



IC Newsletter Spring 2013



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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Note from the Editor



The furniture is here, the boards are up, the gym is set – now we just need the children. And they will arrive on April 9th. It's an exciting day for all. These buildings are not solely for the Elementary school students. One of them – which includes the 422-seater theatre and gyms – is for the use of the entire student body. The project has become a reality thanks to wonderful donors like yourselves who continuously believe in our mission.

In this issue, we continue with the popular series about Alexander MacLachlan and the humble beginnings of IC in Turkey. We show you the spirit of our youngsters who decided to work and raise enough money to buy new bathrooms for a public school and we update you on the wonderful recovery of IC's miracle child, Daniella, who, at the age of six, was diagnosed with cancer.

And, of course, we boast about the accomplishments of two alumni who have in their own way given back to society: Joy Jamal Eddine who, at only 21, represents the Special Olympics and was chosen to become a keynote speaker at an international conference; and a young sociologist turned designer who hit upon the brilliant idea of creating teams of women prisoners to produce the ever popular "Sarah's bags".

We will keep you updated on our move!

Thank you for all your support.

Best wishes,

Moufid Beydoun '64

*Vice President
Alumni & Development*

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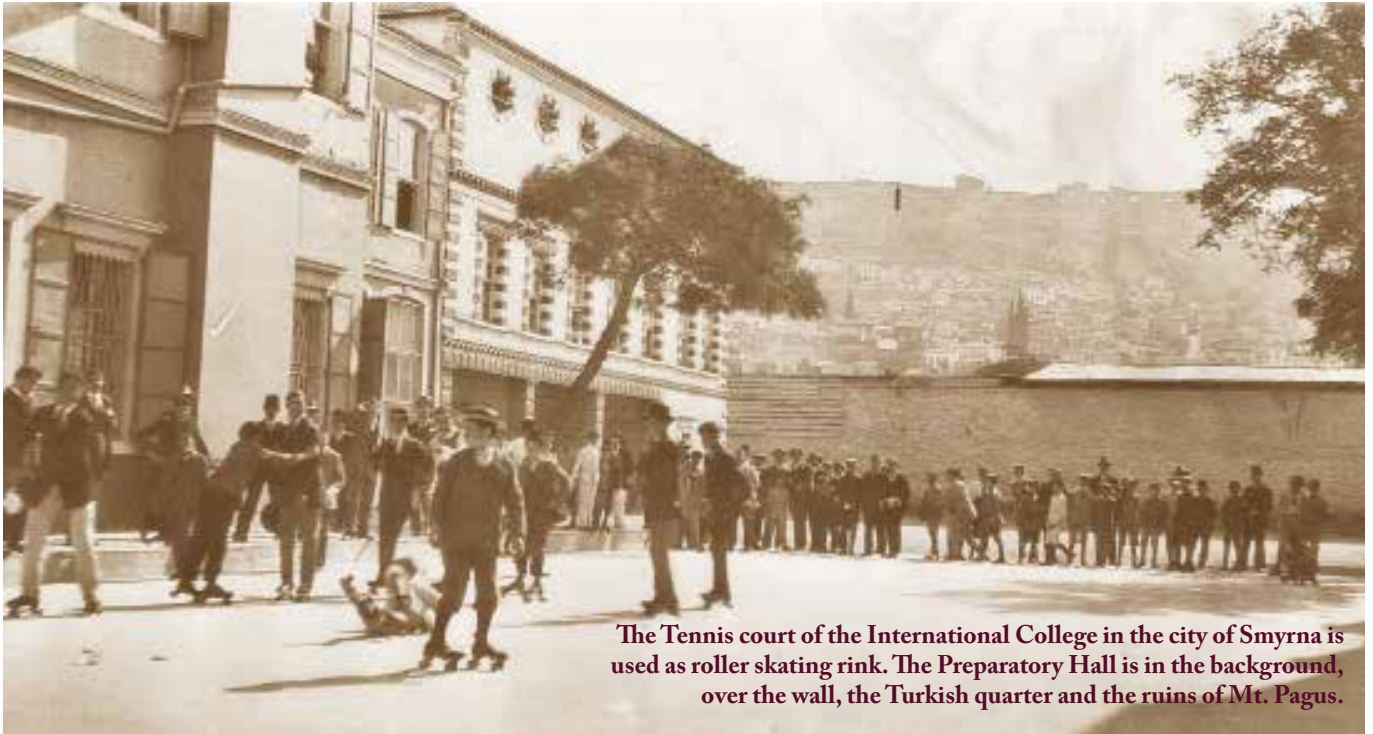


