

IC Newsletter Winter 2012



087

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Note from the Editor



There is much excitement ahead.

As I write this note, plans are being made for a smooth move to the new elementary school soon. Before long, the sounds of our children running around their brand new state-of-the-art building will fill the campus.

This is still just the beginning. A master plan for our Ain Aar campus is now complete. This includes the construction of a gymnasium and theater and the renovation of classrooms. As for Ras Beirut, our work is far from over. The plan is to build a new middle school and preschool buildings. Sage Hall (middle school) will be renovated and become an Arts Building to serve both the middle and secondary schools. The last part of this plan is to renovate Rockefeller Hall (secondary school).

You have all been so generous in helping us build the new elementary school – and we are grateful. We will be seeking your help again for our new plans. This is not for us. This is for your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. IC is not an ordinary school. It was established by people who believed that a strong well-rounded education can produce leaders who will make a difference in this world. IC has been proving this for a long time. Since its inception in 1891 in Turkey, IC has been producing leaders. Even among our very early graduates in Turkey is none other than Adnan Menderes who went on to become Turkey's Prime Minister in 1950.

It is a heritage that we are immensely proud of. We have been tracing the origins of IC since the beginning and writing about it in our newsletter. We have reached part III in the adventures of Alexander MacLachlan. Enjoy. But the highlight of this newsletter is when IC went back to its original campus in Smyrna (Izmir) Turkey. It was a surreal experience.

Back to the present. We now boast that IC is 'moodling' – effectively putting us on the same wavelength of many international schools and universities.

As always, we bring you the stories of two alumni who in their own way are making a difference in society. It is stories like these which make us proud to belong to IC.

Here's to a wonderful new year, a peaceful country and a beloved school.

Best wishes,

Moufid Beydoun '64

*Vice President
Alumni & Development*

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suggestions, email
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The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:



In 1891, Reverend Alexander MacLachlan and his newlywed wife, Rose, decided to open a school for boys in Smyrna. With only a \$500 budget, the couple opened the doors to five students.

The student body grew quickly and its reputation for excellence spread far and wide.

Rosalind MacLachlan entered the world on December 17, 1891 - just two months after her parents, Alexander and Rose, had worked around the clock since their arrival from Tarsus to establish the American School for Boys in Smyrna. Rosalind would soon be followed by Bruce, Grant and Ian. The family had settled well in Smyrna. Reverend Alexander MacLachlan's main concern remained the now thriving American School for Boys. What used to be a five year program became an eight-year rigorous curriculum made up of four

preparatory and four collegiate grades. The reputation of the school began attracting Greek students (previously only Armenians attended), not only from Smyrna but also from Greece proper and Macedonia.

To accommodate them, MacLachlan opened a dormitory wing in the three-story stone and brick school building. The Armenian preparatory occupied the ground floor, the Greek preparatory was on the first floor and boarding students were housed on the third floor. MacLachlan knew that a large part of the school's success relied on bringing in native English speakers - preferably Americans seeing as it's an American school. But bringing in Cambridge graduates from the UK proved to be far less expensive than paying the travel expenses of teachers from the US. (In fact it would be

five or six years before American teachers were hired).

Primary grades were eventually dropped and replaced with secondary level courses. The school's name was aptly changed to "The American High School for Boys." By 1892 - just a year after the school's opening - the school boasted 286 students. The first class graduated in 1895 - made up of three Armenians and one Englishman. Among the graduates was no other than Hadji Nourian, a Turk (the law forbade Turkish students to attend foreign schools) whose parents disguised his Turkish origins by shrewdly adding the patronymic 'ian' to his surname of Nouri.

But MacLachlan wasn't satisfied. Something was missing. And then it hit him: athletics. He loved sports as a youngster - especially tennis and soccer. He wanted to

Smyrna (Part III)

instill this love of sports and competition in his students. And so much to the surprise of his charges, he excitedly declared a “Field Day Athletics Sports” to be held at a large field in Bournabat, a suburb of Smyrna.

Much to the surprise of their headmaster, students showed little reaction. MacLachlan began to think of ways to get them excited about his idea.

Perhaps offering prizes would do the trick. He threw himself into the task of contacting the business offices of British merchants in town and managed to collect more than a hundred dollars.

He purchased a variety of prizes and put them on exhibition in a prominent show window in the city with a list of the events to be contested. Those events included marbles, leapfrog, kite flying, jumping, pole vaulting, running, tug-of-war, hurdles, three legged races, sack races, etc. MacLachlan had worked hard. But it was worth it as such exciting competitions and the prizes were now sure to arouse the enthusiasm of his students.

He waited expectantly for his charges to practice for the event. Very few bothered.

The minister was dismayed. There were only two weeks left until the Field Day. At this rate, it was sure to be a failure. It was then that he hit upon the idea to open the competition to other schools, state and private. No sooner had he made this announcement, than his students jumped to the challenge. The idea of other people walking away with prizes destined for them was more than they could bear. The boys began practicing zealously. Excitement of the event spread throughout the city. The “Smyrna and Cassaba Railway Company, pasted posters throughout the city advertising special excursion trains for the “Field Day Sports of the American Boys School.”

The press wrote up articles about the upcoming event. MacLachlan even asked the French Sacre Coeur College to send



its brass band to furnish music for the afternoon. The school quickly obliged. The day dawned bright and sunny. An astounded MacLachlan watched as more than four thousand people showed up. The success of the event exceeded all expectations. Very proudly, he noted that the great bulk of the prizes were carried off by his very own students.

It was a great moment in the school’s short history. The next day, MacLachlan was approached by a deputation of the city’s leading schools to congratulate him on the day’s success. But they had a request: would MacLachlan help them form a “Smyrna Schools Athletic Association”?

Needless to say, MacLachlan agreed wholeheartedly. For many years to come, an annual interscholastic Field Day was held at the same plot of land in Bournabat, but with an additional twist: a championship cup was awarded to the school with the highest number of points. The competition for this cup alone created an intense frenzy among the schools. Inspired, the Pan-Ionian Association of Smyrna began to hold their own yearly successful sports competitions.



In 1896 – just four years after MacLachlan held his Field Day – the first modern Olympics were held in Athens. MacLachlan couldn’t help chuckling to himself.

“We are not bold enough to publicly proclaim our initiative in the revival of this ancient and world renowned contest,” he wrote in his 1937 memoirs, *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*. “We will leave it to the research experts of the future to trace back to its original source the modern little spring from which trickled the stimulating life spirit of athletic revival in modern Greece.”

MacLachlan now adamantly wanted to establish a rich athletic program in the school’s curriculum. But how? The school had no field to speak of. But just beyond the school’s wall, there was a large vacant lot – easily accessible from the back alley. This would make an ideal playing field. But as usual, it was same age old question: where could he possibly find the funds to purchase it?

Unbeknown to him, the S.S. Saghalian steamer ship was making its way to the port of Smyrna. A couple was standing on the deck watching the Turkish coastline approaching. They would prove to be some of the greatest friends that IC had ever known.

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

WHAT DOES MOODLE DO?



COLLABORATES

- ✓ Wiki
- ✓ Lesson
- ✓ Database
- ✓ Workshop
- ✓ Forum
- ✓ Social network
- ✓ Glossary
- ✓ Blog

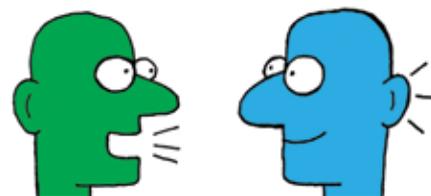
EVALUATES



- ✓ Grades
- ✓ Assignment
- ✓ Survey
- ✓ Ratings
- ✓ Gradebook
- ✓ Scales
- ✓ Choice

COMMUNICATES

- ✓ Chatroom
- ✓ Dialogue
- ✓ RSS
- ✓ Calendar
- ✓ Messaging
- ✓ Forums



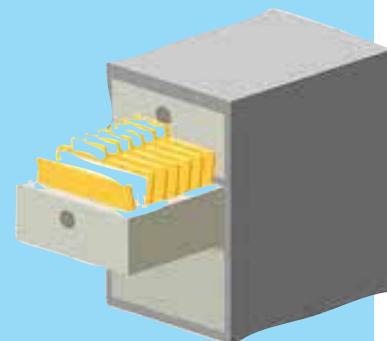
Admin can do, see and edit anything on the site
 Teachers can do, see and edit anything in their course
 Students can do, see and edit as assigned by teacher
 Guests can only look into parts allowed

EXAMPLES OF MOODLE:

Stores virtually any digital documents, images, audio/video text files
 Cut access time with one-click link to any website
 Build up folders, names
 Make own template, WYSIWIG or with HTML, embed, hyperlink, insert

STORES

- ✓ Package
- ✓ Portfolio
- ✓ Files
- ✓ LMS
- ✓ Links
- ✓ Database
- ✓ Folders
- ✓ Webpage
- ✓ Labels



to figure out to access homework and announcements. (Fortunately, teachers can immediately see on Moodle who is having problems accessing the system). Teachers, on the other hand, are the key to success. In a way, one can't help feeling sorry for them. No sooner did they get the hang of using blogs, wikis and websites to communicate with their students, then a new player comes along.

And so for the past few months, teachers have been going through intensive Moodle workshops. Some caught on quickly enough while others good-humoredly repeated the workshops several times. "We have entered a new world in education, especially when it comes to technology," said Shihab. "Things keep changing." Very simply, we have to keep up.

