'cousins' vowed to keep in touch.

"We are now all Facebook friends," said Estelle Raphael, 14. "I can't wait for them to visit us at IC."



IC students performing:  
L to R: Ziad Hawa, Sam Kebbe, Rana Boustany, Anthony Flouty, Adriana Zraick, Estelle Raphael, Tala Farah, Sarine Tutunjian.



# CATCH A KIND ACT

There is something very strange going on in Ain Aar Lower Elementary School. The students are being, well, 'nicer' to each other. Even the usual playground pangs and nags seem to have largely decreased. So much so, that when then grade one students went to observe conflicts on the playground as part of their conflict resolution theme, they found none. Their teacher, Nayla Abu Fadil, was first to note this bizarre occurrence in the school. "We went to the playground twice," she wrote in an email to the director, "and we couldn't find any conflicts....."

Moreover, the tykes seem to be on some of kind of watch to 'catch' anyone being kind. And then they vie to write about it on little bits of paper and deposit them in special boxes placed in the hallways. And even then, it's all very polite.

It's enough to make any visiting adult highly suspicious indeed.

The mystery, however, begins to unravel with footsteps who, every Friday, stop in front one of the boxes. After a few seconds of silence, the footsteps make their way into the first classroom. The teacher and children immediately turn around. This is the moment they have been waiting for the whole week: Miss Lina is going to read out who has been kind. It's just too exciting and they all gather around.

Smiling widely, the Lower Elementary School Director, Lina Mouchantaf, reads the first paper bit.

"Today Farid fell and Tala helped him to the nurse," it stated.

Everyone looked in awe at Tala who instantly sat up proudly.

Another paper.

"Nicole is new to the school and Sofie waits at the door every day to walk with her to the bus," it said.

More admiring looks.

"In the playground, I fell a big fell," stated another. "And my friend, Kiana, helped me."

Back in her office, the jovial director who only came to Ain Aar last year, spreads the notes on her desk. "I just got tired of hearing the kids complain all the time," she said. "It's always: "Miss, he did this to me," or "Miss she said that." There were so many conflicts and the kids were so negative. And on numerous occasions the parents would interfere in these conflicts and come in to see me about them. There had to be a way to point out all the positive actions too."

As any parent (and educator) could tell you, sermons tend to go on deaf ears. Punishments are anti-IC. Still, Mouchantaf had to take some kind of action. There must be some way to make her young charges be-



come more positive.

And then it hit her: why not catch each other doing acts of kindness? Surely, it would have a ripple effect.

The eager director enthusiastically shared the idea with her faculty and deftly added that it will improve students' writing skills.

They all listened very politely to her. "Well?" she inquired, at the end.

Blank looks. Still, they were willing to humor this strange, merry director.

In her weekly assemblies with the Lower Elementary School body, Mouchantaf made her surprise announcement. "Tell your teachers what you see," she explained.

Mouchantaf waited eagerly for signs of change in the students' behavior. None.

Something was still missing. But what?

It gnawed at her for days. And then as solutions usually do, it suddenly came to her: a box. Why not place boxes along the halls and ask the kids to write about the acts of kindnesses that they 'catch'?

Little messages immediately came pouring into the boxes and in all three languages. Not only that, the children also began reporting on acts of kindness at home.

"I saw two kids fighting then Jason came and stopped them," explained Salem Al-Enezi, 8, "so I wrote about that."

Philip Baaklini who will turn eight "in exactly 20 minutes" left several notes in the box. "I've been written about too so now I'm looking for another nice thing to write

about," he said.

Salem immediately offers a nice 'act'.

"Because it's your birthday today," he said, "I will let you be the goalie at football."