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For comments or
suggestions, email
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The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:



The Tennis court of the International College in the city of Smyrna is used as roller skating rink. The Preparatory Hall is in the background, over the wall, the Turkish quarter and the ruins of Mt. Pagus.

In 1892, Protestant Minister, Reverend Alexander MacLachlan held the first Athletics Field Day in Smyrna. The great success of the event spurred MacLachlan into seeking a permanent athletics field for his school. But it was the same age old question: where could he find the funds to purchase a piece of land? Unbeknown to him, the S.S. Saghalien Steamer ship was making its way to the port of Smyrna. A couple were standing on the deck watching the Turkish coastline approaching. They would prove to be some of the greatest friends that IC had ever known...

Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart Kennedy were only supposed to dock in Smyrna for a few hours until the Austrian Lloyd Steamship sets sail again to Constantinople.

A millionaire magnate, Kennedy was a staunch Protestant. Childless, the couple donated much of their wealth to many charities - among them educational institutions. They particularly seemed to favor Protestant ones. In fact, they had

just arrived from Beirut after visiting the Reverend Daniel Bliss at the Syrian Protestant College (today's AUB). For some reason, their trip to Constantinople was postponed until the next day. As the couple pondered their next move, MacLachlan received a telegram from his close friend, Reverend Daniel Bliss (founder of AUB) informing him of the couple's trip to Turkey and suggesting that

MacLachlan make himself of service to the Kennedy's during their stay in Smyrna.

MacLachlan immediately made his way to the quay and boarded the S.S. Saghalien. Would the couple like to stay with the MacLachlans until their ship sets sail? The Kennedy's politely expressed great interest in seeing the school but insisted on staying in a hotel.



Library 1909

Smyrna

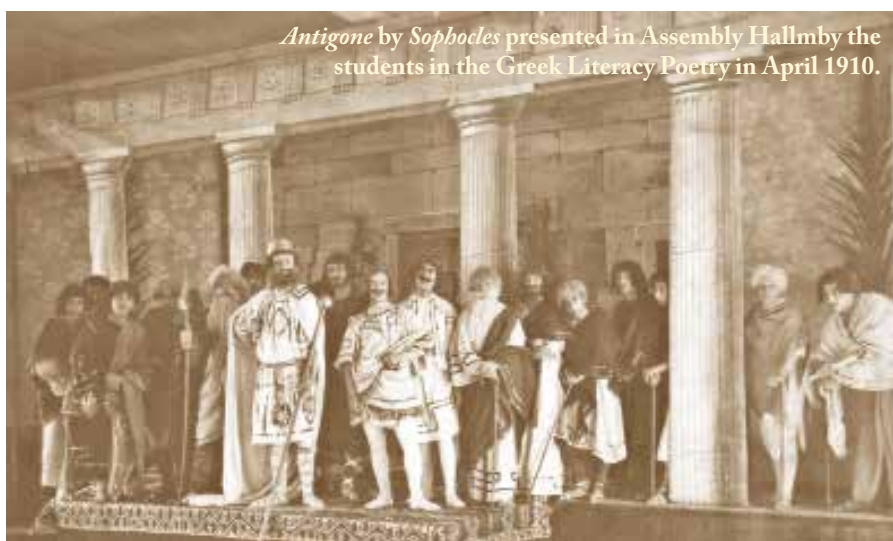
(Part IV)