First Founder's Day: **Welcome Home**

The invitation came simply and clearly written to IC president, John Johnson: The First Founder's Day of current descendants of the American Board Schools built in Anatolia in the 19th century will take place from November 1st until the 3rd in Izmir, Turkey.

Johnson had to recollect his thoughts a little. Founder's Day? 19th century? Anatolia? Izmir?

IC was indeed founded in Izmir (then known as Smyrna) in the 19th century, but since its arrival to Lebanon in 1936, there has been no contact with Turkey. And now, more than 70 years later, this email suddenly arrives.

An avid history buff himself, Johnson was immediately intrigued. According to the letter, six other schools, all founded by the American Board Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), - Protestant missionaries who established schools and universities throughout the region - were asked to gather in Izmir and bring along with them some of their students. Johnson didn't need to think twice. He immediately accepted.

For he knew that this was to be a meeting like no other. It would be a historical meeting, but it also would mean that IC was returning - for the first time in exactly 76 years - back home.

Ten students were chosen. They would be the first IC students to set foot back in Izmir.

In 1934, the IC administration - unwilling to bow to Turkish authorities' demands to curtail their academic curriculum - decided to shut down. In 1936, they accepted an invitation by Dr. Bayard Dodge, then president of AUB, to come to Beirut and take over the preparatory school. They moved to Lebanon that same year. All ties with Turkey were severed. IC became completely a Lebanese entity. The momentous day arrived and the students, accompanied by Johnson, music

director Randa Sabbah, and IC Newsletter writer, Reem Haddad, arrived in Izmir. IC was welcomed with open arms. "You've come back!" exclaimed one woman.

As Turkish and Lebanese students immediately took to one another, the adults looked on thrilled.

The descendants of the founding fathers were together again. Standing proudly among them were the hosts and originators of the Founder's Day idea: the American Collegiate Institute (ACI).

"We all have a common rich and unique history which is an important part of who we are and who alumni are," said Todd Cuddington, the Headmaster of ACI.

"The remarkable thing is that we all have the same mission and mission statement which were instilled in our schools when they were formed and this keeps us connected. We wanted to reunite so we can be partners in this region. It's a huge network that we are not making use of." Founded in 1878 as an all-girls academy, ACI was the sister school of IC. IC boys and ACI girls would often meet at various events. In fact, IC's founder, Alexander MacLachlan met and married a teacher from ACI, Rose Blackler. Together, they founded The American School for Boys (later to be called IC) in 1891.

"This is very exciting for all of us," said Didem Erpulat, a history teacher at ACI. It was she that came up with the idea and brought everyone together. "We had always heard that we have a common history but never really made the effort before." Other schools present at the Founder's Day were: Uskudar American Academy, Tarsus American College and the American College of Greece - Pierce.

All were founded by ABCFM - otherwise known as the American Board - in the 1800's. But World War I heralded in many changes. The Ottoman Empire's demise led to 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 did IC. Others, however, remained, as did ACI. For the schools that remained, the ABCFM continued to serve on their boards. About 15 of its schools that were established during the Ottoman Empire still remain. Slowly but surely, however, even the Board began to hand over the schools to a newly formed foundation called SEV. The last school to be handed over to SEV was ACI itself in 2010.

And the last member of the Board is Alison Stendahl - who was present at the First Founder's Day in Izmir. It was



The first IC campus in Basmane, Izmir (Smyrna) 1890-1914

a bittersweet moment for her. In Turkey since 1980, she is now the sole remnant of an all-encompassing undertaking begun by Protestant missionaries Reverends Levi Parsons and Pliny Fisk in 1820. Her retirement next year marks the end of that mission. Understandably, she couldn't help shedding a few tears.

"Still, to think that we have Arab, Turkish and Greek students coming together like this is really fantastic," she said. "To me it feels as if the mission of the American Board continues."

As for IC, it very astutely established its own board when it left Turkey who saw to it that the school develops many professional relationships. Moreover, once out of the Ottoman Empire and with the support of the Lebanese government, IC was free to implement its open and liberal

system of education. Not only did IC survive but it flourished.

In Izmir, the group's first item on the agenda was investigating the former whereabouts of the first IC and ACI campuses. The only known information was that it was near the Basmane Railroad station on Meles street. The train station was indeed still there and functioning. But Meles street and its once charming buildings had been burned to the ground in the great fire of Smyrna in 1922.

Instead there were unimaginative blocks of dwellings where ACI was located and a big metal warehouse where IC used to be. Fortunately, IC had moved out of the school on Meles street in 1913 and enjoyed a beautiful campus in the not too distant area of Paradise. That campus had survived the fire intact and remains till this day.

Three days passed quickly. Students proudly put on dances, sang their Alma Mater songs and basically showed off their schools.

Farewells were difficult. A definite bond of friendship had obviously been established between all – but while adults may have been a little sheepish of fond farewells, students fortunately were not, as they uninhibitedly embraced each other and promised to keep in touch on Facebook.

"I feel very proud of having done this," said Erpulat. "It's a dream come true. We must continue meeting every year and incorporate other schools (founded by the American Board) and become one big family again."

The International College will be hosting the second Founder's Day next year.



1



1. The Basmane station – still intact
2. Looking for downtown IC in Basmane
3. Found it! Today, the site of the first IC campus is a metal warehouse
4. First Founder's day celebration

Looking for the first IC campus in Basmane, Turkey



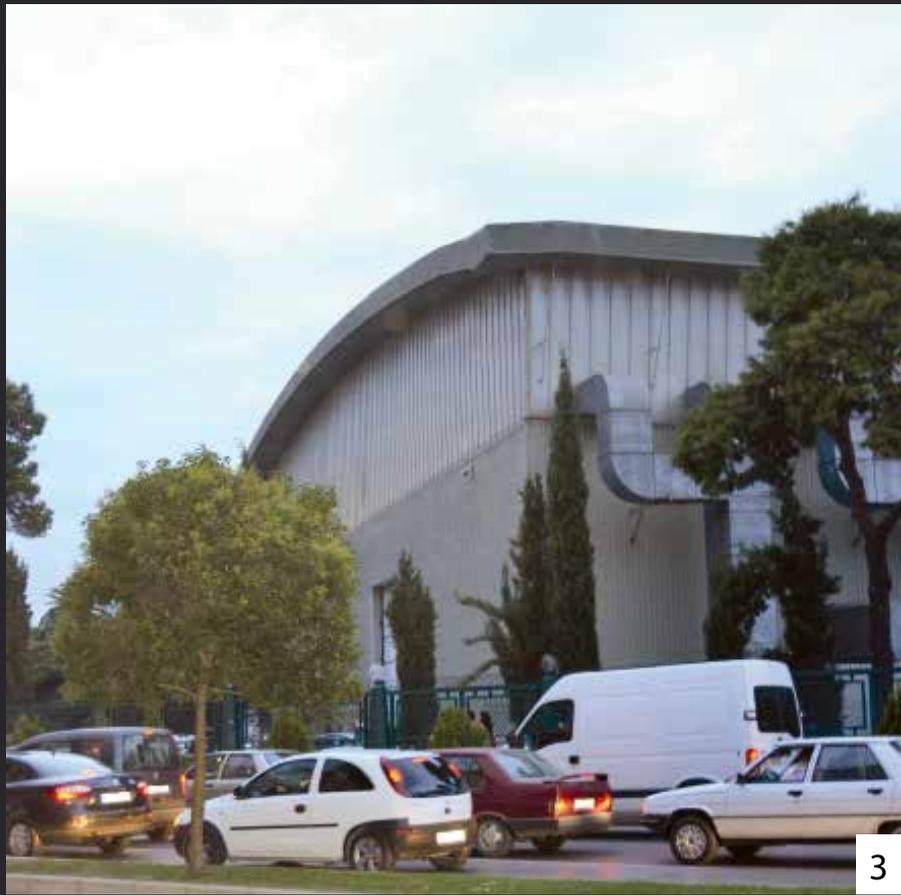
8





2

- 5. IC students show off the Dabke
- 6. Fond Farewells
- 7. IC and Turkish students: friends for life
- 8. Back to Beirut!



3



7



4



6



5

We're back!

We're back. Back on the campus which was lovingly built for IC students. Back in the buildings that were especially designed for IC students.

We were back. It took 78 years but IC students, at least ten of them, had returned home.

And those first few steps were like no other. Little had apparently changed in the lush green campus. The majestic MacLachlan Hall, named after IC's founder Reverend Alexander MacLachlan was there. The gymnasium – once the biggest in Turkey – was still there as were the theatre and the buildings.

"I have goosebumps," whispered IC president, John Johnson – the 12th IC president since MacLachlan – as he stepped off the bus and looked around. "This is incredible."

He wasn't the only one.

"This is amazing," said music director, Randa Sabbah who along with IC Newsletter writer Reem Haddad, had accompanied the middle school students on the historical trip.

Once, students were running back and forth to classes and activities filling the campus with youthful laughter.

Today, however, army personnel march along meticulously kept pathways. It is the Headquarters of Allied Air Command, Izmir.

Having received permission, IC and its host, ACI, along with other American Board schools (see previous page) were granted special access.

Inside the buildings, the history of the International College in Smyrna was conscientiously displayed at the entrance. The history of the school was obviously a matter of pride for the Air Command Headquarters – and rather flattered the egos of the IC group.

