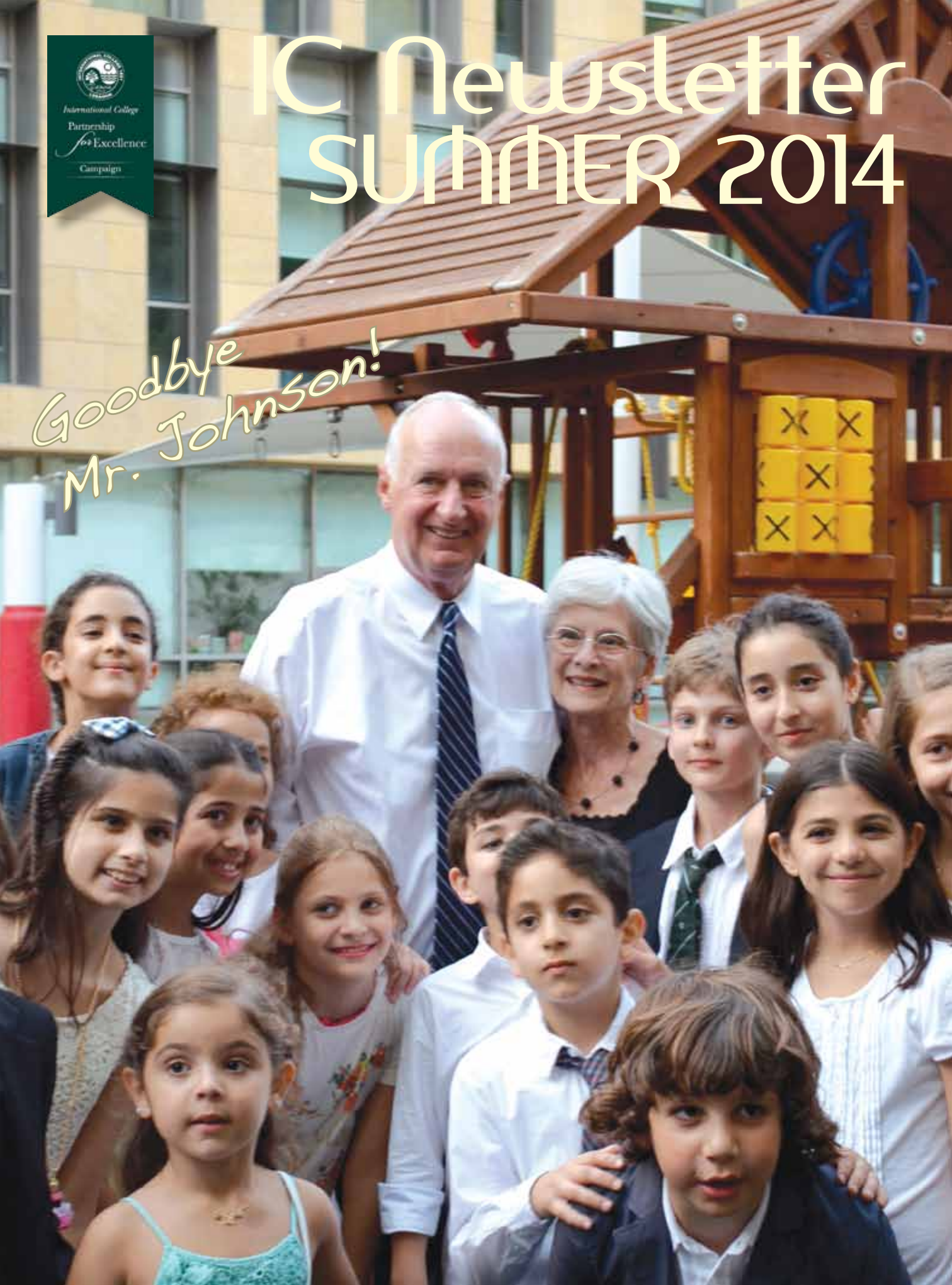




# IC Newsletter SUMMER 2014

*Goodbye  
Mr. Johnson!*



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# Note from the Editor

I want to take the opportunity to once again thank you all for your belief in our mission. I have noted for a while that more and more non-IC people are reaching out to us. They want to help us with our construction projects or donate to our annual fund. Our dinners and events have always included our wonderful alumni but now we also have many attendees who are 'IC friends'.



Like you, they have realized that we are working for Lebanon. Creating independent and internationally minded graduates is the key to producing a safe and strong country.

And so it is that I continue travelling, most of the time accompanied by IC president John Johnson and at times with our Development Officer, Nadine Akkaoui, to ask you for your support.

While these are mainly travels to solicit donations for IC, they are proving to be amazing networking opportunities for our alumni.

Many business deals have suddenly sprung up as a result of our dinners and events. Only recently, I was told of a wealthy alumnus who decided to invest in the startup business of a young IC graduate.

Such stories make our efforts all worth it.

We are so proud of our alumni. In this issue we bring you many stories of successful graduates who are giving back to society in their own way.

There's the heartwarming story of Milia Ayache '05 who came back to IC to give her teacher a most precious gift; there's Yasmina Sabbah '06 who can often be spotted performing in an accapella group around the country; and there's the tear-jerking story of John Rebeiz '68 who lost his son and is now fighting to save young athletes in Lebanon.

We also boast that the "Man of the Year 2014" chosen by the business magazine, Arab Ad, is none other than Akram Miknas '63.

And, of course, we continue the story of our now popular series, "The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan."

And please do read about how the class of 1990 has become "addicts" – to each other!

Most important, however, is a farewell page for our outgoing president, John Johnson.

What can I say other than you have not only been a wonderful friend to IC but also a very dear friend to me. We will all miss you.

The best of luck in your tennis and golf!

Once again, a big thank you to all our alumni and IC friends.

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](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.



# FAREWELL FROM PRESIDENT AND MRS. JOHNSON

Dear IC Community,

Mary and I wish to bid a fond farewell to the amazing IC community. When we came in 2006 we fully intended to stay at IC and in Lebanon for four years. Here it is eight years later and we are now reluctantly departing in July, 2014.

One Chinese proverb that we both respect is "It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." When we arrived in Beirut in September 2006 it was one of Lebanon's historical dark periods. The war had just ended and the future was very uncertain. However, we were welcomed into the IC community with open arms and warm hearts.

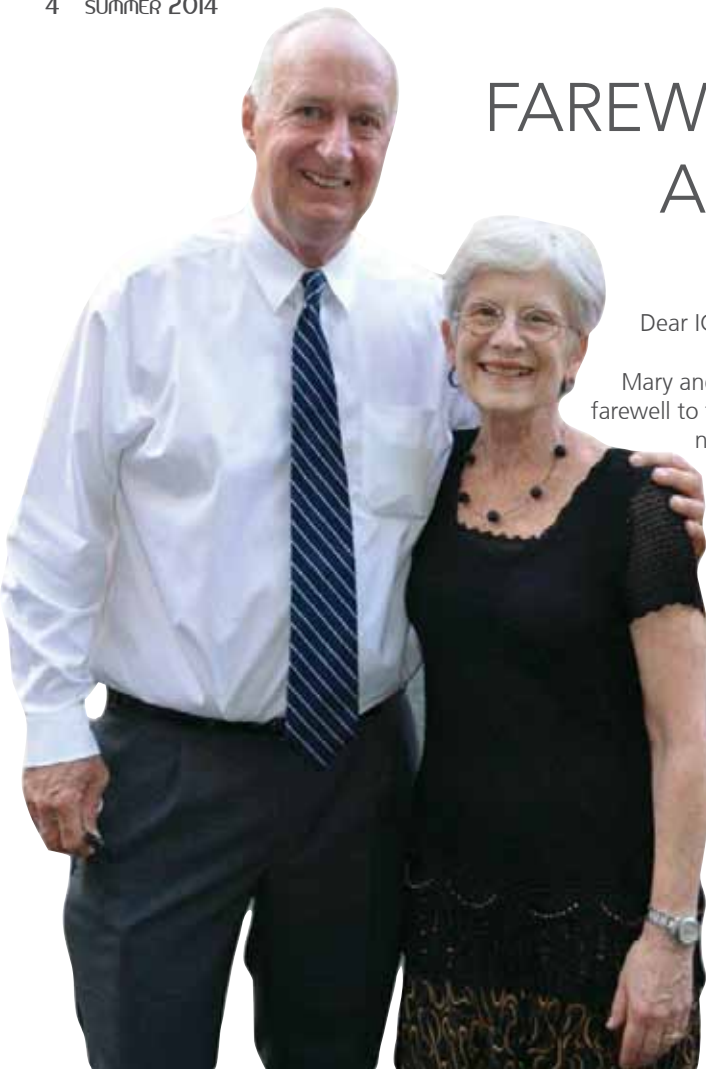
Naturally, there were plenty of dark days ahead even after the war, but we found great support from the IC community and, in turn, did our best to show support. Even when others left suddenly because of the "situation" we stayed to try show it's better to keep lighting candles for the future. What we could do was mostly symbolic by showing that we too had hope. We opened school as quickly as it seemed safe to do so in order for our students to regain a sense of normality. We tried to navigate troubled times with a sense of optimism and a belief in the future.