It was tourist season and Smyrna with its many archeological remains was a main destination. The city's rather imposing harbor was lined with lavish hotels, brasseries and banks, as dozens of steamboat companies catering for passenger liners arrived almost daily from Europe and other Ottoman ports. Opulent hotels with their ostentatious dining rooms were frequently full. MacLachlan knew that finding a hotel for the Kennedys at such short notice would be an almost impossible task. Still, it was their request and he obliged. He led the way to Hucks, the best hotel in the city.

"I've brought you some guests Mr. Hucks," announced MacLachlan. Mr. Hucks, however, informed him that the hotel was full. MacLachlan led the couple to yet another opulent hotel. That hotel proved to be full as well. Finally, and somewhat regrettably, the Reverend turned to the Kennedys and said "So what do you propose we do now?" To that, John Kennedy simply replied "I propose that we accept your generous offer of hospitality!"

Perhaps it was destiny for, as MacLachlan would often recall, "that day the Lord caused a mighty wind to blow and for the next four days no ship of any kind entered or left the port of Smyrna."

In those memorable few days, the Kennedys became staunch supporters of the school and would remain so for the next 37 years. Thanks to the Kennedys and other donors, MacLachlan was able to purchase the vacant lot behind the school – reached only by the back alley. He closed off the open end to this back street and waited for any reaction from the city authorities. He got none and students were now able to safely run back and forth through the alley to reach the field. Still, the playground fell far short of MacLachlan's expectations of an athletics field. Since authorities did not object to his closing off the back street, he ventured yet



The International College – first campus in Smyrna

another bold move. He removed the back walls surrounding the school and the field – finally creating what he was longing for: an area large enough for football practice.

It wasn't perfect. He would have liked a much larger campus but it would have to do for the time being. He was itching to have a bigger school and had already envisioned what it would look like. He told himself to be patient and concentrated on his students, who had become his pride and joy. For he had good reason to be proud: The standards of his graduates were so high that American and European universities including the University of Geneva, University of Chicago, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were admitting them without the required official exam.

The reputation of the school was such that the name was changed to the "Collegiate Institute."

In 1902, MacLachlan thought it was high time that the College receive a charter from the US and so appealed to the Board in Boston to put in an application to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the

school's name.

But the Reverend always thought that his school's latest name "Collegiate Institute" sounded rather pretentious. Thus, he and local administrators began brainstorming for new names.

The new name couldn't sound too native or too ostentatious. It's not clear whether it was MacLachlan himself or a staff member, but someone finally suggested the name of 'International College'.

It sounded perfect – exactly what MacLachlan was looking for. It would be the fourth and last name change in the school's short history.

In 1903, the application was accepted and 'International College' proudly entered the second decade of its history.

To be continued....

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



Almost there!

The Big Move: April 2013

ATTENTION
ALL PARENTS,
ALUMNI AND
IC FRIENDS!

You can carve your or your loved one's name on a plate which will be placed on the back of a theater seat in the new auditorium. For more information, contact Nadine Akkaoui at IC Alumni office 01-367420 or 03-814770.