The students posed on the front steps of the famous MacLachlan Hall for a picture. Unbeknown to them, they had just followed in the footsteps of many previous IC students who had stood on the very same spot to have their own class pictures taken. The ten students had become the center of attention and even

more so when they climbed on to the stage and sang IC's Alma Mater. It was the same theatrical stage that witnessed choirs, lectures, performances and prayers. It's been 78 long years since voices of youth were heard resonating in the halls.



First students
to return to IC, Turkey:

Maya Kawas
Sara Ghandour
Aya Fathallah
Ali Zreik
Basel Hussein
Rasha Akel
Tony Asfour
Nicholas Salloum
Christopher Raffoul
Reem Katrib

The group looked on in awed silence. Not all eyes were dry.

Once upon a time, the 20-acre campus was one of a kind: large classrooms and dormitories, a 75 foot clock tower, a large assembly hall, chapel and library building seating 1200 with student club rooms, a spacious gymnasium (the largest in Tur-

key), an indoor running track, rooms for gymnastics and wrestling, showers, carpentry, printing, electrical and mechanical workshops, an electric power and heating plant, activity rooms, the president's house and faculty apartments.

It was everything a modern school could be: providing the best available textbooks, scientific laboratory equipment and top local, American and European teachers. IC would quickly become one of the leading institutions in the country and produce capable English-speaking leaders (a rarity back then) including Adnan Menderes, who ended up becoming Turkey's prime minister in 1950.

The reputation of the school reached far and wide and boys all the way from Greece and Macedonia would arrive at IC and take up residence in the schools' boarding facilities. An avid piano player, MacLachlan's daughter, Rosalind, would give concert recitals every Sunday afternoon. It is said that she could make a full concerto after listening to a short whistled tune.

According to Ayshi Mayda, the oldest graduate still alive of the all-girls school, the American Collegiate Institute (ACI) - IC's sister school back then - the concerts were breathtaking. At 96, Mayda's memory is remarkably clear.

She distinctly remembers violins playing as well and students participating. The two schools would often get together for various events. In this case, the girls were invited to IC to listen to the concerts and warned to be quiet during performances. "I had never been to a concert before," she said. "And I remembered to be very quiet as told."

She vividly remembered the shutting down of the school in 1934. "Oh, it was sad," she said. "Very sad."

The tour ended rather quickly and the group was escorted to the outskirts of the campus. Once again, the gate was closed – an echo of the past.

IC became an army base again: a campus dotted with army personnel marching along with only an inkling of the school's rich history.

IC Then (Smyrna)

IC gym then



Inside MacLachlan Hall early 1933



IC Theatre then



students in front of MacLachlan Hall early 1900's

IC Now Air Command HQ (Izmir)

Back in the gym built especially for IC students



inside MacLachlan Hall 2012



students singing IC's Alma Mater today



IC students back again

Segments of speech given in Turkey by IC students:

IC was the vision of one man. This man, Reverend Alexander MacLachlan, spent every moment of his life creating and building up what he saw as a way to mold young minds into responsible well rounded human beings who will become an integral part of society.

Thanks to MacLachlan and his belief in a well-rounded education that stresses excellence not only academically but in extracurricular activities, IC grew and became a model among schools.

MacLachlan's heart was broken when IC left Smyrna. It was very difficult for him indeed. When asked about it years later this is what he said:

"You are guided by God. I learned in my life when everything seems to be closing in on you and you can't find a way out, you should always keep your mind, your eye and your heart open. Somewhere is a little window opening with a new idea, a new possibility, a better opportunity and you must be ready and waiting for such openings."

He was right. Only bare buildings were left behind in Smyrna. The famous

MacLachlan spirit had moved to Beirut. Today, we call it "the IC Spirit" – and it embodies everything our founder ever believed in.

We are proud to be IC students. We are proud of our old history in Turkey and our more modern one in Lebanon. In a country which has known much unrest,



IC has survived it all: strikes, demonstrations, attacks, and of course the 16 year civil war. If anything, it is now stronger than it has ever been.

What does it mean to be an IC student? Well, it's an honor. A real honor. We are amazed to see how one man's vision and commitment to ideas have expanded so wide and we are proud to be part of his achievements. We are part of this man's dream and that's what makes us so special. We strive to hold on to the morals and standards that were set for us. We must hold on to everything that we learn at IC – not just academically but socially. Even though the school in Turkey shut down, that didn't get MacLachlan down. He went on. He didn't give up. And neither will we, when things go bad for us. We are part of a legacy that was set up more than a hundred years ago and until this day continues to shape us to become caring people who will make a difference in the world.

We are carrying the torch that was handed to us from Turkey. And we will hand this torch down to our own children. Mr. MacLachlan would have been proud.

Getting Ready to move:

Q & A with IC President John Johnson

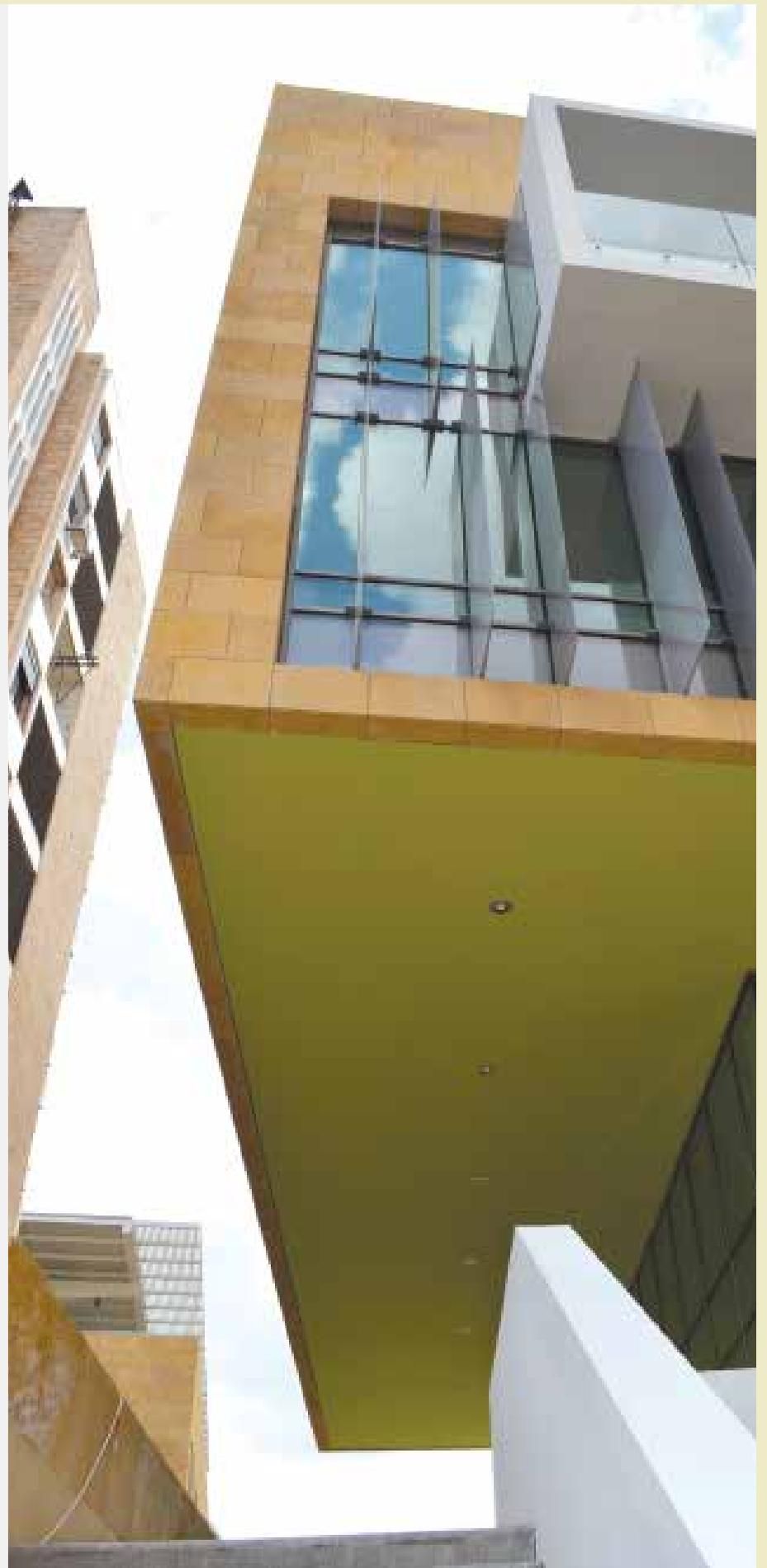
Q: The elementary school buildings are almost complete. The next step is equipping the buildings. You have been painstakingly selecting the needed furniture. There is a huge choice out there. What specifications are you looking for?

As with every decision made at IC, the first priority is the health and safety of the students. You wouldn't believe what the corner of a pointed table can do to a student's face if someone unfortunately falls right on the point. So, the first thing we look for are student tables and desks that have rounded and covered edges. Seating needs to be ergonomically sound. All the furniture needs to be appealing in color and design and reasonably priced. I know that's a tall order, but we did identify several companies in the United States that fit the bill. Since the market in the USA is so large, these companies have furniture that is very attractively priced and much cheaper than what is found in Lebanon and Europe. The health and safety standards are excellent as well. In addition to the regular classrooms, we have a number of special areas that will be furnished. The theater requires special seating and we're using a company that specializes in theater seating. The chairs will be attractive and comfortable. The music rooms and art rooms also require special furniture. We used an architect who specializes in school furniture to help with the selections of the equipment for offices, theater, outdoor play areas and gymnasiums. He met with me and the teachers from these areas and showed us catalogs and samples of products for our selection. I think we did an excellent job and this will be evident when we start to use the building.