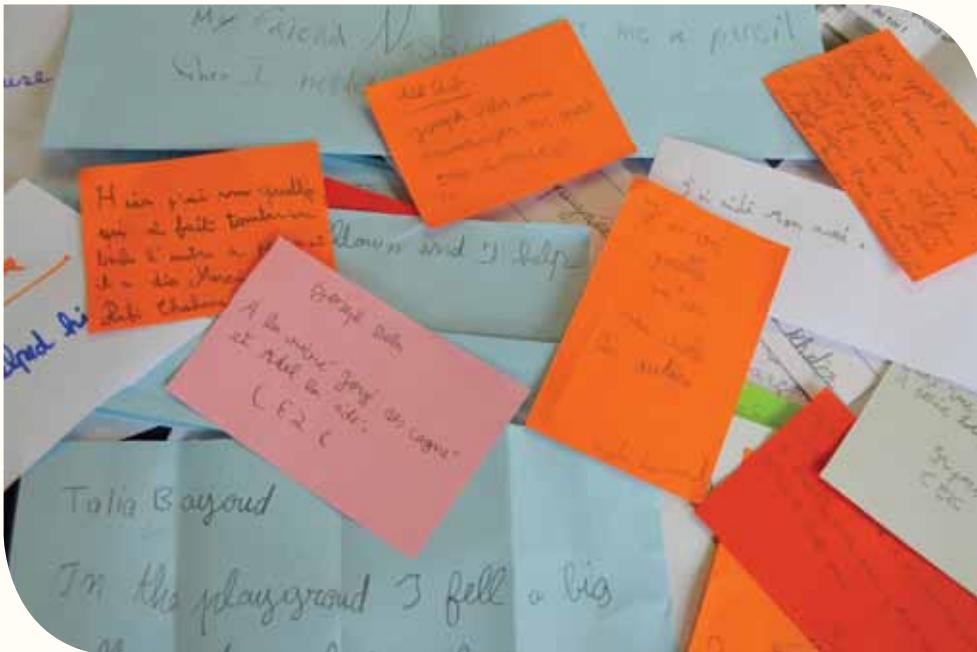
The boys run off to the football game but not before writing the note about this sudden act of birthday kindness.

Once the "catch a kind act" bug bites it's apparently hard to let go.

Outside in the hall, teachers have taken their own initiative to point out acts of kindness. A small bulletin board with neatly typed notes denotes various small acts. "Today Yasmina El Achkar took the initiative of picking up a toy in the hallway and putting it away while others were kicking the toy with their feet. Bravo Yasmina!"

With everyone busy on the lookout for nice acts, petty arguments and conflicts among students have drastically decreased. The children themselves are reportedly more positive.

Looking over some documents in her office, Mouchantaf laughs. "How do I know that conflicts have decreased in the school?" she asked, "because I finally have time to do my work!"



*Tried and tested: the author has introduced a "catch a kind act" box in her own home and can affirm that it works wonders on children, spouse, and ... pets who all gather around the box every night.*



Q&A with

## Youssef Abi Abdallah

*In 1988, in the midst of the Lebanese civil war, IC's Board of Trustees founded a branch in the hills overlooking Beirut to serve students who were not able to make it to the Ras Beirut Campus. A land in Ain Aar was chosen and two buildings were constructed. Today, these buildings serve as a Preschool, Elementary and Middle school. (Ain Air students come to Ras Beirut for their Secondary school years).*

*Recently, US architects were hired to draw up a master plan for Ain Aar which includes new facilities to complement IC's state-of-the-art-education. Youssef Abi Abdallah, the Director of Facilities, is the engineer in charge of overseeing the project.*

### **What are the new plans for Ain Aar?**

The Master Plan for Ain Aar is now completed. The first phase is to construct a new football field. The second phase will be the construction of a building in the location of

the existing football field. This building will comprise of underground bus and car parking, an auditorium and an indoor gymnasium. Finally, the third phase will then be the renovation of the existing facilities for the



## *Director of Facilities*

Preschool, Elementary and Middle schools.

### **What efforts are you taking to make sure the natural environment is preserved as much as possible?**

The renovation of the existing facilities will not affect the existing green spaces. For the new football field and new building, the locations do not have much greenery now, but the plans will certainly allow for adding green spaces wherever it is feasible.

### **Who are the architects behind this project?**

The same architects for the Beirut project,

Flansburgh Architects, worked on the Master Plan and the concept designs for the new football field and new building. The local architects are R&K Architects & Consulting Engineers.

### **When will the groundbreaking take place and when will the project be completed?**

The Master Plan will soon be presented to the Council of Urbanism for approval before the construction permit processing can start. We will have a schedule once the related formalities are concluded.