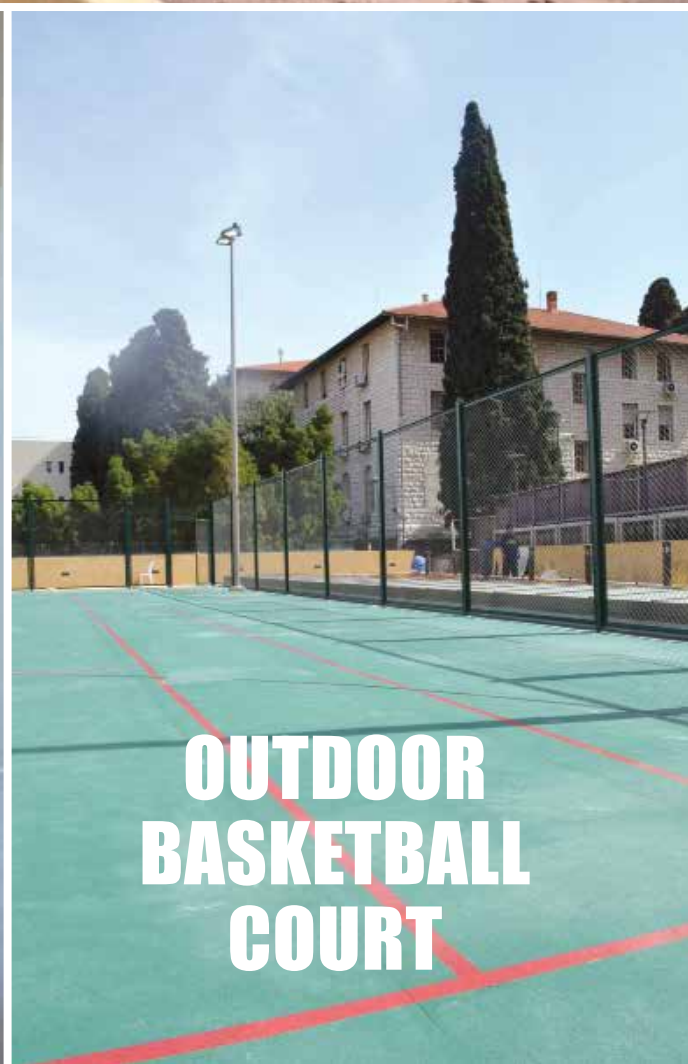
AUDITORIUM



CLASSROOMS



**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TEACHERS INSPECTING THE NEW SCHOOL**



**OUTDOOR
BASKETBALL
COURT**



**LARGE
GYMNASIUM**



SCIENCE LAB



MUSIC



TEACHERS' LOUNGE



The Donors

The public school officials were waiting at the door to meet their donors who had come to see the school for themselves. More specifically, the benefactors had come to see the bathrooms which were said to be in an undesirable condition.

As the officials approached, six third-graders – accompanied by two teachers – stepped off the IC bus.

The eight-year-olds were representing the French and English sections of IC. During the Christmas holiday, they and their classmates had worked very hard to earn enough money to buy the public school new sanitary equipment.

Some were paid for doing chores at home. Some sold their artwork or belongings. Some worked for a few days in a parents' shop. Others held 'lemonade-for-sale' stands.



By the end of the holiday, the children had earned a sizable sum and a samaritan parent, Lana Hakim Nassar made up the difference.

"The children themselves chose this action," said Diana Kaaki, a Grade 3 English teacher. "They were shocked to know that other children in the country do not have proper bathrooms in their schools." It was by pure coincidence that a teacher at IC had been volunteering her time to help Momken – an NGO dedicated to bringing university students and public school students to a tutorial program. When hearing of the Grade 3 project, she sent pictures of the dilapidated lavatories of a public school which asked to remain unnamed.

"We want our children to be tolerant and to help others," said Lina Kaddoura, a Grade 3 French teacher (CE2). "And this is the best way to get them involved."

Since they all couldn't go and see the bathrooms for themselves, a delegation of six were chosen to go. True to the pictures sent to

them, the bathrooms were in horrid conditions. Other than the stench of the obviously malfunctioning lavatories, doors of the stalls were broken and taken off the hinges. The lack of privacy alone has deterred many students from using them.

"I just hold it in until

I get home," said Haidar, a 15-year old middle school student at the school.

As for the girls' bathroom, only two or three stalls in the pre-school section, that are constantly drenched in water – thanks to malfunctioning pipes – serve the entire female school population (over 400).