Q: Can you tell us about the logistics of the move. It's a huge task to move 750 students into the new buildings. How do you plan to do that?

Well, I have had the "pleasure" of making some similar moves in other schools that I have worked in before. The most complicated is setting up the new classrooms. The new furniture will be installed later this fall. The teachers will have to unpack their books and materials and arrange everything in the classrooms prior to the students coming into the building. This is a time consuming task and we had to schedule an extra week of vacation for the students in order to have the time to complete this job. Also, we have to remember that this is a new building for our faculty. We need to have time to orient them to the new building so that they, in turn, can show the students where they need to go. Of course, the first think that we will review with the teachers is the Emergency Evacuation Plan so that they can get their students out of the building safely. But, let me go back to the first part of the move. We will be leaving Reynold's Hall which is a very big building stuffed with thousands of books, teaching supplies, active boards, laptop carts, laptops, desktop computers, medical supplies, files, etc. There's a lot in that building! Most of it will be boxed up the week before the Christmas holiday begins. Each box will be labeled with the new room number. All the "stuff" will be moved into the correct place in the new building over the holiday. Then the unpacking begins! Fortunately, we will have new student desks, teacher desks, office desks, file cabinets, etc. already placed in the new building so we don't have to move that equipment.





Tales from the Classroom

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

*in 3rd Grade
at IC**



I walked into my first day of class today only to find out that I'm in the wrong classroom. I heard someone snicker. This is going to be a terrible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

I finally made it to my class. I sat down quietly and put my bag on the back of the chair. When I turned around to get my new pencils out of my bag, I fell over. This is going to be a terrible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

I had to go rather urgently but somehow missed a little. Now I'm feeling rather squishy. Gosh, I hope no one notices. I have to walk carefully. This is going to be a terrible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

At recess, Becky the Bully chased me around and around the playground, wanting to rub garbage all over me. One day I'm going to pull one of her pigtails until it hurts. One day. And I don't care what anyone says. This is going to be a terrible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

When I leaned over my notebook to write a few things, my chair tipped backwards and I fell on the floor, chair and all. Everyone looked at me. This is going to be a terrible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

Some Big Girls in grade 5 thought I

looked 'cute' and pinched my cheeks. I'm not 'cute'. I'm seven not three. I walked into the wall going down the stairs and bumped my head hard. It hurt. This is going to be a terrible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

I slipped on dog or cat pee (though my mother later said that the stain was juice but I don't think so) on my way to the bus and fell straight on my back. There was a lot of traffic and it took forever to get home. There was a mosquito in the bus and I have a huge red itchy welt on my neck. This is going to be a ter-



rible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

Mom didn't let me watch television because it is a school night and the holidays are finished. I stomped angrily to my room, slipped and bumped my head. Why did school have to start? This is going to be a terrible horrible no good very bad 3rd grade at IC this year.

Mom said things will be better on the second day. I grumbled. But do you know what? She was right.

I didn't fall and I didn't slip. I didn't bump my head and my chair didn't tip. The teachers smiled at me. I managed to avoid the Big Girls. I didn't miss this time. And best of all – Becky the Bully is in another section far, far down the hallway.

I think – I do believe – that this is going to be a super-duper extraordinary super-califragilistic 3rd grade at IC this year!

All true events as told by a very angry Alexander in grade 3 on the first day of the school year.

**Title and style and adaption from Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst.*

*** Illustrations by Ray Cruz in Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viors.*

THE IC SCHOLAR

IC made me who I am

The rides back and forth to Beirut were long and tiring but **Khairat Habbal '05** determinedly got up early in her hometown of Sidon, grabbed a taxi to the city then changed several buses until she made it back home in the late afternoon. The 15-year old IC scholar was determined to get the best education she could.

Khairat immediately felt pulled to the school when she applied for the scholarship program. Somehow, she convinced her reluctant parents to let her make the daily lone journey.

"I wanted and needed the challenge that IC offered," she recalled.

"Soon after, my perception of everything changed. My talking, my thinking, my writing, my dealing with people. I became a dynamic well rounded person."

It wasn't just the high level of academics that challenged Khairat. It was the Arts, Music, Athletics and the mandatory Community Service Programs that promised to turn Khairat into the person she always wanted to be.

Moreover, Khairat was astounded with the large array of extracurricular activities offered at IC. "I got involved in a lot of clubs. It was such a great opportunity to discover things in myself that I didn't know existed," she said. "Most important, I learned how to manage my time to juggle schoolwork and activities. They were essential skills."

At IC she also came across a cultural diversity of students, teachers and staff. "Our level of discussion was nothing I had ever experienced before," she said. "Until this day, we remain good friends." Khairat graduated from IC in 2005 after winning many school awards including the Basil Fuleihan Award and was accepted at AUB's medical school. She continuously finds herself leaning back heavily on all the skills she acquired at IC.

"I did very well in all my classes and was active in many clubs," she said, "IC made sure that I was ready and could do anything I set my mind to."

In 2012, Khairat graduated from Medical School with honors and is specializing in Family Medicine. She continues to be heavily involved in all kinds of university activities.

"IC played a huge role in making me the person I am today," she said. "Would I have become a doctor without IC? Maybe. It has always been my dream. But would I be the kind of doctor I am today? Definitely not. IC shaped and refined me. It made me what I am today."



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IC's annual fund provides financial aid to over 600 students annually. Eighteen students are selected from IC or from schools across the country to receive full scholarships every year. IC grants scholarships based on academic standing and financial need regardless of nationality, sex, race or creed.

For donations to the Annual Fund contact: Moufid Beydoun at mbeydoun@ic.edu.lb or 01.367420/433

IC middle school student gives talk at Gala

When Dany Jammal took the stand at the Gala Fundraiser dinner hosted by NGO JouzourLoubnan, an NGO dedicating to re-foresting Lebanon, she looked around at the audience. Everyone looked back. The 12-year-old IC student had never stood in front of so many people. Hundreds of eyes were watching her. She collected her thoughts and launched into her little speech. Once finished, she looked up to much applause.

"I was very scared," she said later. "But I didn't let it show. All I thought about it was that I am helping to save the environment." This is Dany's love. For the past few years, ever since she has been learning about environmental issues in class, Dany has launched her own little crusade to do her own tidbit. At home, she deposited various trash cans and insisted that her family recycle their garbage. Paper alone. Plastics alone. She

managed to convince her father to plant trees in front of his Beirut office and woe betide the student who dares to throw trash on the school ground.

"But," she said happily, "everyone is pretty good about that most of the time."

It so happened that the IC student was overheard during an outing with her parents passionately discussing the environment. A few days later, she was asked by JouzourLounan to be their guest speaker at a fundraising luncheon.

Dany was taken aback at first. What could she possibly have to say to more than 700 people? It was then she thought of Lebanese Diva singer Fairuz sing 'Lebanon Green Lebanon'. It was her grandmother's favorite song and the two would often listen to it together.

"I asked my grandmother once about that song," she recalled. "I asked her but where is the greenery? I don't see it. The trees are being cut and nobody was planting more." Suddenly, Dany knew exactly what she wanted to say.

"Lebanon, green Lebanon where is it?" she said in her speech. "I haven't seen it yet. Show it to me. Today we want to plant. Do you hear me? Do you hear me? We will see Lebanon green again. Come on, let us replant Lebanon."

The speech over, Dany smiled relieved. "But I'd do it again if it encourages everyone to recycle and care for the environment," she said. As for a future career, Dany plans to be a banker – so she can donate the money to plant trees.



Brevet/Baccalaureat results

Lebanese Brevet: 100% success [vs. 63% nationally]. Almost half of our students obtained their Brevet Certificate with honors.

Lebanese Baccalaureate: 100% success [vs. Two out of three candidates passed nationally]. Six of our students ranked among the top 10 performers for Beirut in each of the Life Sciences, Economics and Sociology, and Humanities options! In addition, 83 out of the 90 candidates passed their Baccalaureate exams with an average above 12, so 92%

of the Lebanese Bacc diplomas obtained honors, and 37% - more than a third, with distinction and high distinction. It is worth noting that IC averages

International Baccalaureate: 100% success. The performance of our students this year has been outstanding. The success rate world-wide was 78%. [To help contextualize our students' performance: The IB diploma passing average is 24/45, the world average this year was 29.8, our students collectively obtained an average of 34].

French Baccalauréat: 100% success, with 86% of our students obtaining honors.

In our mission statement, we say that we "aim for excellence at all levels" of the school. The consistently high performance of our students in every program we offer is an indicator of our faculty's commitment to this goal. A big thank you to the educators at IC, faculty and administration, for their guidance and their care. Mabrouk and congratulations!

IC Scholars 2012/13



Miss Torch and Mr Graduate

Miss Torch: Marguarita Nasralallah,
Mr. Graduate: Joey Mendelek

Prom Queen and King

Prom Queen Rasha El Khalil
Prom King George El Haddad





Donor's Reception

IC President John Johnson and his wife, Mary, welcoming guests to the Martin House garden on June 8th 2012.

Board member **Imad Taher '58** addressed the guests reminiscing about old times. He talked about his long journey with IC and his involvement with all the new projects on both campuses.