It will be hard to leave. Naturally, I probably won't miss the petitions over various problems, the some-

times angry phone calls and meetings, and the very tough decisions that had to be made about IC's future, however we will leave with a deep sense of accomplishment and gratitude. IC's program has advanced and we were even able to make some improvements to the school's facilities. The new elementary school, gymnasium and theater and the new facilities that will be built soon in Ain Aar and Ras Beirut are a tribute to IC's strong community. These accomplishments are a symbol of the college's supportive parent and alumni communities and the belief in the great educational program here at IC. They are also a symbol of the belief that Mary and I share with you about the bright future for Lebanon.

We want to express our gratitude to the IC community which includes the current parents and students as well as our alumni and friends for the time that we have had in Lebanon. It has been a rich and rewarding experience for us and we hope for IC. We have no misgivings that we decided to come to Lebanon in those dark days of 2006 in spite of the warnings of our friends and families (not to mention our government) in the States. We came to light a candle and found that there were thousands and thousands in the IC community lighting candles with us. Now there is a bright beacon of light shining from IC, and this is the light of the future for Lebanon. As we leave, we entrust those of you who are staying to keep the beacon shining brightly!

Sincerely,  
John and Mary Johnson





# The ARABIC Book Club

In the very back of the Chalhoub Group Library of the new elementary school, a group of students are sitting around a table in deep discussion.

"Life is hard when we take decisions," said one student.

"Life is a story and we are the writers," said another.

"Life is a test and we have to pass it," quipped yet another student.

Each comment was uttered in formal Arabic. One would think high school students are at work. Not so. A closer look would reveal a group of nine and ten-year-olds discussing the latest book in their Arabic Book Club. The group was headed by the school's in-house author and Arabic teacher, Sana Harakeh. The book under discussion was one of hers.

In an effort to encourage young students to read Arabic, the International College Parents Committee (ICPC) launched a book club for the upper elementary school students earlier this year. It so happens that IC boasts several preschool and elementary level teachers who are also published Arabic authors.

With the administration on board, everything seemed to fall into place. The first meeting was called. About 20 students were expected to show up. Certainly not more. But to everyone's shock, 74 fourth and fifth grade students – from both English and French sections – walked into the library.

A new plan was quickly concocted: half of the group would meet in the first recess and the other half in the second.

Since then, the club – which now meets every three or four weeks – has increased to 82 members (and still growing).

As the Chairperson of the Arabic Department and assistant to the director, Mahitab Faytrouni, was pleasantly surprised. "The students are beginning to see that Arabic books are just as nice as the French or English ones," she said. "They can't wait for us to distribute the next one."

The success of the book Club has spurred the administration into adopting it in its extracurricular activities program next year.

As for the students, a new world has opened up. "I like reading in Arabic now," said Lynn Chanouha, 10. "I like listening to other people's point of view."

Her friend, Mariam JabaKhanji, 11, is eagerly waiting for the next assigned book. "I like to read it in bed at night," she said. "It's fun."



Sana Harakeh leading the book club



# The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:

*Protestant Minister Reverend Alexander MacLachlan knew that he could no longer expand the school on Meles Street in the city of Smyrna. The demand for an IC education increased considerably after the 1908 Turkish Revolt which granted the right of Muslims to attend foreign schools. He began to envision a school with a large campus and many facilities. But tuitions could barely cover the operating expenses of the school. Where could he possibly get the funds to build an entirely new campus?*

With great shock, Reverend MacLachlan learned of the death of his friend, John S. Kennedy in 1909. He and his wife, Emma, had been staunch supporters of IC since the couple sailed into Smyrna 17 years ago on their way to Constantinople. They were supposed to stay for only a few hours. But when their departure was suddenly postponed for a few days, the Kennedys found themselves guests at the MacLachlans. Over the next few days, the two families became great friends. Since then, the Kennedys often came through as loyal supporters of the school.

The Reverend was even more shocked when a letter arrived from the US soon after. A document accompanying the letter tumbled out of the envelope. MacLachlan slowly unfolded it and found himself staring at John S. Kennedy's last Will and Testament. In it, Kennedy had bequeathed to the school the hefty sum of \$20,000.

The minister stared at the paper unbelievably. "God never closes one door without opening another," he whispered to himself.

The fund for a new school had effectively begun.

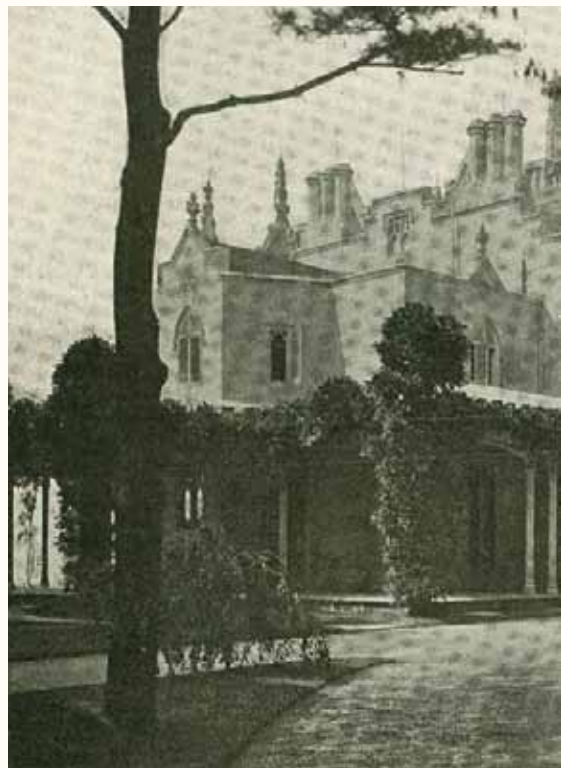
A year later, MacLachlan took a furlough leave of absence and travelled to the US. All appeals to the Boston Board to increase the new fund had been refused. Accompanied by his daughter, Rosalind, now 19, MacLachlan accepted an invitation to stay at the Kennedy family home in New York on the prestigious 57th street. One day, he received an invitation from Helen Gould, the daughter of a wealthy railroad tycoon to visit her for a few days in her summer home of Lyndhurst in Tarrytown, NY (Gould was also a member of the Russell Sage Foundation which would later donate funds to build today's Sage Hall in the Ras Beirut campus). On the day they were to return home, Gould took MacLachlan and his daughter for a long drive up the banks of the Hudson. As she dropped them off at the railway station, she handed the Protestant minister an envelope. "This is just a small gift for the College," she said. "Someday I hope to do something worthwhile for it."

In it was a check for \$5000. The minister was in "seventh heaven" as he wrote in his 1937 diary *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*, "in those days five thousand dollars seemed very much worthwhile."

Back at the Kennedy residence, he found Emma Kennedy talking with an old school friend in the morning room. "Tell me about your visit with Miss Gould," she said almost excitedly. Obliging, MacLachlan told her about his days at Lyndhurst and ended with his joy of discovering the generous check in the envelope. Scarcely had he finished when Kennedy promptly announced: "I am giving



**John S. Kennedy left IC \$20,000 in his will.**



# Smyrna

## (Part VIII)

you Fifty Thousand Dollars."