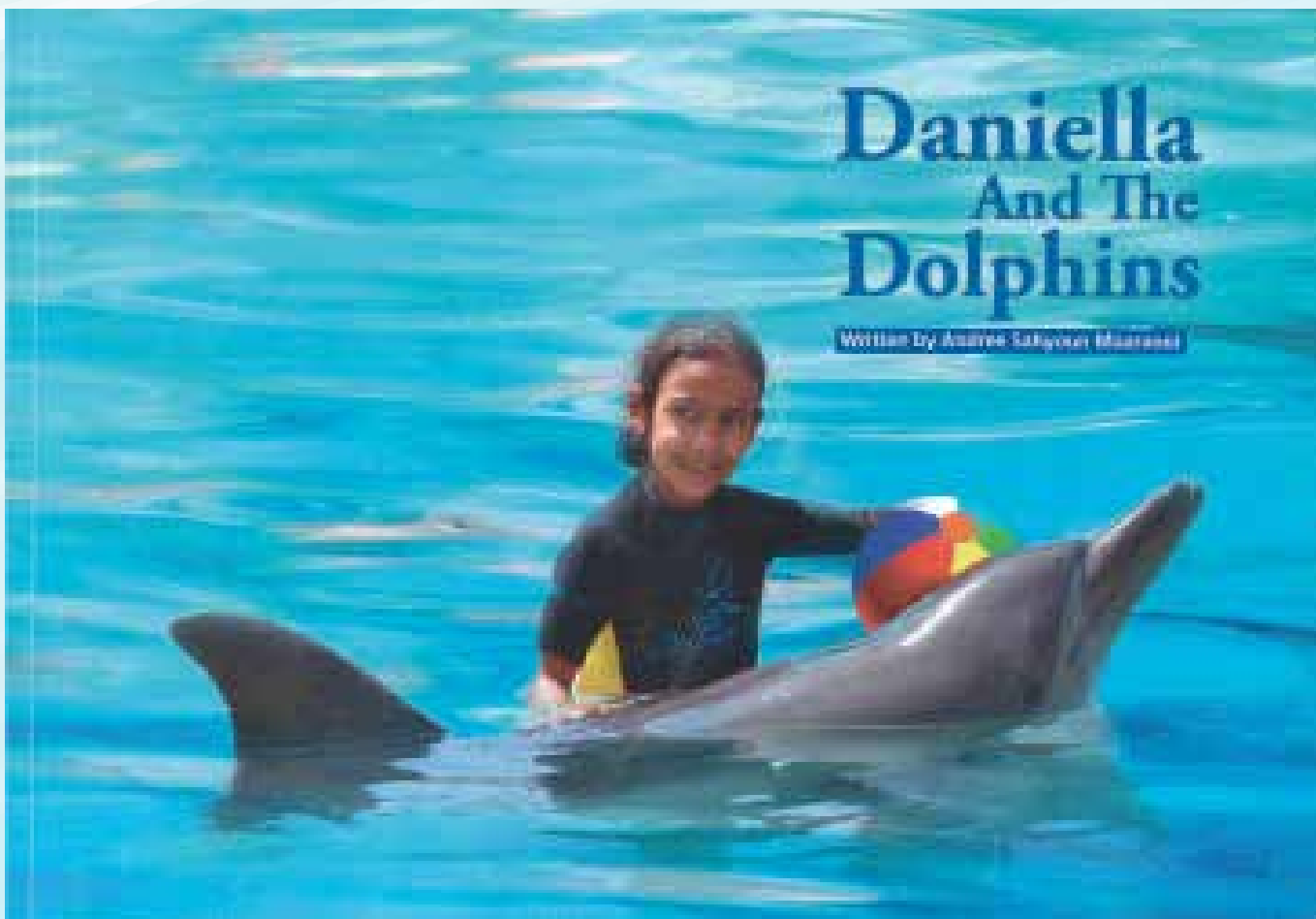
The IC third graders entered hesitantly. The condition and stench was obviously noted. "This is bad sanitation," declared one of them knowingly. The others heartily agreed. "We will help them," said another firmly.