Yusuf Kan'an Reception

Over 50 people showed up at the Martin House Garden on October 30th to attend a reception in honor of Board member **Yusuf Kan'an '71** who just finished his second term as President of the IC Alumni Association. He was awarded a plaque as a token of appreciation for all his hard work for the past six years. **Farid Fakherddine '85**, took over as the newly elected Alumni Association President.

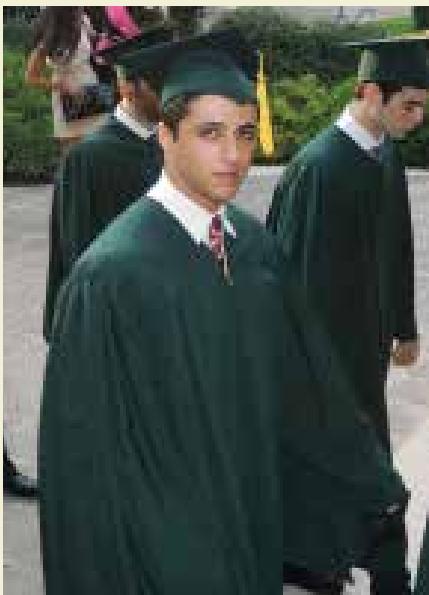


Mabrouk!

“We are collectively living through a significant moment in Arab history, perhaps the most important since the collapse of the Ottoman empire almost a century ago. The Arab world has been convulsed with citizen revolts in many countries, and the outcome of this prolonged transformation is impossible to guess at, or even imagine. The challenges and opportunities are formidable: to restructure governmental systems; to redefine what it means to be a citizen in an open society; to honor peoples of diverse origins and beliefs; to re-examine the concept of national identity; and to accept the huge responsibilities of citizenship as well as its privileges. A number of these questions lie at the heart of Lebanon’s future. I take comfort from knowing that an educated young generation is rising, eventually to participate in these challenges and opportunities.”

Peter Dorman,

*AUB President, Commencement Address,
June 12 2012*





IC Luncheon

Over 150 people attended the IC luncheon held on November 5th at the Four Season's Hotel. The guest speaker was **Saad Naaman Azhari '80**, Chairman and General Manager of BLOM Bank who addressed IC alumni, parents and graduates and talked about his IC experience. "IC has always been to me – and I am sure to many others – an oasis of wider cultural experience, character building, and good citizenship," he said. "The IC spirit made me a better banker and has helped me to maintain BLOM Bank as a leading bank." IC's President John Johnson and Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani awarded Mr. Azhari with the Partnership for Excellence Campaign Plaque. For his part, VP Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** stressed that the new facilities under construction are not financed by a tuition increase but are solely financed by fundraising efforts. He added that the number of students will not increase.





New Parents Reception Ain Aar and Ras Beirut



Reunions



**50th Anniversary
Class of 1962**



**31st Anniversary
Class of 1981**



**30th Anniversary
Class of 1982**



**25th
Anniversary
Class of 1987**

**20th Anniversary
Class of 1992**

**10th Anniversary
Class of 2002**



The sky is the limit

When **Brigitte Khoury '84** arrived from the US in 1997, she expected to become a nine-to-five clinical psychologist with a renowned reputation. It was, after all, the typical career dream of most professionals. It was the main reason she accepted AUB's offer to return to the country and join their newly opened Psychiatry Department. But all too soon, she realized that Lebanon was severely trailing behind in its mental health practices.

Khoury knew things had to change. And the person initiating the change would most likely be herself. The idea alone was overwhelming. Could she possibly make a difference?

If she had learned one thing during her studies, it was that if there's a will then the sky is the limit.

And Khoury definitely had the will.

In 2004, she established the Lebanese Psychological Association (LPA) which gathered psychologists from all universities and the community psychologists. Surprisingly, none existed beforehand.

"I was shocked to find out that anybody with any degree can open a clinic and do anything they want," said Khoury. "We really needed to organize the profession of psychology."

For the past eight years, LPA with the support of the Ministry of Public Health has been working on a law to establish guidelines for the practice of psychology in Lebanon.

Basically, it demands that qualified professionals only (with a specific criteria of education, hours of training, supervision and continuing education) be given a license to practice.

It only recently received the approval of the Ministry of Health and is currently awaiting Parliament approval.

One of the requirements of the law calls for a clinical training program for psychologists. In 2010, she designed and implemented an intensive program to fit the needs of psychologists in Lebanon and possibly across the Arab world under the department of Psychiatry at AUB-MC. Meanwhile, Khoury's reputation grew and she started traveling around the globe giving lectures and taking part in conferences. In 2009, the World Health Organization selected her to be one of 30 experts worldwide to join their team in revising the Mental Health Chapter in the ICD10 to produce an ICD11.

(The ICD-10 is the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), a medical classification list by the World Health Organization (WHO). It codes for diseases, signs and symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances, and external causes of injury or diseases). Khoury would be the only representative from the Arab world.

It was an honor she couldn't refuse. But when she found out that the WHO was



opening nine centers across the world, she lobbied the organization to open a field study center at the Psychiatry Department at AUB – as a portal to the Arab region. The WHO agreed.

It was a huge task. Data from the Arab world was practically nonexistent. Khoury began traveling to meet Arab professionals and sending out hundreds of questionnaires in an effort to enlist the efforts and interest of Arab psychiatrists and psychologists who will help in gathering data about mental health diagnostic problems in their countries. (Her deadline is 2016). What this ultimately means — the world of psychiatry would finally have access to understanding the Arab mentality, with its special needs and culture. Currently, in both the Western and Arab world, many patients from Arab descent are being

misdiagnosed and mistreated.

“Of course there are commonalities,” said Khoury. “But there will be particular things that apply only to a specific region. Experts can now consider these things instead of blindly throwing a diagnosis that doesn’t fit their patients.”

As Khoury threw herself into the task, she realized that there was a huge need for a permanent center for research of Arab mental health.

It was then that the idea came about: how about establishing the very first Arab center for mental health at AUB?

In June of 2011, the Faculty of Medicine at the American University of Beirut announced the establishment of the “Arab Regional Center for Research and Training in Mental Health”.

The Center is planning on offering clini-

cal training programs, as well as research capacity building, for Arab professionals. The Center conducts many project and research based studies. Word got out quickly. Requests began pouring in especially from psychiatrists and psychologists from Iraq and Palestine who need a brief training program (the usual program at AUB is two years). NGOs are also in touch with projects in mind.

So between seeing patients, teaching at medical school, supervising interns, running the Center and the ICD10, running various training programs, traveling for various lectures – oh and being the mom of three active IC students – life for Khoury is “interesting,” she said laughing, “But I have a lot of help at work and at home.”

As she said, when the will is there, the sky is the limit.

The Museum:

IC graduate donates priceless art collection to AUB

On July 7, 1928, Khalil Saleeby and his American born wife, Carrie, were returning home from a day at the beach. The childless couple was devoted to each other. Suddenly, two shots rang out in the air. One killed Saleeby and the other killed his wife.

In a few seconds, the life of one of the most influential painters of the late 19th and early 20th century ended. The couple's death sent shock waves throughout the country. Saleeby had been hailed as the founder of the Lebanese Renaissance. His paintings – especially of Lebanese rural life - were gaining much importance in the international art arena. He was also a particularly controversial painter, one that introduced the figurative paintings of nudes into the still restrictive Lebanese society.

The world of art had attracted Saleeby since his boyhood days in his hometown village of Btalloun near the summer resort of Bhamdoun. He would spend his time in the family orchards drawing endlessly with the butts of burned matches. After repeatedly discouraging their only child

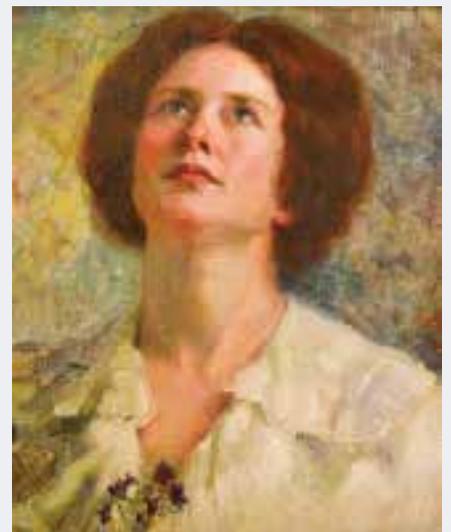
from 'wasting' time drawing, his parents finally sent him to Beirut to attend the American and British missionary schools. But that didn't stop the young Saleeby from drawing. While attending the Syrian Protestant College (now AUB), he would draw his classmates and sceneries of the mountains and the sea – for a fee. By the time he graduated in 1890, he had earned enough to travel and study in Edinburgh. From there he moved to the US, where he met and married the love of his life, Carrie. In 1900, the couple moved to Lebanon. In Beirut, he set up an Atelier just across from AUB's main gate (today's McDonalds) and became the teacher and mentor of then still novice artists, includ-

ing Omar Onsi and César Gemayel. Nostalgic for his hometown, he purchased a piece of land and built his dream home. It was this move that eventually killed him.

A dispute over water erupted between him and his neighbors. A dispute that somehow couldn't be resolved. In anger, Saleeby blocked the water which ran through his land and stubbornly refused to backtrack.

And so it was on that fateful July day that thugs from his village gunned him and Carrie down. Saleeby was 58 years old. His killers were caught. One was sentenced to death and the others served prison time.