Ain Aar junior choir



Ras Beirut Middle



Ain Aar Middle School Choir



Santa visits Ras Beirut preschool





School Choir



Ras Beirut Elementary School Choir

# CHOIRS



Ras Beirut Elementary School Choir

# Outreach at Ras Beirut

The Educational Resources Center (ERC) held an Outreach Day on the Ras Beirut campus in March which was attended by teachers from all over Lebanon and all the way from Riyadh. A total of 291 teachers from 78 public and private schools attended 14 different workshops addressing topics such as Classroom Management, Drama, Technology, Language and Teaching Methods. The Outreach Day presented by IC teachers, administrators and staff, is one of many that the ERC organizes every year.



## Festival of Choirs

For the 11th consecutive year, the Festival of Choirs was held at TAISM - The American International School of Muscat - under the direction of Dr. Anton Armstrong. Two hundred students from twenty schools from 11 different countries came together to sing a wide array of gospels. IC music conductors, Randa Sabbah (Ras Beirut) and Arlette Akl (Ain Aar) accompanied the students to the festival.



## IC's Gymnastic Team

The Gymnastics Team puts on a show at the Anwar Al Mulla Gymnasium at the Elementary School Building.



## IC donor takes Arabic lessons in his classroom

Much to the surprise of Grade 4 and 5 students and their teacher, Jana Bayoud, IC Board Trustee John McCarthy, joined their class in November and actually worked on his Arabic skills side by side with the students. The classroom is named in honor of J. McCarthy Jr. himself (as a donor).

"In my 20 years of service on the Board of Trustees," said McCarthy, "I had never attended a class at IC and I would heartily recommend that all Trustees enjoy this opportunity. More specifically, I would recommend that everyone who named a classroom visit "their" classroom, become acquainted with the teacher and curriculum, and then attend classes."

# Dinners and Events

*IC President, John Johnson and VP Alumni & Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64**, travelled to the US twice in the past few months in an effort to raise awareness of IC's new phase: the building of a new Middle and PreSchool in Ras Beirut and new facilities in Ain Aar. At every event attended or hosted, they took the opportunity to talk about the school and its exciting new plans.*

## Washington DC 2013

In November, they travelled to Washington DC and held a dinner organized by **Hind Soudi Ahdab '87**, **Gigi Kraytem '84**, **Raed Hamdan '86**, **Noura Steitieh '03** and **Nizar Zakka '85** at the

Texas de Brazil restaurant, sponsored by **Salah Izzedine '65** (Founder and CEO of Texas de Brazil). The dinner was attended by over 70 alumni and IC friends.



DC dinner



Rada Sawaf, Mary Johnson



John Johnson, Gigi Kraytem '84

Misbah Ahdab '79, Hind Soufi Ahdab '87, Rada Sawaf



Raed Hamdan '86, John Johnson



## New York 2013

Their next stop was New York. Here they attended the IC Board meeting and organized an alumni dinner at the Bustan restaurant – hosted by Trustee **Marwan Marshi '79** – where they talked about the Partnership for Excellence Campaign. They also introduced the new incoming IC President, Don Bergman. The dinner was attended by over 60 alumni and friends.



**Moufid Beydoun '64,  
Talal Jundi '86, Mishka  
Mourani, Mona Bawarshi  
'67, Sima Sawaf**



**Omar Sawaf '73, Don Bergman, Moufid Beydoun '64, Sima Sawaf, Sara Sawaf, Souraya Sidani '93, Samir Sidani '72**



**NY Dinner with Lebanese Ambassador to the UN H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam '71**



Reem Hindi '13, Ramez Kabbani '09, Mishka Mourani, Rudy Spiridon '07, Nour Chamoun '09, Hani Kfoury '09, Racha El Khalil '12, Aya Issa '13, Riad Hamadeh '13



Marwan Marshi '79, Sahar Salam, Mishka Mourani, Talal Jundi '86

## Boston 2014

In February, Senior Vice President, Mishka Mourani, joined the second US trip and the three travelled to Boston to attend a dinner hosted by Dr. **Nabil El-Hage '76** and his wife, Lucy, at the Harvard Club of Boston. The dinner was attended by over 50 alumni and friends.