Dumfounded, MacLachlan stared at his hostess. Surely he had heard wrong. Slowly the words sunk in and he managed to recover his senses. "My dear Mrs. Kennedy, do you really want to commit yourself to such a large gift just at this time? I know the estate is not yet settled, and I am for the present quite satisfied to know of your keen interest in the college and its work."

"Oh, I'm quite sure it's all right," promptly answered Kennedy. "Stephen (a relative) was in here this morning and told me that I could begin to give away money and I want my first gift to go to your College."

MacLachlan remained motionless. From the corner of his eye, he saw Kennedy's guest dabbing her handkerchief to her eyes. With shock, he realized that his own tears were silently flowing.

The date was October 25th 1910. "I began to clearly comprehend the significance in the life history of the College of two such splendid and unexpected gifts in a single day," he wrote in his diary, "this is surely 'Founders' Day' for International College."

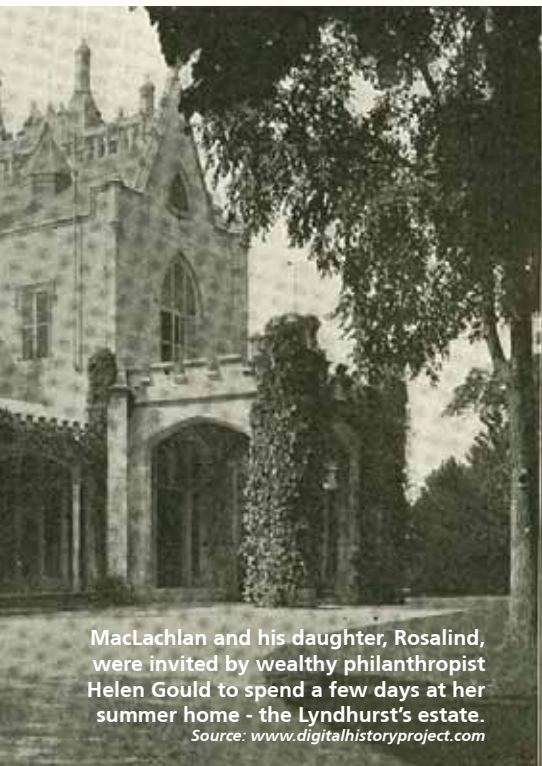
Henceforth, Founders' Day at IC in Smyrna was officially commemorated on October 25th every year.

With the annual fund boasting \$75,000, MacLachlan finally had enough capital to build his dream: a sprawling IC campus with state of the art facilities.

He couldn't wait to return to Turkey. But first, MacLachlan – now just over 50 – wanted to find a suitable man to teach and assist him and eventually take his place. Being a Protestant minister, he naturally headed towards the Union Theological Seminary (in NY) and found himself seated across a young seminary graduate, Cass Arthur Reed. Little did he know that he was looking at the man who would eventually not only become his son-in-law but the person who would play a pivotal role in moving IC to Beirut twenty six 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.*



MacLachlan and his daughter, Rosalind, were invited by wealthy philanthropist Helen Gould to spend a few days at her summer home - the Lyndhurst's estate.  
Source: [www.digitalhistoryproject.com](http://www.digitalhistoryproject.com)



MacLachlan's dream was to build big and modern facilities for his boys who were now living in over cramped school buildings.

## CRICKET MATCH FOR A GOOD CAUSE



The Grade 3 cricket Grand Final took place in May in the Anwar Mulla gymnasium. The B section team was the Grand Final winners but, ultimately, the real winners were many Syrian refugee children, who benefitted from donations for tickets to the cricket game made by all students.

## Busy doing **work,** **work, work**

Lower elementary school – Ain Aar



Butterflies: follow the butterfly path to class. Elementary school kids beautify their hallways – and ceilings.

Mosaic stairs-work in progress. Once completed, the Ain Aar lower elementary staircase will look like no other.



House project: "Maison de pompiers" house designed by students, built by the school carpenter, and soon to be decorated by Moyenne Section students.





## INTERNATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION

The UK-based Trust for Sustainable Living awarded Yara Chami, grade 5, an Honorable Mention in the Trust for Sustainable Living 2014 International Schools Essay Competition – Primary School age category. A group of Grade 5 students had

submitted their essays to the UK organization in April. Guided by online Masters student of Sustainable Development, Richard Bampfylde, the students wrote about various environment projects ranging from green housing (including green

roofs) to a more environmental transportation system, from a better functioning of waste management in Beirut (particularly following the recent issues surrounding the landfill at Naameh) to an increase in renewable energy sources in Lebanon.



## IC Ain Aar receives first donation

Ain Aar's first donation - \$250,000 - was contributed by Board Member John McCarthy. The reception and director's office at the lower elementary school have now been renamed after him.

"It is my honor to have my name at the door of the director," he said in Arabic. (McCarthy speaks Arabic and had lived in Lebanon for a few years). "I will do whatever I can to sponsor future projects in Ain Aar."

**Upper Elementary and Middle Director, Diana Aboulebde, John McCarthy, lower elementary director, Lina Mouchantaf**



## IB Art Exhibit

IB art students:  
 Nayla Tohme  
 Alexandra Badaoui  
 Aya Sakr  
 Dala Itani  
 Lea Nahas  
 Leila Charafeddine  
 Leyth Makedessi  
 Lucy Gavin  
 Rasha Fawaz  
 Sara Qarizada  
 Zelfa Stevenson







## INTERNATIONAL DAY 2014







## ALTON REYNOLDS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT MARCH 2014



## Gymnastics Competition in Jordan







## Fun and Sports Day

The Ras Beirut Parent's Committee organized a "Fun and Sports" day for elementary school students and their parents on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Fathers, mothers and kids spent the morning competing against each other and ended the day with a football game. Everyone won and all received medals.



## HAMRA FESTIVAL

Once again, IC mom Iman Assaf, founder of Ahla Fawdah ("the best chaos") brought festivities to Hamra Street. Thousands of people showed up despite the sweltering June sun. Last October, Ahla Fawdah held Halloween activities

all along the street. But this marks the first time that the organization holds a "Hamra Festival" which displayed hundreds of booths offering activities, food or various items on sale. All shops and restaurants remained open for the event.

Assaf herself could be spotted amidst the crowds. "I haven't slept in days," she confided.

Ahla Fawdah is made of a group of IC moms who love Hamra. All proceeds are donated to improve the district.



# Dinners and Events



## Dinner Hosted by Kuwaiti Ambassador in Washington

H.E. Mr. **Salem Al-Sabah '74**, Kuwaiti Ambassador and his wife, Rima, hosted a dinner in their home in Washington DC on April 29th. IC President John Johnson and VP of Alumni and Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64**, travelled for the occasion. The dinner was attended by more than 22 people including board members, alumni and friends. Mr. Al Sabbah credited his

IC education to his success and explained that years ago, when he moved to the US, he immediately fit into American society thanks to the global education IC provided. On his part, Mr. Johnson thanked Ambassador Al-Sabah and his wife and talked about the future projects of the school and asked for the support of all its alumni.



Dr Naser Bakizadah '75, Dr. Safa Rifka '64, Moufid Beydoun'64, Ghinwa Zakka '86, Gigi Kraytem Saghir'84, Dr. Firas Hamdan '84, Matt Reynolds, Hind Soufi Ahdab '87, Raed Hamdan '86, John Johnson, Mary Johnson.



Our host H.E. Ambassador Salem '74 and Rima al-Sabah



## Paris

A fundraising dinner was held in Paris on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by IC President John Johnson and VP for Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64**. Organized by **Rafic Abou Fadel '79** and **Charles Simon Thomas '75**, the dinner was attended by 32 persons. Mr. Johnson talked about IC projects and the Annual Fund while Mr. Beydoun talked about the importance of networking. All attendees contributed to the Annual Fund.