Forty years later, Dr. **Samir Saleeby '43** opened the door of his clinic to see an older man at his doorstep. The IC graduate was a renowned physician and was running his own hospital (Saleeby Hospital in Ashrafieh and is credited with being the first doctor to do a corneal transplant operation in the country and has since performed hundreds of them. On that day, however, the doctor didn't



have any operations scheduled and was in his clinic. He looked closely at the man standing at his doorstep. A hat hid most of his face but Saleeby could still clearly see his features. "I am one of those who killed Khalil Saleeby," the man said slowly. "We didn't realize what a loss he was. We didn't know. I am here to ask for your forgiveness."

Samir Saleeby was stupefied. He had grown up hearing about his famous artist cousin. His father, Shaheen, was especially affected by the death of Khalil. Soon after the artists' death, he painstakingly bought all of the paintings that he could find. "We need to keep his work together," he would tell his son.

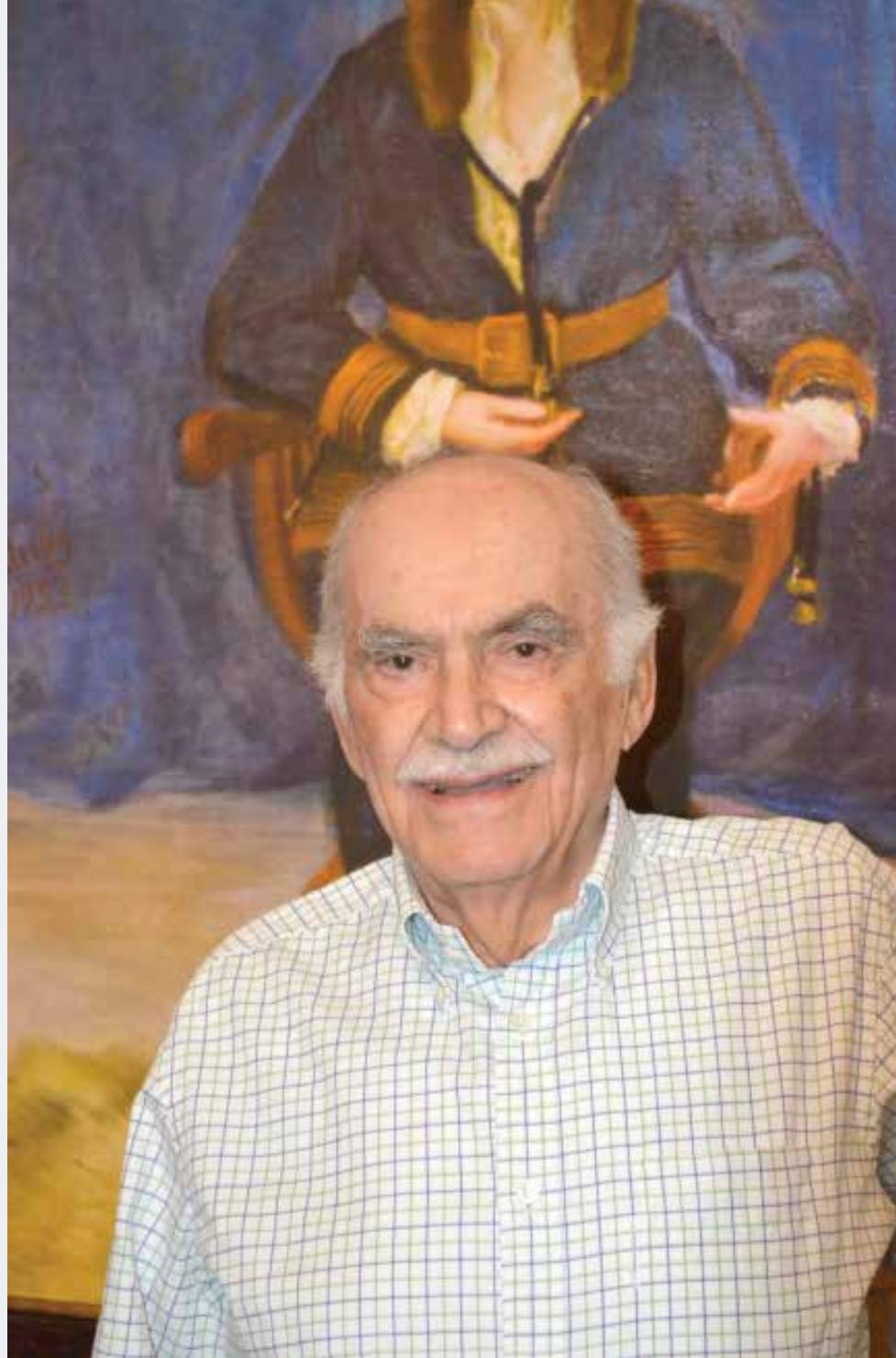
So it was that Samir Saleeby grew up around the paintings. "I would stare at them for hours," he said. "I knew and loved each and every one."

As the years passed, the lives of the two men – Khalil and Samir – somehow interweaved. For during his years studying in Paris, Samir met a successful Lebanese painter by the name of César Gemayel who promptly took Samir under his wings. The reason was that the painter was a former student of Khalil Saleeby's. And here the story unfolds: Gemayel was working at a pharmacy located in Martyr's Square. As Khalil was in the pharmacy one day, he noticed the young boy drawing on a table nearby. The drawings, he noted, were superb from one so young. Then and there he took César under his tutelage. (Gemayel went on to become one of the leading and pioneering painters and the co-founder of the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts (ALBA).)

As Samir began to know his cousin better, the paintings – now bequeathed to him upon his father's death – took on more meaning. He himself began to seek out more of Khalil's paintings. During the civil war, he sent the collection for safekeeping to London but brought them back soon after the war ended.

Soon enough, he began to receive offers for his now priceless collection. The first was in 1982 from a Japanese company. Would he accept \$33 million dollars for the collection? Saleeby refused. "I don't want the money," he responded. "This is Lebanese heritage. I will give it to you for free if you agree to build a museum for them in Beirut."

The offers kept coming. Saleeby kept making the same request.



By now, the value of the collection had become worth millions.

In 1990, AUB contacted him. "Build a museum which is accessible to the public and I will give them to you," said Saleeby. It was easier said than done. But a few years later, a deal was reached: AUB will turn an entire floor in Post Hall into an art museum. Meanwhile, the paintings will be housed in the Mayfair residence with – as per Saleeby's request – free access to the public.

In June 2012, The Rose and Shaheen Saleeby Museum opened its doors to dis-

play over 60 of Khalil Saleeby's paintings and several other known artists.

"I want to leave something behind," said Saleeby. "This is my legacy to Lebanon. Money? What do I need it for? I have everything I need. My children have all they need. A museum for my collection is all I ever wanted. This is my gift to the Lebanese people."

The Khalil Saleeby exhibition is currently on display at the Mayfair Residence on Sidani Street.

Letters to the editor

This is a true story about the late martyr, Dr. Basel Fuleihan '81 (killed in 2005 with former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri) and his brother, Dr Ramzi, who is a hematology-oncology specialist at Duke University in North Carolina. Dr Ramzi was also my classmate since 1964 (we were both with Basel at the Prep). We didn't have computers in those days so during our lunch break, we would play marbles. These marbles came in many colors and of course we would buy and sell them from each other for 1,2,3,5 piasters. If it was a super nice one, we would pay one whole lira for it. We had lots of fun – believe you me, it can't be described. One time, we had a competition to win a very precious marble. This was done by standing a few feet away and hitting it with small marbles. Ten of us hit that special marble, including myself, Ramzi, Basel, my brother Bassim, another Ramzi, and Nabil. It's rather funny that we all became medical doctors except for Basel and Nabil (Basel received a PhD in business and Nabil was awarded a PhD in engineering). After there was no decisive winner, we had a fist fight, which I won, so I took the marble home! God bless your soul Basel.

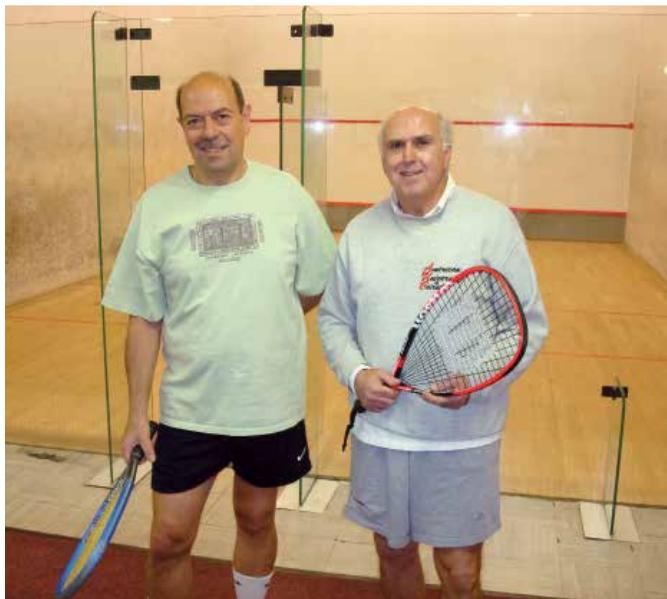
Dr. Elias Azar '77

Looking back retrospectively, my years at the IC (1959-1961) were some of my best. I am now 70 years old and have been all over the world for at least 35 years of my life. In my opinion, those years were special because they filled me with knowledge and well-being. I studied 16th century French literature with Mr. Pierlot; the beautiful Arab literature of the Abbasid era with the newly printed textbook of Mr. Gebran Massoud (of course, taught by himself); and was lucky to meet literary Shakespeare (in Macbeth) and Marlowe. Not to mention, my Philosophy studies with Mr. Doubine, where Darwin's Theory of Evolution (in the 1960s) was presented and compared to Lamarck's "one strand" evolution. Once again, I stress this was in 1960-1961. I have three children who are independent now after completing their high school and university studies in the US. It's hardly comparable to the general education that I received at IC. They excel in what they do but miss the special touch I received at IC. And now to the story: in Mr. Doubine's philosophy class in The Math Elementary section, Serge Doubine, the teacher's son, took all liberties with his classmates, annoying them with all kinds of small tricks. We decided, we being myself, Witold Manastersky, and Selim Srour, to take revenge. One day, we went at 6 am to have a heavy breakfast at Fattet Makademe in downtown Beirut, with all the relative dressings that come with it (I never did that again). As a result, we came to class at 8am heavily loaded. We took our seats surrounding the poor fellow Serge. He could not breathe with the perfumes of the Fattah. He became red, green, and had soon covered all the colors of the spectrum. The consequence was that the four of us were put at la porte by our Geometry Professor Mr. Dumont.