IC President John Johnson



Dr. Nabil El Hage '76, Lucy El Hage, Dr. Nakhle Tarazi '70, Mishka Mourani, Dr. Dania Ali Ahmad '87



Mishka Mourani, Racha Menhem '08, Sara Khalil '11, Nour Chamseddine '12, Christine Rizk '12, Dr. Dania Ali Ahmad '87



Boston Dinner



Moufid Beydoun '64, Denise Battat, Benjamin Battat '69, Lucy El Hage, Dr. Nabil El Hage '76, Lama Jaroudi '96, Tarek Reed '99, Maysa Jaroudi, Fifi Reed '71



Najla Jurdi '04, Mira Assaf '09, Malek Sraj '00, Rayan Beydoun '08, Christina Rizk '02, Tania Alam '05, Farah Machlab '06, Nadim Kassir '86



Sima Sawaf, Maha Majdalani, Ghayda Midani, Ayman Midani, Nada Younes, Dr. Antoine Younes, Wadad Salem



Omar Sawaf '73, John Johnson, Mary Johnson, Nizar Bissat '86, Prof. Philip Salem '58

## Houston 2014

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Beydoun then travelled to Houston and attended an alumni dinner hosted by Mr. **Omar Sawaf '73** and his wife, Sima at the Escalante Restaurant.



Tarek Ghandour '78, Christine Kolandjian, Vrej Kolandjian '71, Dr. Amine Bohsali '54



Houston Dinner

Houston Dinner

## Bay Area/San Mateo 2014

In the Bay Area/ San Mateo, Mr. Beydoun and Mrs. Mourani attended an alumni dinner held at the Tannourine restaurant.



Dr Aghef Yenikomishian '64, Moufid Beydoun '64, Ralph Anavy '58, Regina Anavy



Rabi Saliba '03, Amer El Hage '73, Amer Diab '90, Mila Diab, Roxana El Hage, Yahia Beydoun '00, Wael Barakat '03



San Mateo/Bay area Dinner

## Los Angeles 2014

They then travelled to Los Angeles to attend another alumni dinner hosted by **Mohamed Ahmar '80** and **Hania Ahmar '92** at their home in Beverly Hills. It was attended by over 40 alumni and friends.





Hania Ahmar '92, Mohamed Ahmar '80



LA Dinner



# FROM MALAYSIA TO BEIRUT

In a small undisclosed apartment in an undisclosed area, two women are having their morning coffee on the balcony. Pedestrians below barely give them a second glance.

But a closer look at one woman reveals deep scars on her wrists. They mark her last and thirteenth suicide attempt. It was the only way to escape her husband's abuse and her father's imprisonment. Moreover, her husband had beaten up their young daughter to the point of brain damage. Rihab, 36, just wanted out.

But not anymore. Today, she is planning the day's meals. She is the cook in the Beit el-Hanane (Home of Tenderness) apartment which caters up to 12 women - all victims of domestic abuse.

Her companion, Joanna, 30, has no visible marks on her body but the memory of her husband's daily beatings are still vivid. She was so badly beaten during her third pregnancy that her son, now three, was born crippled.

The door of the apartment suddenly opens and a voice calls out. The women immediately run to her. "Mama Jacqueline!" they say hugging her.

"Mama Jacqueline" - otherwise known in most circles as Dr. Jacqueline Accad Hajjar, retired Professor of English Literature at the Lebanese American University - hugs the women right back.

Two years ago, she took in Rihab. The distraught woman had managed to 'kidnap' her daughter from school and needed refuge. The child was placed in a boarding school and is receiving treatment. Within a month, Rihab showed no more signs of suicidal tendencies.

Joanna found her way to Hajjar only a few weeks ago with her three children in tow. The two eldest were also placed in a boarding school while the youngest is undergoing therapy. Doctors think he may be able to walk by the age of six. Joanna is overjoyed. "This is my real home. Mama Jacqueline is my true Mama. My family didn't care for me. But she did."

All the children spend the weekends with their mothers at the shelter.

The apartment is a transitional one. After intensive psychiatric, physical and spiritual treatment, the women find jobs and move on to lead normal lives.

"There are so many women suffering out there," said Hajjar. "They could be rich or poor. Domestic abuse is happening in so many homes."

One would wonder about this retired English professor. "Well," she said, "it's my

dream so I used my end of service compensation at the university to buy this apartment and run a home for such women."