**Moufid Beydoun '64, Mona Al Hussein, Rafic Abou Fadel '79, Nour Abou Jaoude '01, Manal Issa-el Khoury '01, Mariam Chammat '02, Elsa Rahal '10**



**Raja Kassar '71, Charles Chaoul, Mrs Chaoul, Fadi Fattoun '93, Charles Simon Thomas '75, Lynn Farah '02, Karim Bekdache '08, Roy Akar '08, Chada Haroun '71**





Nijad Hamam '60, Mavis Hamam, John Johnson, Raymond Khoury '78, Hanan Malouf, Fouad Malouf '56, Sophia Crawford, Frederik Crawford, Imad Taher '58



Moufid Beydoun '64, Walid Daouk '77, Zeki Beydoun '66, Rami Ramadan '99, Saad Mattar '69, Farah Ramadan '03, Vouty Mattar, Richard Faber, Sara Saab '99



Raya Jallad Sa'adeh '61, Anwar Al Mulla '63, Mrs Al Mulla, Emile Chammas '76, William Turner, Aida Chammas, Ford Fraker, Maya Tohme, Alain Tohme

## London

The Board of Trustees met in London on March 12 and 13 to discuss the latest developments at IC. Vice Chairman of the Board, **Mr. Fouad Malouf '56** hosted a dinner for board members and IC alumni at the Savile Club in London. The event was attended by 60 people.





L: Louise Fortunato, Rola Suleiman, Mary McCarthy, Mary Hofstetter.  
R: David Scheller, Philippe Sednaoui '74, John McCarthy, Khaled Suleiman '86

## IC Fundraising Dinner in Switzerland

IC President John Johnson, Vice President for Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** and Development Officer Nadine Akkaoui visited Geneva on April 2nd and organized an IC fundraising dinner at Rooftop 42. The dinner which was sponsored by HSBC, Bank Audi, Elie Saab Boutique, Capvest attracted more than 70 alumni and friends. All were very excited to donate to IC's Scholarship Fund.



Rudeina El Said, Ayman Abou Chakra '83, Hanadi El Said, Keane '87, Dina Abu Khadra, Nadine Akkaoui, John Johnson, Mary Hofstetter



Moufid Beydoun  
'64, Ayman  
Abou Chakra '83



## Dubai

The Dubai Alumni Chapter and the Beirut Alumni and Development Office organized a dinner on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Conrad Hotel which was attended by 200 IC alumni and friends. The dinner was sponsored by LGB, IC Flex and Wehbe Insurance. All the attendees willingly contributed to the school. The fundraising dinner raised more than \$30,000 which will go towards educating three deserving but needy students (full scholarship). Vice President for Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** and Development Officer Nadine Akkaoui flew from Beirut especially to attend the dinner.



Fouad Bardawil '44, Madeleine Bardawil, Roula Haddad, Samir Haddad '66, Elias Hanna '61, Nadine Akkaoui





Ras Beirut Donor Reception



Ain Aar Parents' Reception



Rana Ashkar, Nizam Ashkar, and Former Minister Ziad Baroud

## Ain Aar Fundraising Auction Dinner Phoenicia Hotel, March 31<sup>st</sup>



### Partnership for Excellence Update:

We are happy to announce that IC received its construction permit to start building the new Middle school/Preschool building and Cultural Center in its Ras Beirut Campus. Construction in both Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campuses will begin in due time.

Phase II of the Partnership For Excellence Campaign aims to raise \$60M for its construction projects in Beirut and Ain Aar. The five year Campaign has so far raised more than \$17M ( of which \$1,700, 000 donated by IC's Board of Trustees to Ain Aar).

#### Building Naming Opportunities sold in Ras Beirut:

Preschool: Ziadeh Sawwaf Preschool

Middle School: Mikati Foundation Middle School

Several other naming opportunities (halls, classrooms, playgrounds, etc) have been sold but many are still available.

Non-naming opportunities (donations to Annual Funds, Scholarship Fund and Faculty Development Fund) are always welcome.

Special thanks to the generous donations of the Board of Trustees, Alumni and IC friends.

For more information, please contact VP of Alumni & Development, Moufid Beydoun.

tel: 01367420/33 email: [mbeydoun@ic.edu.lb](mailto:mbeydoun@ic.edu.lb) or [alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb)



# The Life and Times of Akram Miknas

*In a rags to riches story, **Akram Miknas '63**, the giant behind Promoseven Holdings group (FP7) –the largest advertising and communications network in the Middle East and North Africa, started out quite modestly while still in his early 20's. Today, FP7 is spread across 14 countries with a staff of more than 680 and is worth a whopping \$125 million.*

*It was long road fraught with many trials and tribulation, but Miknas persevered. In a tribute to the man with a huge drive and vision, ARAB AD dubbed him as the Man of the Year in their January 2014 issue.*

*In it, Miknas begins at the beginning.... right here at IC.*

My parents were divorced and my mother died when I was 12 years old.

We were in Beirut at the time and my mother had remarried and I had my two sisters who were younger than me at 10 and 6 or 8 years I can't quite recall.

I felt I was lost. I ran into the woods behind our house and the practical side of my character came to the fore as I started thinking what should I do? How can I manage and take care of my sisters? They were my siblings that my mother had with my father but at the time I thought that he didn't want to have much to do with us. So I started to think what can I do? I knew I had a small plot of land in my name so I thought perhaps I could sell that; I didn't know how much money it was worth, and then I saw a plane and thought perhaps I could become a pilot. The fact that I wasn't even 13 yet and that I wouldn't stand the chance of becoming a pilot didn't cross my mind. At the time the thought foremost in my mind was what can I do for me and my sisters?

On the day of my mother's funeral, my father surprised us by attending it and he actually showed his concern for us and took us back with him to his home in Tripoli Lebanon, which is where I was born. He tried to do right by us as a father, and certainly took care of my sisters by immediately putting them into a girl's boarding school nearby. As for me he thought that I could join the family business. However, I wanted to continue my education – thanks to my mother's influence on me. She was a well-educated woman probably one of the few women who had been to university in her generation and had graduated from the American University of Beirut. She



saw the importance of education and I expressed this clearly to my father.

Initially things went well between us, but when his latest wife came back from a holiday, she began to resent me and made my life quite difficult. I realized that there was no future for me with them so I packed a few belongings, rolled them into a mattress, assessed my financial position, which was five Lebanese Lira and caught the next bus back to Beirut, for one Lira - and headed straight for my school – International College or IC as it was popularly called.

When I arrived in school, it was the summer holidays but I searched for and found Mr James Sullivan, the head of the boarding campus. He took me under his wing and helped me, first by offering me a place to stay with him in his off-campus apartment and then he helped me to get into the boarding school when I improved my grades. In the meantime my father arrived and agreed to pay the boarding school fees. I worked hard at my studies, improved my grades and was allowed to join the boarding and also through James Sullivan's good offices, I was granted a small amount of student assistance. In a few months I realized I needed to do something more to augment my school fees and income.

I had watched some American movies in which I'd seen door-to-door salesmen and thought this was something that I could do. One day I happened to notice that the nearby small grocery store regularly received a visit from a large car delivering soaps, tissues and other toiletries. I noted the name and phone number on the side

and contacted the manager. I was by then around 14 years old and by good fortune, the manager, a man called Saied agreed to meet me. I explained that I was still in school, but needed to supplement my fees. I gave him a brief background about myself, he was impressed, and at the age of 14, I had landed my first job.

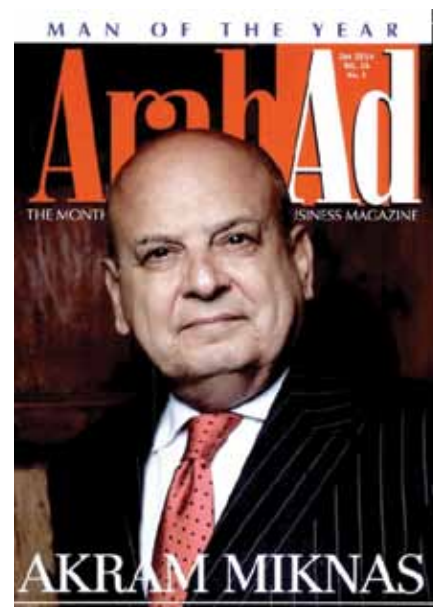
Within a few months of doing my door-to-door sales I discovered encyclopedia sales – a more profitable line of work and so I gave up selling toiletries and was the only school kid of fifteen who was in this business. I made enough to more than cover my expenses in the school with some to spare. I sold encyclopedias for two years and then the year I was to finish school I went with a cousin to Benghazi where we had a particularly successful trip especially as that was the time when Libyan oil was coming into its own.