*Selim Ashkenazi '61
From IC to Edinburgh, Scotland*

It is not too often that two IC classmates attend the same universities and settle down in the same city abroad by sheer chance rather than design. Yet that is precisely what happened to Drs Hagop Bessos and Samir Sayegh. After graduating from IC in 1970, Hagop (brother of the late Mr Bessilios Bessos, ex-IC Biology teacher) and Samir (son of Mr Yusuf Sayegh, ex-IC Mathematics teacher) obtained their respective science degrees from AUB and then continued their studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, before settling down in the city. Hagop went on to work as a Principal Research Scientist in the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service from 1980 to 2012, publishing over 50 scientific papers and becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, while Samir went on to be a highly successful Orthodontist, running several clinics in Edinburgh and becoming a president of the Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland. They kept in close touch throughout, including their weekly squash and racquetball encounters (photo), an example of the commitment to fitness and excellence instilled in them during their budding years at IC. They can be contacted at bessos@blueyonder.co.uk and sayegh@aol.com

Hagop Bessos '70



Mid-March is usually St Patrick's Day, celebrated by Irish people around the world with parades covered and adorned in green. Not to be outdone, my good friend, Dr. Mohamed Saab '62, who lives in South Florida in the winter, went all green with his IC gym shirt. When curious revelers enquired about this IC logo, he responded, 'it's the famous "Irish Classic" of course'...which I am sure has started a few Google searches by now!!

Ghaleb Daouk '74

Updates

'55

Fuad F Fuleihan sent in the following pictures:

"These photos are dated 1955 the year of my graduation from IC. I graduated in 1955 and also in 1956 (Baccalaureate Mathematics). I am fine but I just lost my lovely daughter Nadia Christine Fuleihan in a tragic accident in Johannesburg, South Africa on 5 June 2012.



1955/6-Leslie Leavitt, Fouad Fuleihan



1955/06- Leslie Leavitt

'61

Dr **Antoun Aneed** is retired from his practice of ob-gyn and is a healthcare consultant in Houston, TX. He has two sons, two daughters and three grandchildren. "I miss those days at IC," he writes. "I miss b-4 scouting group."

'63

Salim Abu-Fadil was recently honored by a leading medical group in southern California with the Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center's Physician Exceptional Contribution Award. This honor recognizes extraordinary professional expertise standards and dedication as well

as exceptional civic and humanitarian contributions to the community.

'64

Dr. **Ismail Khalil** was recently honored when The American University of Beirut dedicated the Ismail M. Khalil Vascular Laboratory at the AUB Medical Center (AUBMC), in recognition of his contributions to vascular surgery at AUB and the discipline of vascular surgery in the Middle East. Dr. Khalil, professor of surgery, chief of the division of vascular surgery at AUBMC and the current director of the Vascular Laboratory, is credited with having built the laboratory from the ground up.



Dr Ismail Khalil

'67

Mona Bouazza Bawarshi Chairperson of Gezairi Transport, signed an agreement with LAU President Dr. Joseph Jabbara, in the presence of Chairman and General Manager of Bank Audi, Mr. Raymond Audi, which entails the company donating 20% of the company's premises to the University. The university purchased the remainder of the three-story building. This affectively allows LAU to expand its programs and activities. Bawarshi is the daughter of the company's founder Abdul Salam Bouazza Gezairi. "We believe that LAU provides the best opportunity for all of us in carrying and keeping the legacy of Gezairi Transport," she said.

'71

Muhammad Bulbul and **Hazem Khleif**

'76 are the founders of the Om Wellness Center in June 2012. The Center, at the Starco Center, is a concept developed by three sisters passionate about the enhancement of the spiritual and physical well being of Beirut's residents and takes a holistic approach to tools to enhance and nurture beauty, inside and out. The wellness center offers a 10% discount to all IC alumni. Facebook page: Om Wellness Center.

Nayla Rathle sent in a photo of the IC High-School Graduation, Class of 1971 taken of "our "defile" prior to being seated for the high-school graduation ceremony. The dress code was white for girls and ties for men. It's the



'74

Dr. **Yusuf A Hannun** moved recently to Long Island to assume the directorship of the Stony Brook Cancer Center. His wife, Lina Obeid '74 is now the Dean for Research at Stony Brook School of Medicine.

'81

Ramzi Damiani is currently an IC parent at the Elementary and Pre-Schools. He has two children: Mario in first grade (English section), and Selina who in KG1 (also English section). ramzidamiani@yahoo.com

Talal El Khalil is the Vice President of PepsiCo Inc. and has received the Donald M. Kendall Award during a gala dinner that took place at the New York Historical Society Palace in Manhattan. The award, named after the co-founder of PepsiCo, was

Updates

in recognition of outstanding results delivered by the business unit headed by Talal that spans 14 countries across the GCC and East Mediterranean region. The gala turned out to be a magical evening rich with entertaining performances and punctuated with a speech from Indra Nooyi the charismatic chairman of the 60 billion dollar business. She spoke highly of the company's international businesses and congratulated Talal for the exceptional performance.

Talal is a twenty years veteran of PepsiCo, during which he held positions in Retail, Marketing, Franchise and General Management functions. He is currently based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia where he lives with his wife **Roula Abou Dargham '87** and three children; Mira, Nour-Talal and Sani. Talal longs to come back to Lebanon and to enroll his children at the International College, where he, like his father before him, received his elementary and secondary education. "IC was a key part of my education that certainly sharpened my mind and positioned me for a successful career at a leading multinational organization," writes Talal. He can be reached at talal.el-khalil@pepsico.com



Talal El Khalil

'84

Lamia Jaroudi is Head of Communications for GE Energy in the Middle East. In this role, she has lead award winning marketing communication initiatives for major power, water, oil and gas and industrial projects across the region. She is a big believer in the power of communications to foster regional growth and development. She carries her IC memories with

her everyday. She credits her IC education for having helped her excel at one of the most competitive US Ivy League colleges. She also believes that the unique campus environment that IC provides been a strong contributor to her building a strong international experience spanning the US, Europe and the Middle East.

Duane Aliah and **May Matta '83** are still living in NYC, where May has been since 1986 and Duane moved in 1991. They have an 8-year old son Kiran, who is in 3rd Grade. Duane currently works with ING in the IT department while May continues to run her own company, In the Grape, a wine and spirits education organization. This past summer May and Duane had the chance to reconnect with some long-lost IC friends and remember their good old days at this wonderful school. They would love to hear from any classmates visiting NY.

'86

Reda Atallah started AUB and then went to CSUF, California State University of Fresno where he graduated in M.I.S., Management Information Systems. He worked in plastic trade and Production (website: www.sanda-lb.com) for the Middle East Market.

Moreover, he worked in Trading petrochemicals from Saudi Arabia to Lebanese market with Tasnee Petrochemicals the years 2006-2009.

'88

Mohamad Hatab and his wife Janane Beydoun would like to announce the arrival of their baby boy Jad who was born on October 21st in Dubai. Jad is the 3rd child in the family after Naya and Nadeem.

'89

Nada Ghazal is the designer and owner of Nada G™ Fine Jewelry and has celebrated

an amazing year of awards. In June 2012, Jewelers Circular Keystone (JCK), one of the most respected voices in the jewelry industry, has chosen Nada Ghazal, designer for Nada G™ Fine Jewelry to be featured as a Rising Star at the 2012 Las Vegas jewelry show, the biggest and best jewelry convention show in the world. In July 2012, she received the coveted 'Editor's Choice Award' for her bespoke jewelry piece 'Crawl' from 'International Jewelry London' (IJL), the UK's most established premier jewelry trade event.

In October 2012, she received the coveted 'Arab Designers Best Innovative Design Award' for its bespoke jewelry piece 'Fusion Ring' from 'Premier Middle East Watches, Jewelry & Pens Awards'. Nada G™ Fine Jewelry is featured in Nada G™ boutique, Beirut Souk, and point of sales in the USA, UK and others.



Nada Ghazal

'94

Abdel Aziz Hajjar has been working in Qatar for the past six years, and has been promoted to Senior E&I Engineer on the construction of one of the largest District Cooling Plants. His wife, Maya, has a master's degree in nutrition from AUB. The couple has a beautiful three year old daughter, Mila, and a new baby on the way.