Her sister, Evelyne Accad, a professor at the University of Illinois and at the Lebanese American University, does a lot of the networking and fundraising.

As a professor for over 30 years, Hajjar came across many university girls who were abused in their homes and dedicated much of her time to help them.

Her own life has an interesting twist. She was born with a severe calcium deficiency and, by the age of 17, could no longer move her limbs. Unable to face a life strapped in a bed, she contemplated suicide. Here is where her strange tale begins. She distinctly remembers an out-of-body experience. Upon her 'return', her body was completely healed. Doctors were dumbfounded but nevertheless declared her healthy.

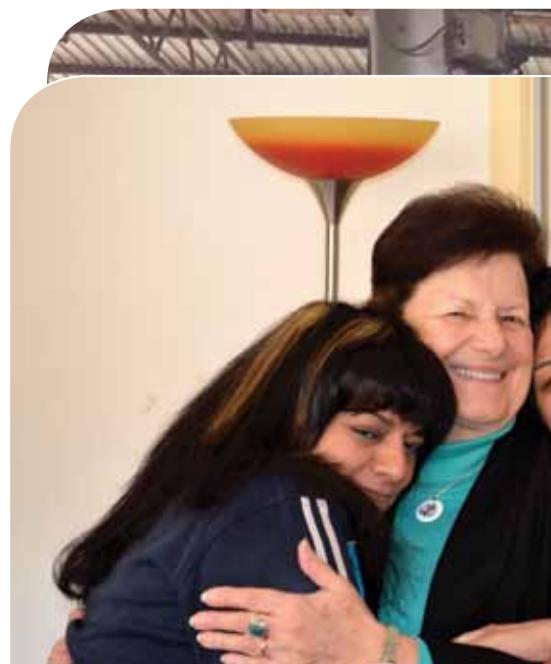
Since then she believes that it is her destiny to help the less fortunate. This shelter is her latest endeavor.

But like everything else, the shelter can only remain open as long as donors are willing to give. It is a continuous worry.

Almost 8000 kilometers away in Singapore, **Andre Accad '66** is not a stranger to his sister's social undertakings. Plans of retirement were pushed away. The Beit el-Hanane project beckoned. The company that he had co-founded five years ago, Bio Composite Extrusions, was thriving. He had given back to Malaysian society. Now it was time to give back to Lebanon. Could he possibly find the funds to support Beit al Hanane?

A few years ago, Accad was looking forward to his retirement after 40 years of working with an American corporation in Singapore overseeing the sales and management of an electronic cleanroom manufacturing venture in the Asian market. But then he and his Malaysian partners discovered a way to manufacture environmentally friendly plastic (WPC - Wood Plastic Composite) to replace the old WPC made up of 50 to 60% fiber materials (usually saw dust) and 40 to 50% virgin plastic. This new discovery led to a WPC made up of 70% rice husk and 30% recycled plastic and finally paved the way for much needed environmentally friendly plastics. The product immediately received the green product labelling.

It was a big coup for the IC graduate. But his euphoria didn't last long. Chinese competition aggressively entered the market. Putting retirement plans aside,



Accad fought back. He resigned from his job and dedicated all his time to saving the company.

It was a tough battle but Accad won. The factory is now fully booked for the next 10 months and is working twenty four hours seven days a week.

Accad and partners went on to establish another company, Advance Low Pressure Systems, and had an even bigger coup: chemical free rubber wood (usually, rubber is treated with Borax - which is



banned in Europe). In collaboration with another Malaysian government body, this new discovery essentially solved a major problem facing the country's rubber furniture manufacturers and trade industry over the stringent requirements for environmentally-friendly products demanded by many developed countries.

It was a huge boost to the country's furniture manufacturers who use rubber wood in more than 80 % of their products. The invention was patented in the US and many other countries and the Malaysian furniture manufacturers

are once again on track to be approved in most countries. In November 2013, Accad's company was awarded the first prize for the most creative invention of the year in Malaysia.

"At the moment," as he writes to the IC Newsletter, "I am trying to put together a business that would finance this project (Beit el-Hanane) in a more stable and secure way."

Retirement beckoned. But that would have to wait - yet again.

"In the last two years I have asked

myself many times why I was working so hard instead of retiring," he continues. "I should be enjoying life on a beach with Pina-Coladas in my hand."