While selling encyclopedias I had also started to sell insurance. And if one didn't work with a prospect, I'd try selling them the other. Sometimes I sold them both to the same contact. It was through these two sales jobs that I managed to complete my schooling and pay all my fees.

Soon after I completed school, I went on a very successful encyclopedia selling gig to Libya and then joined the American University of Beirut (AUB) to study Business Administration....

*Excerpt reprinted with permission from Arab Ad.*

*To read the rest of the article, go to <http://www.arabadmag.com/> (January 2014 issue)*



## Touring Moscow



## A TEACHER, AN ALUMNA AND STANISLAVSKI

*IC students spend a week at the Moscow Art Theatre*

Think Marlon Brando. Marilyn Monroe, Jack Nicholson, Paul Newman, Johnny Depp, Sidney Poitier, Elizabeth Taylor, Kate Winslet.

Think Stanislavski. Think Moscow Art Theatre School.

Think IC.

For the first time in the history of the Moscow Art Theatre, eight high school students took intensive theatre classes in the prestigious school last February. Those eight were none other than IC's very own students.

It was a privilege rarely bestowed on university theatre students, let alone high school ones.

But the esteemed Moscow theatre agreed to give IC students the chance - thanks to one young alumna who couldn't forget IC and her drama teacher.

"I kept thinking to myself, if only Mr. (Riad) Chirazi could see this or hear that," said **Milia Ayache '05**.

As part of her Masters theater program at Harvard University, Ayache was required to spend a semester at the Moscow Art Theatre.

The Theatre School was founded in 1897 by Constantin Stanislavski - considered today a guru to all actors.

A pioneer in modern theatre, Stanislavski's system is a progression of techniques

used to train actors and actresses to draw believable emotions to their performance. Professional actors worldwide are drilled in the system during their training.

The lucky ones get to learn the system in Stanislavski's own theatre. Those who don't, tend to dream about it.

"I have been teaching Stanislavski's method, the theorists and the theories that emerged from the Moscow Art theatre for many years," said Chirazi, the head of the Drama Department. "All my life I have been thinking: will I ever have the chance to go to this place? Will I ever have a chance to sit in Stanislavski's chair?"



Meanwhile, Ayache obtained her theatre degree from Harvard and returned to Lebanon. Her first stop was Chirazi's office. The two had hit it off instantly since the day when Ayache, then still in middle school, lied about her age and class to get into Chirazi's theatre club reserved for seniors only. And now, she couldn't wait to tell him about the Moscow Theatre. Chirazi listened spellbound.

"Then we both looked at each other," recalled Ayache. "I'm not sure who suggested the idea first but we both knew that we had to take IC students to Moscow."

The idea was unthinkable. Would such a prestigious theatre school consent to take high school theatre students from IC?

There was only one way to find out. Ayache put herself on a plane and headed to Moscow. She made her plea with the theatre's administration and waited for an answer.

"For you, Milia," they responded, "yes".

Back at IC, Chirazi couldn't believe the good news.

With the administration's blessings, he offered the once in a lifetime opportunity to his students. Eight students signed up. It was enough to get on the plane.

And they did.

"You will be learning from the students of Stanislavsky," said Ayache. "His knowledge has been passed down from teacher to student. And now to you."

For all, it was their first time in Russia.

"Never break these rules," cautioned Ayache as she armed each student with a list of dos and don'ts. "Never."

The following week can only be described by all as surreal. Russian teachers,



**Milia Ayache '05 and Riad Chirazi**

IC students learned all too soon, were not there to chitchat. The work began even before the teacher entered. All stood up when the teacher entered. "We really had to try not to talk in lessons," laughed Rhawann El Hakim, 18, one of the IB students. "But the teachers were intimidating enough that we didn't."

Intensive classes were exactly that – intensive. Every movement had to be repeated, sometimes painfully, until perfection. No dawdling of any kind was

ever tolerated.

The chock-full program immersed the students in the Russian theatre scene more than they thought possible. When they were not taking intensive theatre or movement classes, they were touring museums. Every evening, they would attend one of the 160 theatrical productions staged every night. The performances are always fully booked – an obvious Russian pastime.

"It is so different than Lebanon," said Rhawann. "Russians have such a high respect for theatre. Everyone gets dressed up and goes. I even saw teenagers there. It's the thing to do there."

To their surprise, they saw their very own teachers performing in one or more of these shows.

"It was amazing," said Andy El Rahi, 17 – another IB student. "They would have different roles, different characters and different costumes in two or more shows on the same night. I've never seen such personality and character."

It was a week that none will likely forget – a rare opportunity that will probably not come their way again. It proved to be rather difficult getting back on the plane.

As for Chirazi, he is back in his small office at IC. He reportedly teared up when sat in Stanislavski's own chair. "To go to the Moscow Art Theatre, to see it and feel it," he said. "It was a dream."

*Chirazi and Ayache are currently trying to establish a week long studying program at the Moscow Art Theatre as a yearly event for IC's theatre students. Ayache is currently writing her own theatrical shows.*



**In class**



**At the theatre**



## Beirut Vocal Point

There's a new group in town. They sing. They act. They harmonize. They do flash mobs. They serenade. All acapella.

Presenting the Beirut Vocal Point.

In 'real' life, they are young professionals with the usual humdrum 9 to 5 jobs. On Sunday evenings, however, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Hamra district, the singers make their way to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of a high rise apartment. Here, their music conductor awaits them: Janmarie Haggag.

The music veteran quickly gathers them around her piano as they begin acapella renditions of classics, jazz, contemporary and Broadway music. They are good. Very good.

"It's fun," says Haggag smiling broadly, "isn't it?"

It certainly looks like a lot of fun. Between the melodies and the accompanying sounds, whether it be trumpets or jungle noises, the group is mesmerizing.

The brainchild of Haggag, the group

was formed three years ago when she and the young singers met at the AUB Choir.

The daughter of musicians, Haggag's past includes years spent training a women's choir, children's choruses and musical theatre in Cyprus and Beirut. "When I met these amazing and talented and energetic young people, I just felt that we had to form an acapella group," she says. "It was the right match."

Among them is **Yasmina Sabbah '06**. At only 25, she can already boast a rich musical repertoire. In 2008, she founded and conducted the Lycée Abdel Kader choir. A year later, she went off to Cambridge and obtained a master's degree in choir conducting. Upon her return to Lebanon, she formed a high school choir and an adult chamber choir. Somehow between the directing and the Beirut Vocal Point, she finds time to sing with the AUB choir and gives private lessons in piano and voice.

"I'm really organized," she laughs.

"Even during my IC days, I managed my studies and music."

In fact, she discovered her love for choir at IC. During her school days, she joined every music club possible. She travelled with IC to every international performance possible. At home, she was surrounded by music (her mother is the choir director at IC and her father "is a good listener").

At university, she majored in graphic design "just because I was too scared to pursue a career in music," she said. "But I knew that it wasn't me."

So she redirected herself to music. And now, with Vocal Point Beirut, it's an experience for her like no other.

At Christmas, the group walked down Hamra street caroling; in the AUB medical library they did a flash mob; at a convent they held singing workshops for its underprivileged young boarders.

Basically, you will find them where





**Yasmina Sabbah  
and Janmarie  
Haggar**



you least expect them. At the marathon, walking down Zaytounay Bay, nail salons, hospitals and basically any public place. They have already been featured live on LBC TV station.

"Everybody loves what we do," said Haggar. "It's all about how we perform not what we perform. There is no language barrier. This is a show choir. It's all about presentation."

The group only charges for specific events (like weddings). All proceeds goes charity.

For more information go to:  
<https://www.facebook.com/BeirutVocalPoint>



*A family's  
campaign  
to save  
young athletes*

## FOR REMY



It was like a Disney movie turned horror. Remy walks towards his parents, smiling. He spots his uncle, his cousin and his cousin's fiancée – who had just arrived from abroad - standing next to his parents. Remy smiles even more broadly. He continues to walk. Then in one horrific slow motion second, everything goes wrong. Remy drops to the ground. The bewildered family runs to him. The fiancée, who happens to be a doctor, immediately performs CPR.

"Call an ambulance" she yells out.