Curious school teachers welcomed the IC students as they toured the school. The visit culminated with a meeting with the principal of the school (who asked to be unnamed). "I want to thank you children for doing this for us," she said. "I appreciate what you are doing. I also very much appreciate how your school is instilling in you the spirit of helping others in need. We just don't see this spirit anymore."

The six children returned to IC to inform their eagerly awaiting classmates of their findings. "The class was shocked when they saw the pictures," said Kaddoura. "They asked a lot of questions. Why this and why that."

It will take about three months for the new lavatories to be installed. Once complete, other classmates from Grade 3 will be sent on another fact-finding mission to inspect the school's new bathrooms. "We want to show them that even children can make a difference," said Kaaki. "We want them to think that: 'Even though I am only a child, I can still do something to change the environment.' And this is one of the chief messages of the whole project."





IC's miracle child: Daniella and the Dolphins



It's been three years since that fateful day when the Asfour family felt their world crumbling around them. On February 7 2009, a doctor informed them that their precious six year old daughter, Daniella, had cancer.

It was every parent's nightmare. The family, to say the least, went into shock. Except for Daniella that is. "I have cancer like Kika?" she said, simply referring to the family's helper who was diagnosed with cancer a year earlier, and then she went on playing.

And that was it. St. Jude Cancer Center soon became another home for Daniella. There was no reason to cry. No reason to complain. Not even when the 'butterfly' was inserted under her skin just above her chest- a surgically placed catheter to allow chemotherapy to enter the bloodstream.

Not even through a vigorous year of chemotherapy and its exhausting effects. There were, after all, new people to meet at the Center. New children to befriend. There was Tina who, at only four, was getting ready for her chemo session. She looked petrified. "Don't be scared," assured her Daniella, "everything is going to be ok."

And out of her bag, Daniella would produce drawing books, crayons and whatever her new friends needed.

"She is so strong," said her mother, Carla Asfour. "She reminds me that I have to be strong. Sometimes I am the one who is nervous and she is the one who tells me, 'it's ok mama'"

It is this spirit that drove Andree Sahyoun Maaraoui, a family friend, to write "Daniella and the Dolphins" last October in an

effort to give hope to cancer patients. The book was released on December 8th and was sold out at a book signing ceremony that same day. Since then, more books have been ordered repeatedly. All proceeds go to the St. Jude Children's Cancer Center and Tamana – an NGO which grants severely ill children their wishes. It tells the story of Daniella from her prognosis of cancer all the way to her visit to Dubai to swim with the Dolphins. It is the tale of a 'little hero' – as Maaraoui refers to her – overcoming cancer with a strong spirit and a cheerful disposition. Daniella's diagnosis of cancer sent shockwaves through IC in 2010. It was a fall that saved her life. She fell at home that day and vomited repeatedly. As a precaution, her parents took her to the emergency room. It was then that doctors found a 2kg tumor in her kidney. She was rushed into the operating room. Without immediate surgery and treatment, she would have died within two months. Between chemotherapy sessions, Daniella would return to school. Sometimes energetic, sometimes tired. Her friends watched her closely noting the least bit of fatigue. When her hair fell out in class, classmates picked them up for her. "Even now, they run to tell me if Daniella finished all the food in her lunchbox," said Asfour laughing. "When she is absent from school, we get so many little callers phoning in to ask why she didn't come in today. It's really nice."

IC administration and teachers also reached out in so many ways "over and above the call of duty," continued Asfour. "They have been a blessing to all of us." But perhaps the most poignant moment came during Daniella's graduation from preschool. She walked on stage to take her diploma with a scarf around her head. All the other girls in her class followed suit with similar scarves wrapped around their own heads.