Updates

‘95

Sawsan Z. Yamout and Cory T. Overton were married on August 11th 2012 in Davis, California. After graduating from AUB with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, obtained a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Veterinary Sciences in Budapest. She finished an equine surgery residency at UC Davis and now works as a veterinarian in Davis, California. Cory is a wildlife biologist (BS, MS from Colorado State University and Oregon State University respectively). He currently works with the USGS (United States Geological Survey) and is currently finishing a PhD in the Department of Ecology at UC Davis.



Sawsan Yamout

‘96

Dr. **Marwan Refaat** joined the American University of Beirut Medical Center where he cares for patients with cardiovascular diseases and cardiac arrhythmias as of August 2012. Dr. Refaat was a recipient of the International College Scholar Award and the International College Alumni Award (1996). He graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine with Distinction from AUB and was the Stephen Penrose Award recipient (2003). Dr. Refaat pursued three years of residency training in Internal Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard

Medical School (2004-2007), three years of fellowship in Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (2007-2010) and two years of fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology at the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF) and was a visiting scientist at the J David Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Medicine.”

‘00

Gary Nazarian and his wife, Micha, have been married for over four years now. They have a wonderful two and a half year old daughter called Emma. A three visited the IC preschool in Ras Beirut and met with Mrs. Maalouf where we were given a tour and some guidelines for the enrollment process of Emma at IC. “I am looking forward to giving Emma the opportunity to discover life through IC the same way I have some 20 years ago.”

‘01

Loubna El Amine earned a PhD from the Department of Politics at Princeton University where she completed a dissertation on “The Confucian Conception of the Political.” She is currently a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University.

‘02

Karim Hajjar joined the American University of Beirut and graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Computer and Communications Engineering. Karim began his career in the UAE in 2007 with DC PRO Engineering as a control and instrumentation engineer. In 2009, Karim moved to General Electric, Fire and Electronic security systems division (Acquired by United Technologies Corporation in 2010) as an application sales engineer handling the Gulf, Middle East and Africa. Karim returned to DC PRO Engineering in 2011 as a Business Development Manager covering its Dis-

trict Energy and Green Building Design services and handling geographic areas expanding from the gulf, through Africa and the Far East.

Karim is currently living in Dubai, UAE.

Abdallah Bibi announces the birth of a healthy baby daughter, Kaylah, on September 10th, 2012.

Assad Tahhan and **Maria Hakim '02** recently married in July 2012. Assad and Maria met at IC as classmates in 1999 and were prom dates and graduates in 2002. They both pursued university degrees at the American University in Beirut graduating in 2007, Assad in mechanical engineering and Maria in graphic design. “Thank you IC for letting us meet and helping start this great friendship and love!”, they write.

Nader Houella is currently working as a Project Manager in InfoPro Research company. He has recently published his book entitled “Green Business Handbook”, which is a guide for local businesses to go green in a feasible manner. The book is available at all major bookstores and is the first of its kind in the market.



Nader Houella

‘03

Maher Abdel-Sattar moved to California in 2003 and earned his Bachelor of

Updates

Science in Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology from UCLA in 2007. He is currently finishing the last year of his Pharmacy Doctorate program at UCSF, the highest ranked school of pharmacy in the United States. In the past couple of years, he has completed pharmacy internships at large companies including Roche/Genentech and McKesson/US Oncology. His current internship is at a UCSF Compounding Pharmacy where he enjoys preparing medications from raw chemicals including topical ointments, eye drops, injection solutions, oral suspensions, suppositories, and placebo vs. active ingredient capsules.

Maher misses his days at IC and looks forward to visiting the campus again this winter break, for the first time since 2009.

'05

Rami Berro obtained a Bachelor of Commerce degree at McGill University - double major in Economics and General Management (Finance concentration), graduated with distinction. He worked in commercial banking upon graduation and then did his MBA at Queen's University from which he graduated with honors (top 10%), and after which he joined PwC's consulting practice where he has been working for the past year.

Sabine Bachian Petrossian is working in Paris for CNN advertising sales department since 2012. She has previously worked for CNN in Singapore in 2011 and London from 2009 to 2010. She graduated from Northeastern University in Boston in 2009 with a Bachelor in Communication Studies and Business Administration.

Randa Adra is now an Associate at the international law firm of Crowell & Moring, LLP in Manhattan, New York. In 2012, she earned the degree of Doctor of Law with a Specialization in International Legal Affairs and a Concentration in Business Law and Regulation from

Cornell Law School. In her new position, she hopes to handle numerous legal matters relating to the Middle East. "I still remember when I was in 4th Intermediate and I had to act as a lawyer to defend a client who was actually a character from an Edgar Allen Poe short story we read in class. From that moment, I was sure I wanted to practice law, and now I do!"

Mirna Hamady is a designer at heart. After pursuing Graphic Design at AUB and working for three years in publication design and branding, she co-founded a product design firm along with partner Elie Abou Jamra. Kashida is a product design studio creating furniture and home accessory pieces based on 3D Arabic letterforms. The young studio has won several business plan competitions, been featured in regional media and recently was invited to give a lecture/workshop at Nuqat Design Conference, Kuwait. To view the company's products and services, kindly visit www.kashidadesign.com.

Nisrine Chamseddine Al-Ameen was the Integration Coordinator for Classes for Children with Autism (CCA-En) till October 12th, 2012. She married and moved to the USA on October 19th. She is currently planning to do a Masters in Clinical Art Therapy.

'07

Sarira Elden is currently living in Darwin, Australia and just completed a Bachelor of Pharmacy and an Honors Degree in pharmacy practice from Charles Darwin University. Her Honors thesis will be published at the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association conference in December 2012. Furthermore, this year she won the title of Pharmacy Student of the Year for two states in Australia (South Australia and Northern Territory) and she went on to compete at the national championship in Melbourne against seven other pharmacy students from around the country.

"Although I am happy with where I am now, I still regard my years at IC as the happiest years of my life and often wish to go back!," she writes. "I return to Lebanon two times a year to visit family and friends and I often visit IC as my younger sister still attends the school."

'08

Ibrahim Kays is studying neuroscience at McGill University at the graduate level. He has recently been awarded The Frederick Banting and Charles Best Master's Award administered by the Canadian institute for health research (CIHR), which is intended to provide special recognition and support to students who are pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in a health related field in Canada. These candidates are expected to have an exceptionally high potential for future research achievement and productivity.

'12

Aya Cheaito is now a student in New York University, and is currently living in NYC. "Many are the days where I remember IC: I feel advanced here because of the outstanding education I had received in this school," she writes. "I can still remember the talented teachers who really deeply affected me, the beautiful campus, the great atmosphere, the diversity of the student body and the magnificent programs that were offered for students. I really believe that IC had greatly contributed in shaping my personality, my education and my way of thinking. It made my journey easier, and now, because of IC, I am more capable of giving as a student and I am more capable of exploring my abilities in different realms. Although I haven't spent so many years there, but I will always feel that I belong there. That's why I would like to thank all the wonderful people in the administration and all my teachers for giving me the opportunity to flourish as a student, as a citizen, and as a person."

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing away of Aida El Khazen in June 2012. She devotedly served IC from 1971 until 2004 in the Physical Plant and Alumni Departments. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the El Khazen family.

To Aida Metni El Khazen
Our beloved mother, wife, sister and friend

You have dedicated your life to us, to your friends and to your work. You wore so many hats to cater for numerous roles and you did them all perfectly.

You always went the extra mile to accommodate for any request with an open heart that was so large it could take them all.

You will always be in our hearts and memories.

You look back on memories you forgot you had,
And at times you'll smile even though it hurts so bad.

Thank you mother- for all that you have done,
You took great care of us, husband, daughter and son

You loved us all from the very start,
with your warm, kind, and loving heart.

Thank you mother, for being strong,
while trying to teach us right from wrong.

If anytime, we had a problem,
you were there to help us solve them.

You were such a great wife and mother,
the love you showed was like no other.

Thank you Aida for your dear, sweet love,
Now you'll watch over us from heaven above.

*Samir, Karim
Carla & Samia*



A Note to Aida from her closest friends

I guess words will not be enough to remember my late dearest friend Aida. We used to be longtime friends since childhood, growing up together, going to the same school and later to AUB. She was devoted and faithful to her family, parents and friends. She would go beyond all personal consideration for whatever was helpful for others. She left us too soon unfortunately. Her memory will always be cherished by all of us. May God bless her soul for ever.

Leila Rabhal Arbid

Que puis-je dire a Ayouda?

Mon amie, ma sœur, ma confidente.
Ma mère lui disait tu es ma cinquième fille, car on était très proche, très liée depuis l'âge de dix ans. On a fait un long chemin ensemble, confidences, fous rires, sorties.
C'était une sœur généreuse pleine de sentiments, s'occupant de tout le monde; famille, amis, grands et petits.
Pour moi elle est en voyage mais je sais que je la reverrai et qu'on continuera notre chemin.

Leila Hitti



We regret to inform you that Ghanoum Bashir, IC security guard from 1986 to 2010, passed away in May 2012. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Bashir family.

We regret to inform you that Trustee Emeritus Barry Zorphian passed away in May 2012. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Zorphian family.

We regret to inform you that Moustapha Samhoun '57 in passed away in August 2012. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Samhoun family.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!




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