Remy's father, **John Rebeiz '68**, runs out from the underground car park in the downtown area to get a signal on his phone. Fifteen minutes later, the ambulance arrives but for some reason doesn't fit into the entry of the underground parking. The ambulance workers jump out and run to Remy. Still, the 21-year-old AUB student can't be revived.

Four days later, Remy was pronounced dead at the hospital. He never regained consciousness. The usual cardiac tests didn't reveal anything abnormal. The family was left stunned as they tried to get to grips with the tormenting fact that their only son died of an unknown cause.

Born in 1992, **Remy '10** was the youngest child of John and Sylvia Rebeiz and the brother of **Diala '00** and **Dima '04**.

His extreme love for athletics showed at a very young age. His passion was football and he couldn't seem to get enough of it. At IC and AUB, he excelled in the Varsity Football team. At the age of 16, he co-founded The Football Club Beirut (FCB) and helped young Lebanese football players to compete at the annual Gothia Cup football tournaments in Gothenburg, Sweden. He saw to it that no student was left behind by raising enough money to send those who



couldn't afford to go. And yet, his love for sports didn't take away from his academics or socializing. The senior economics major was on the Dean's Honor List (he was awarded his BA degree posthumously, with Distinction).

Basically, he had it all. Excellent academic standing, outstanding athlete, good friends and a girlfriend he adored - "Sweet Dina", as his father referred to her.

"He was a leader who was loved by his friends," said Rebeiz. "He would ask questions to the point of exhausting the teacher until he made sure that he understood everything."

He always ate healthy. No drinks – not even coffee or tea and absolutely no smoking.

It took months for Rebeiz to accept the death of his son. Somehow, he had to rebuild his crumbling world and go back to being husband and father. But one thing he could not accept was that his young healthy son died of an unknown heart condition.

All kinds of tests were done on Remy – even sending a blood sample abroad to be tested. Soon enough, the cause was revealed: Remy died of a hidden congenital type of heart arrhythmia called Long QT Syndrome – which hits young people between the ages of 12 and 35.

It was a shock for the family. Remy never showed any signs of heart problems or physical fragility of any kind.

But this is Long QT Syndrome. It has no symptoms. Young people – especially ath-



**Class of 2010 (Remy on table)**

letes – can suddenly collapse and die.

Moreover, it is a mutated gene which is inherited. More often than not, the carrier never knows he or she has it. And unless they exert physical pressure it may never affect them.

The entire family immediately underwent tests. All came out clear except one: John Rebeiz himself. He was the carrier.

In his 60s, he is well above the age of danger. Still, it was time for much soul searching. Life has put Rebeiz through many trials. He fought each and every one.

He knew that he now had another fight on his hands. He owed it to Remy.

The Rebeiz family threw themselves into research. Soon enough, they started hearing about other young athletes who were collapsing across the country.

"There have been many cases in Lebanon," he said. "And yet no one is talking or doing anything about it. It's more serious than people think."

And yet the solution is simple: perform Electrocardiograms (EKG/ECG) on all school and university athletes. This unobtrusive and inexpensive test would have saved Remy's life.

In January 2014, the family launched the Remy Rebeiz Young Heart Foundation (RRYH). The aim is to make it compulsory for all athletes to undergo EKG/ECG tests and to make Automated External Defibrillators (AED) – a lightweight portable device that immediately restarts the heart following arrest – mandatory in all public and private institutions. Moreover, everyone – including students – should be trained to use them. Only an AED can save the life of the victim.

AUB reports that two of its students have already been saved by AEDs. (IC currently owns two AEDs in its Ras Beirut Campus and nurses are fully trained in using them).

"Every time I see a kid on the street," said Rebeiz, "I say God save him because the pain that his family would suffer from losing a child is too unbearable. I want to spare others this pain. These young athletes don't have to die. It's so silly to lose our children like this when we can easily save them."

*For more information about RRYH contact: rryh09@gmail.com or call: (961) 03273174 (John Rebeiz) or 03322159 (Sylvia Rebeiz). Facebook: Remy Rebeiz Young Heart Foundation.*



**The Rebeiz Family: Remy, Dima, John, Dima, Sylvia**

Class of  
1990



## THE ADDICTS

In what can only be called as unique, the class of 1990 (French Section) is officially addicted. Take **Rezan Barrage Jaroudi** for example. Her day cannot start without it. Or **Mazen Kaedbey** who writes that "every morning and evening or any minute to spare," he turns to it.

Or ask any of the 46 classmates. It seems to have become their favorite pastime.

Yes, the class of 1990 is officially addicted to the WhatsApp message ap-





Maher Bekdash and Samer Hajj

plication. Spouses are officially banned. Classmates only can join.

"Some of us had not talked to or seen each other for over 20 years," writes Kaedbey. "But now friends from North America, Europe, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Lebanon and other regions joined the group and have reunited with their classmates."

Other than the two big no-nos, politics and religion, classmates discuss every subject possible. There is no particular order. It could start with a winge about a child's school grade, an upcoming barbeque, the weather, or a delight about the purchase of a new car.

"It's different from our daily lives," says Barrage. "At IC, I was not close to all my classmates but now I feel that I know them all so well. I can say things to them that I wouldn't say to anyone else and I know that it will stay within the group."



Comments continue throughout the day and night – reaching up to more than 1000 messages a day. In Kuwait, **Shadia Abaza Haidar** has taken it upon herself to write up the minutes – a debriefing of a kind – about the previous day's discussions. Moreover, she provided the group with a video showing their past (Torch) and present pictures.

The group's founders, **Samer Hajj** and **Maher Bekdash** (both IC Dads) seem startled at the speedy growth of their WhatsApp group. It was just a simple idea to bring a few good friends together.

Hajj, the VP of Marketing and Sales at Lexikon Group and Bekdash, the Regional Brand Manager at GS stores, both reside in Lebanon and remained friends well after their graduation from IC.

It so happened that a few months previously, Hajj had come across three 1990 graduates' profiles through LinkedIn (a social networking service): **Mazen Kaedbey**, **Antoine Boury** and **Mounir Hajjar**.

Hajj and Bekdash immediately decided to form a little WhatsApp group dubbed "IC 1990".

It was meant to be small – just for occasional hellos.

Finally – the group met. They were thrilled to see each other after 24 years.

"I wish we could meet up with everyone in our class," commented Hajjar.

"Why not?" replied Hajj. "We can do it."

No task too big, Bekdash and Hajjar threw themselves into tracking down classmates through Facebook. One contact led to another. Before long, the group blossomed to 46 members from across the globe.

Today, the WhatsApp messenger rings nonstop. Everyone stops to read the latest comment. Even as Bekdash and Hajj were sitting in the Alumni Office for this interview, their phones were signaling

incoming messages. The reason? The men had posted pictures they took of the campus as they walked in.

Immediately, comments poured in from all over the world.

"Wow, I miss it!"

"We all miss it!!! Rizkallah."

"Those kids (on campus) don't know what they are going to miss a few years later!"

"Oh Genie, if I have one wish then get me back to the last two years at IC!"

But the group have gone well beyond messages. One graduate often posts an invitation to a lunch or meeting. Those living in the vicinity respond and show up. As a result, mini 1990 reunions are currently taking place in many countries.

"We are really learning about each other's lives," said Hajj, "about each other's problems and we talk about them. It's a great stress reliever."

The two men are now taking their group a step further. They are planning a big reunion in Europe or the US. Many have so far responded that they will come. Another reunion is currently being planned in Lebanon during the summer.

"You really discover that you will never find friends like these," said Bekdash.

"These are your school friends and when we get together we never stop talking. It's amazing."

Meanwhile, the messages continue. Another comment. Another complaint. Another piece of good news.

"This group is a tiny part of my life which is not part of my everyday life," said Barrage. "It's not me being a mother, it's not me being a wife, it's not me being a social lady in Beirut, it's me in a place where I can be myself and talk about the daily stuff I deal with."

# Updates

**‘52**

**Adel Berbari**, M.D. received this year's "Gold Medal Award" of the Medical Chapter of the Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut.

**‘61**

**Mustafa Gharib** sent in the following picture. "All showing in it were of the graduating IC class for this year," he writes. "Second from the right is me and on my right is Hisham Barakat. I am afraid I cannot remember the other ones. I would love to know the names of all those on it and, God willing, perhaps correspond with them."