Today, Daniella – now in grade 3 – is in remission. The "butterfly" was finally removed last October. She still has to go through routine blood tests, scans, ultrasounds and x-rays but doesn't seem to mind much. "They don't really hurt," she said shyly.

She has finally caught up to the rest of her class (because of a weak immune system during chemotherapy, she missed a lot of school days) and is immensely proud to have done so.



**Daniella and author
Andree Sahyoun Maaraoui**

As for her friends at St. Jude, Daniella insists on visiting them and seeing the nurses whom she has grown to love. Sometimes, the news of a friend is bad. Still, Daniella, keeps visiting. And when an IC teacher was diagnosed with cancer last year and was reportedly too scared to undergo medical exams, it was Daniella who called her up and assured her that all will be well.

It is those details that made Daniella and *The Dolphins* a bestselling book this year. And as far as IC is concerned, she is the school's 'miracle child'.

Daniella and The Dolphins by Andree Sahyoun Maaraoui is sold at Antoine Bookstore for LL 20,000.



Christmas Choirs 2012

**Ain Aar
Junior Choir**



**Ain Aar
Middle
School Choir**



**Ras Beirut
Elementary
and Middle
School Choir**



**Secondary
School Choir**





FASHION SHOW

The Student Representative Council organized a Christmas fashion show held at Biel on December 16th. Proceeds went to fund the senior prom night.

AIN AAR STUDENTS JOIN SWIMATHON



In an effort to raise funds to bring schooling to hospitalized children, young swimmers - among them Ain Aar students - joined MySchoolPulse, an NGO dedicated to provide children in Lebanon suffering from a life-threatening illness with the

opportunity to continue their school education while undergoing treatment. The Swimathon took place last November and the swimmers raised \$6,126 - enough to pay the tuition fees of four children for one full academic year.

Architects Unveil Master Plans

In January, IC's Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani and David Croteau, President of Flansburgh Architects, the Boston based architectural firm commissioned to build IC's Elementary school, presented the projected Master Plan for Ain Aar. At the same time, Vice President for Alumni and Development, Moufid Beydoun, and Flansburgh architect, Kelly Banks, presented an update on the new Elementary school in Ras Beirut and the preliminary plans for the improvement of the Middle school. Parents from both campuses attended the lectures.

It was an especially important moment for Ain Aar parents as "this was the first presentation by the architects about the campus plan in Ain Aar," said



Diana Aboulebde, Upper Elementary and Middle School Director at Ain Aar. "We needed this because the Ain Aar community didn't know enough about

the campus plan, they had only been told previously about the Ras Beirut school developments. It was therefore a very important step."

Tree Planting

Elementary School students planting tree shoots in Baabda Forest in November.





Career Day

Secondary school students showed up on campus on Saturday, January 5, to learn about various careers. Over 40 professionals held talks and presentations including physicians, journalists, bankers, graphic designers, engineers, nutritionists, actors, educators and advertisers.

“When you are in the secondary school, you have one foot in school and one in college,” said Paula Mufarrij, Director of the Secondary school. “We are creating this link between the school years and the future. A career day helps out students discover this future.”

Students had previously signed up to attend four sessions throughout the four-hour event. This is the second Career Guidance Day organized by the newly formed Parents Committee within the last two years.

“We want all our children to think ‘I own my future and the sky isn’t in fact the

limit” said Lina Assaf, President of the Parents Committee. “We are trying to show them that they can believe in and achieve whatever they dream of, no matter what the difficulties are.”

A yearly career day will now be held at the Secondary school. Future projects include arranging for students to shadow professionals at work to discover for themselves the pros and cons of a particular job.