But that is not the Accad family way. Retirement, it seems, doesn't run in the family blood.

*For more information/donations about Beit al Hanane write to: jackie7h@hotmail.com*

*For more information about Accad's 'green' wood: www.bcextrusions.com*

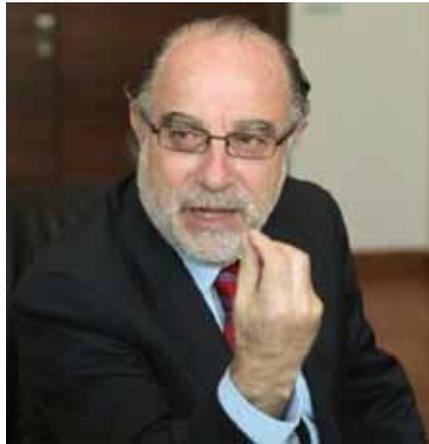
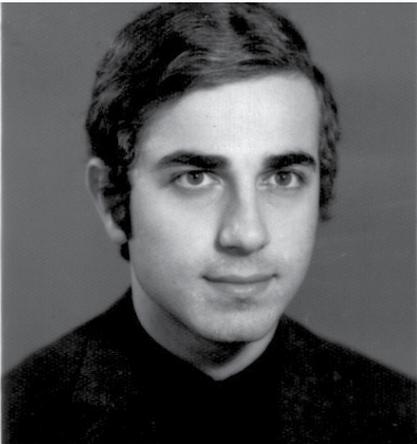


**Class of '63 met at Bain Militaire in January.  
Ms. Najwa Sayed, former teacher and middle school director, joined them.**

We will be celebrating the:  
**50th** Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of **1964**  
on **June 19th, 2014** at **8pm** at the Ras Beirut Campus.  
**25th** Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of **1989**  
on **June 25th, 2014** at **8pm** at the Ras Beirut Campus.

For tickets/information, contact the Alumni & Development Office  
at: [alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb) Tel/fax: **961 1 367433**.





## IC loses one of its greatest alumni

IC alumni Mohamed Chatah was a top student in his class graduating with honors in 1970 (English Section). His barbaric death sent shock waves throughout the IC community. After graduating from IC, Chatah continued on to study economics at AUB and later earned a doctorate at the University of Texas. In the 1980s he worked at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC then served as Ambassador to the US from 1997 to 2000. In 2005, he returned to Lebanon as a senior advisor to the then newly elected Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. In

2008, he served as the Lebanese Minister of Finance for one year before becoming the foreign policy advisor to former Prime Minister Saad Hariri. Chatah was known for his moderate stand in the Lebanese political arena. He is survived by his wife and two children.

The IC family sends its greatest condolences to the Chatah family. He was well respected and loved by the IC community and in indeed in the entire country. May he rest in peace.



We regret to inform you that Moutaz Tasbahji '63 passed away in January 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Tasbahji family.



We regret to inform you that Dr. Najib Shehadeh '48 passed away in January 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Shehadeh family.



We regret to inform you that Dr. Raja Tannous '49 passed away in February 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Tannous family.



In Memoriam

# The Partnership for Excellence Campaign

The Partnership for Excellence Campaign is one of the most important initiatives in IC's history.

To date, we have raised more than \$48 Million from generous families, Trustees, alumni and friends.

The Annual Fund is an important component of the Campaign. This year our Annual Fund goal is \$1 Million.

We are working to grow the IC Spirit among our community of families and alumni.

**In this IC Spirit, we would like to see 100% of families and alumni participate in the Annual Fund.**

If you have given this year, thank you! If not, we hope you will consider giving as generously as you can.

You can make your gift securely online at <http://www.ic.edu.lb/OnlineGiving.htm> or contact [alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb)



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

P.O. Box 113-5373, Beirut, Lebanon.

Tel: 961 1 367420/33, Fax: 961 1 367433. Email: [alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb)

215 Park Avenue South, Suite 1710, New York, NY 10003, U.S.A.

Tel: 212 529 3005, Fax: 212 529 8525. Email: [icny@intlcollegeny.com](mailto:icny@intlcollegeny.com)

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**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US AND BE PART OF THE IC SPIRIT!**