**‘65**



**Nami Darghouth** got married on 26 April 2014 to Maya Naji El-Hoss in Beirut. The wedding dinner/ reception took place at the Sursock Palace Garden attended by some 150 family members and friends. The honeymoon was spent between Tuscany, Italy, and South of France. Nami and Maya will reside in Annecy, Haute Savoie, France.

**‘67**

**Bushra Alamuddin** would like reach out to 1967 classmates "you are in my heart," she writes. She can be reached [mailto:bushra1949@hotmail.com](mailto:mailto:bushra1949@hotmail.com)

**‘79**

**Walid Nouredin** will probably be returning to Lebanon this Summer after 24 years of endless hip hopping around the globe from the Middle East to Europe and Africa and from Lebanon to the Americas, the CIS and Oceania. Walid is currently refurbishing the law office of his late father Nouredin Nouredin at Baraka building, Hamra, Ras Beirut as a consultancy and legal services office specialized in contractual and corporate affairs. The international aspects of the business will be undertaken in the name of Projects Realization Consultants SA which is a Panamanian company established in 2002 with wide experience in the implementation of investment projects around the globe. The local consultancy scope will be handled in the name of Middle East Consultancy Bureau, cc a legal firm established in 2010 versed in contractual and corporate aspects of projects' implementation. Walid has yet to determine whether his family will return with him to Lebanon whereby he will indeed seek

that his son Omar, presently grade 9 in St. Lawrence college in Athens, be accepted to join IC.

**‘81**

**Hala A. Madi-Shalhoub** and Dr. Hadi Shalhoub, proud parents of Jad Shalhoub, saw him graduate recently from St. Ed's School in Vero Beach, FL. After going on to winning the State Championship Bronze Medal in weightlifting. Jad will be joining UCF for a degree in Engineering and possibly a minor in Music Theory.

**‘87**

**Elie Khammar** is a professional photographer residing in Russia. "In addition to the Arabic, French, and English that I learned in IC, I am now fluent in Russian too. At Berlitz, the Language school where I was studying in Montreal, the coordinator of programs at Berlitz was **Mazen Karkanawi '93**, also an IC alumni," he writes. "I just met a nice lady in Vladimir, Russia last year. She teaches law at the Law institute in Vladimir, and she is fluent only in Russian. She has been taking classes in English, but her teacher is not as good as my late Mr. Philip Najjar I had in my IC years, so I am helping her learn English, thanks to Mr. Najjar's special way in teaching English Grammar. We just got married on May 17, 2014 in Vladimir, Russia and I guess I was the last among my classmates who did so...."



Whatever what we do in our lives, and whatever languages we learn and the countries we travel or immigrate to, the school where we were raised has always a strong positive influence on us, and helps us achieve all our goals. Thanks to IC and all my teachers and classmates for the great 10 years I had in your classes and campus." [www.ekhammarphotographer.com](http://www.ekhammarphotographer.com)

**David-Imad Ramadan** (Honorable) was re-elected for a second term to the Virginia House of Delegates. Delegate Ramadan's work at the Virginia General Assembly has been recognized by several State and National Organizations; he was named as the 2014 Virginia Legislator of the Year by the Military Officers Association of America; he was recognized by the Virginia



Chamber of Commerce as The 2014 Business Advocate of the Year; and he was awarded the 2014 Champion of Free Enterprise Award for his 100% pro jobs voting record. In January, he hosted childhood friends and fellow IC Alumni **Hind**



# Updates

**Soufi-Ahdab '87** and **Wissam Yafi '87** and their families for a day at Mr. Jefferson's Capitol, the Virginia General Assembly, Richmond, Virginia, USA. Delegate Ramadan would like to invite all IC-DC Chapter members and their families to visit him in Richmond next year during the yearly General Assembly 2015 Session.

## '89

**Ziad Zakharia** is now back in Beirut as board advisor after being in USA and Dubai. A testament to the legacy of IC, the enrollment of his daughter as a 3rd generation student drove his decision to move back. He looks forward to reconnect with classmates this summer in their 25-year reunion.

## '91

**Lamice Joujou** is the owner of Dent De Lait Nursery and Pre-School, Mazitou Production House, FRIZZY Edutainment center and My Doll & Me. In February 2014, Lamice has been nominated for a Wonder Woman award by Women in Toys association-WIT. Moreover, Lamice is now the Lebanon chapter chair for WIT. Lamice is taking part now along with 150 women from around 50 countries in the Cherie Blaire foundation for women, mentoring program. Lately, Lamice has been selected by the Vital Voices Global Partnership, along with 70 other business women leaders in the Middle-East, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to take part in the Vital Voices' GROW fellowship program (VV Grow). Lamice is a mother of three children, the eldest graduating this year from IC.

## '97

**Michel el Azar** is currently the Strategic Partnership Manager at Ubanquity Systems, an Irish company that provides banking technology. He got married to Hala Haddad on December 28, 2012 at the St. George Orthodox church, Rmeil. Hala is an English Language and Literature instructor.

## '98

**Dania Khaled Ghandour** opened two stores in fashion industry, one in Jeddah and one in Beirut. They are called Cream and they sell local and international designs. She has two daughters, Lila and Alia Traboulsi who attend IC.

## '02

**Farouha Jabak** has been living in Dubai for three years now, and has worked and visited many schools. "Believe me wherever I go my appreciation and pride to be an IC graduate!," he writes. "I have a daughter now, Thalia (19 months old) and expecting again hopefully October 2014. Can't wait to bring back my kids to Lebanon and enroll them in the best school in the whole world!"

## '03

**Maher Abdel-Sattar** (Dr) graduated on March 30 2014, with a doctorate degree in Pharmacy (PharmD) from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), the highest ranked School of Pharmacy in the United States. Next, Maher will be moving to Florida to complete a 2-year fellowship with AmerisourceBergen (Xcenda) providing consulting services to pharmaceutical companies. He will also continue his education by concurrently earning a Master of Science degree in Applied Pharmacoeconomics from the University of Florida (UF) over the next two years.

## '05

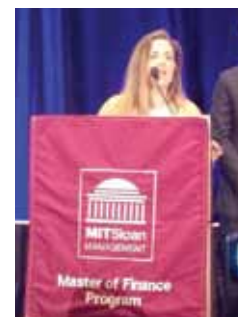
**Balsam Khodr** has begun her fourth year of employment at Phoenicia InterContinental Hotel, Beirut. This May, Balsam was promoted to hold the position of Talent Resourcing Coordinator in charge of Recruitment for both Phoenicia InterContinental and InterContinental Le Vendôme Hotels.

## '08

**Ramzi Naja** is moving to Boston this summer to pursue a Masters in Architecture at Harvard University. He graduated from LAU with distinction in 2013 winning the Torch leadership award. Ramzi works on several projects involving public space and Beirut's urban history while also practicing architecture. Check out his projects and get in touch at [www.ramzinaja.com](http://www.ramzinaja.com).

## '09

**Mira Assaf** just received the prestigious MIT School of Finance Achievement Award. The Class of 2014 Master of Finance (MFin) Achievement Award recipients are selected for their "significant impact on their classmates, the MFin program, and the broader MIT Sloan community."



## '13

**Elie Boutros** just finished his first year of Architecture school in Cornell University in New York (B.Arch class of 2018). He was also part of CUSD (Cornell University Sustainable Design) which brings students from multiple disciplines together to create sustainable structures, that would be potentially built, using a research-based approach. He was on the tech team of the Beebe Lake redevelopment project. The project was working on a new building for the Cornell Outdoor Education department and redeveloping the site. "It has been such an amazing experience. I was the only architecture student on my team," he writes, "and worked with six other engineering students to make the building as energy efficient as possible. The Project will hopefully get built in the near future! I feel very fortunate to have grown up at IC with such great people and inspiring friends."

Hind Kraytem's graduation in October 2013 from Imperial College London with an MEng in Biomedical Engineering



Karma Khatib Kraytem ('84), Randa Kraytem, Ghazi Kraytem ('53), Hind Kraytem ('09), Ezzat Kraytem ('84) and Randa Kraytem ('11).

## Q&A with Hind Kraytem

**Hind Kraytem '09** and her team from the University of Cambridge (UK) were among 10 winners of the first Breast Cancer Startup Challenge. The idea of the challenge is to give the opportunity to students and professionals to create strategic business plans and start new companies to develop and commercialize ten inventions that will treat breast cancer and other diseases.

### What was your project about?

By coming together, the Center for Advancing Innovation, the National Cancer Institute and the Avon Foundation have created a unique competition model. The "Breast Cancer Start-Up Challenge" (BCSC) provides students with an opportunity not only to develop a business plan but the potential to take innovative and unused technologies developed by world-class research institutions forward and start new companies. At a time when approximately one in eight women is diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in her lifetime, this is a great initiative to advance novel and promising technologies to the market, whilst promoting entrepreneurship in universities worldwide.

Our team, Radial Genomics (University of Cambridge), was named the winner of invention #1 at the BCSC. We are developing a flagship diagnostic product Oncodyne with the potential to save over 20% of breast cancer patients from undergoing financially, emotionally, and physically draining tests and treatments unnecessarily, improving patient outcomes and the overall cost-effectiveness of care.

### What is your next step?

We are looking for partnerships and seed investment for our first 18 months to conduct

retrospective studies and further develop our product. Interested in learning more? Get in touch at [hello@radialgenomics.com](mailto:hello@radialgenomics.com). ( [www.RadialGenomics.com](http://www.RadialGenomics.com))

### What did you like the most about IC?

What I like most about IC is the infinite family forged there. I was on a course field trip to Boston in April, and whilst I was planning to catch-up with a former IC classmate ('09), I coincidentally ran into a former colleague ('11), and unexpectedly made the acquaintance of another IC alumna ('12). They say "what a small world"; I say "IC makes the world small". I look forward to meeting new members of the growing IC family, whenever and wherever that may be!

Also, my link to IC dates back to my grandfather's days. **Ghazi Kraytem's '53** attachment to IC has continued uninterrupted over the years. Founder of the Alumni Association and father of three IC graduates, he actively participates in most alumni and school functions, as he has done for over three decades.

His son **Ezzat '84** continues the tradition with classmate and wife **Karma '84** by enrolling their three daughters at IC (**Randa '11**, **Basma '13**, and **Hind herself**), and being elected as president of the IC Alumni Association in 2003.



# Letters to the editor



I am currently in my second year at the Lebanese American University (LAU), majoring in Communication Arts with an emphasis in Journalism. Along with my studies, I am working full time in ELLE Oriental, the fashion magazine, as a fashion editor where I am in charge of everything related to fashion (i.e. shoots, models, trends etc...). I graduated from IC in 2012 with a Honourable Mention.

A particular story that I will never forget from my days at IC is when we pulled a prank our IB English teacher Mrs. Randa Soubaih on April Fool's day. Two days prior, Mrs. S had told us that she had a meeting with President John Johnson on April 1st at 9 am; she asked us to tell her when it was 15 minutes to 9 so that she could make it to the president's office on time. As soon as the class was over we all decided to play a prank on her. We would change the classroom's clock and make it 15 minutes earlier than the original time. On the day of the prank, The day started off with a normal English lesson, but just as the clock struck 8:45 am, we urged her to leave to her meeting or she would be late. With much haste and confusion, Mrs. S packed up her pens and papers and rushed off to her meeting. The moment she left the classroom, we burst out into laughter. We couldn't believe our prank had worked! After approximately 7 minutes of waiting to see if she would realize we had fooled her, Mrs. S entered the classroom with a big smile on her face as we all yelled: "APRIL FOOL'S!"

**Kelly Sadek '12**

Mr. Bliss was my English teacher in the sixth secondary and we were studying Shakespeare's Macbeth.

In one of my essays I got a "- 4" (over a 100) with red circle around the word "Shakespearean" that I had used. I went to him asking for an explanation for the grade reduction, and he took a red pen out of his pocket and wrote "No! He was not Armenian!" Now, I knew how to spell the word "Shakespearean"

The next day at 10, just before going to recess, he came to the room (in Bliss Hall) and apologized to me in front of the whole class that Shakespearean could be spelled both ways. I got my 4 points back even though I had no clue.

Another time, Mr. Bliss told us "If you see me five years from now don't come and say "Hi Mr. Bliss, do you remember me? I promise I will not remember you. You say hi Mr. Bliss, I am Fulan Fulan, I was in your class in 1964. Then, I will try to remember

you" An advice all teachers can give their students!

On November 23, 1963, the day after the Lebanese independence holiday, Mr. Bliss came to dismiss the class because of President Kennedy's assassination. He, a man in his 60's cried in front of the whole class.

How could a teacher like this not leave a very fond and permanent impression on his students?

We love you Mr. Bliss! R.I.P.

**Agheg M. Yenikomshian, M.D. '64**  
**Monte Sereno, California**

My elder brother, William Habib, my younger brother, Labib, and I joined the Elementary section in 1937, and I graduated from IC in 1944, going on to study at AUB.

For most of the years during which we were at IC, and until I graduated from AUB in 1948, we were living on the second floor of a 3-story building on Bliss Street, opposite to where Taj al Mulook shop is now situated, at the beginning of Sadat Street opposite Hobeish Police Station.

We had a big balcony at the back of our home, which overlooked the IC football field, and we were more or less living on the beautiful AUB/ IC campus.

While at IC, three classmates and I (Fadil Salti, William Chebib and Yerbant Terzian) published the "The Prep News" and I still have a few tattered old copies of some issues. I also have a picture of all the graduating class of 1944 (enclosed herewith but it is not in the best of conditions).



In 1952, I married Madeleine Albert Esber, who also graduated from AUB and we have been living in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates since early 1976.

We have four children, Philip, Sumaya, Albert and Marwan and seven grandchildren. All the boys live in Beirut, although they spend a lot of time in the Gulf area as most of their business activities are in this area. Our daughter and her husband, Christian Boustany, and their two children have been living in Kuwait for the past 20 years. Three of our grandchildren, Jad, Milla and Haya, are currently students at the IC in Ain Aar and one of our grandchildren, Fouad II, was a student at IC for a few years, as were his father, Philip and Christian Boustany.

**Fouad Philip Bardawil '44**

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to International College for excellence in education and human values cultivated in us. Besides, I have been inspired by the noble mission of its trustee committee. In 1998, our Tarakki Com-

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munity School, mostly for needy students, was about to close, due to financial difficulties. I proposed the establishment of a trustee committee to be in charge of the school administration. A trustee committee of voluntary members was formed and was entrusted with the educational and financial management of Tarakki School.

Thanks to God, the school is now overcoming difficulties and the students are getting good results in the official exams.

I am pleased to see that the noble mission of IC is being transmitted and perpetuated from generation to generation, so that everyone "may have more life, and have it abundantly."

**Elias Mazejy '53**  
mazejy@yahoo.com



We will be celebrating the:

**20th** Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of **1984**  
on **August 2nd** 2014 at **8pm** at the Ras Beirut Campus.

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

**IC**  
**International College**

**“Back to School”**  
a Party Unlike any Other

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014  
at IC (Ras Beirut)  
Preschool and Sawwaf Courtyard

Valet Parking Available - Elementary lower gate  
Dress Code: Casual

**Creditbank**



## Noha Hachach (1975-2014)

On Wednesday May 14th, our dear colleague (social studies teacher) and friend, Noha Hachach passed away after fighting her illness for a little more than a year. She fought with courage and persistence. She clung to life as long as she could, facing her condition with faith, optimism and determination. Her positive

and gentle spirit, creativity, dedication and professionalism will continue to live in the hearts of her colleagues and students. Noha was loving and giving. In the relatively short time she spent among the living, she gave unconditionally, with a smile, her generosity touching the lives of all those around her. As we mourn her

death, we thank God that He gave us the gift of having her amongst us and hope that she is now in a better place.

May her soul rest in peace and may God grant her family and friends strength to go through these difficult times.

*Wadad Hoss  
Middle School  
Director*



We regret to inform you that Dr. Mustapha Ghandour '43 passed away in May 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Ghandour family.

We regret to inform you that Touma Arida '57 passed away in May 2014. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Arida 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)**

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**100% IC  
SPIRIT!**

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