Teachers' Dinner

The Edmond Tohme Outstanding Educator Award

Mrs. Jeanette Frangieh

The Randa Khoury Innovation in Teaching Award

Mr. Ludovic Marty

George O. Debbas Award

Mrs. Yolla Maroun
Mr. Elie Sfeir

The Albert Abela Distinguished Teacher Award

Mr. Elie Aswad
Mrs. Malda Halawi
Miss May Karam
Miss Hiba Kobeissi
Miss Salma Kojok
Mrs. Dima Mniemneh
Mrs. Imane Osman
Mrs. Imane Ramadan
Miss Rima Rifai
Mrs. Beverly Shabshab

Retirees

Mrs. May Bou Karroum
Mrs. Ghada Feghali
Mrs. Jeanette Frangieh
Mrs. Connie Hadba
Miss Rabia Kaddah



Mrs. Jocelyne Kobeissi
Mrs. Leila Matta

35 Years of Service

Mr. Hussein Farhat
Mr. Kassem Farhat
Mr. Hassan Joumaa
Mrs. Nayla Owayshek

25 Years of Service

Miss Diana Abou Lebdeh
Mrs. Alissar Abi Haidar
Mr. Iskandar Abou Kasm
Mrs. Doha Berjawi
Mrs. Nabila Hemadeh
Mrs. Ghada Itani
Mrs. Leila Matta
Mrs. Imane Osman
Mr. Charles Tabet
Mrs. Fatima Turbah



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 Alumni Dubai Dinner

On December 8, 2012, the IC Dubai Alumni Chapter held a dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Dubai. The dinner was attended by more than 100 alumni and friends. The key note speaker was **Patrick Chalhoub '75**, CEO of Chalhoub Group. During his speech, Chalhoub said that the years he spent at IC made him who he is today. The dinner also included a welcome address by **Karim Ghandour '90**

and musical performances by **Tina Yamout '05** and three IC students Tamara Hani Raad, Joe Pietro Abela and Amer Georges Gharib. The event was also attended by IC's President John Johnson, Vice President of Alumni and Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** and Officer of Development Nadine Akkaoui.



Raymond Khouzami '78, John Johnson, Sami Moukadam, Elias Hanna '61, Patrick Chalhoub '75, Moufid Beydoun '64, Ramzi Maadad '74, Karim Ghandour '90

Kuwait Dinner



Over twenty-five alumni and friends attended a dinner hosted by Board member **Anwar Al Mulla '63** in Kuwait. The event was attended by IC President John Johnson and VP for Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** who flew in especially from Beirut. After his welcoming speech, Mr. Al Mulla handed the floor over to Mr. Johnson who talked about IC's current and future projects. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Beydoun then presented the IC Partnership for Excellence Plaque to Mr. Al Mulla.



New York Dinner

On February 5th, 2013, Ambassador **Nawaf Salam '71** hosted a reception for IC Board of trustees, Administration, alumni and friends in New York.

Nawaf Salam '71, Jack Tohmé '67, Wael Chehab '80, Lina Chehab, Randa Tohmé, John Johnson, Mishka Mourani



Chairman of the Board, Bill Turner, talking about IC



Mu'ataz Sawaf '69 and Don Selinger



Omar Hamad '08, Hadi Tabbal '01, John Johnson



Mary Johnson, Sarah Thornson, Talal Jundi '86



San Francisco Dinner

On February 15th 2013, IC hosted a dinner in San Francisco for IC alumni and friends and was attended by IC President John Johnson, Senior Vice President, Mishka Mourani and Director of Development, Peter Gerard. The highlight was seeing former math teacher, Nadi Nader and his wife, Souad.

Nadi Nader,
Mishka Mourani,
Souad Nader

Los Angeles Dinner

On February 18th, 2013, a dinner was held in Los Angeles for IC alumni and friends and was attended by IC President John Johnson, Senior Vice President, Mishka Mourani, and Director of Development, Peter Gerard.

Rabih Aridi '78, Karim Kano '74,
Peter Gerard, Elie Kawkabani '84,
Hisham Hamade '92



Mohamed Ahmar '80, Rabih Aridi '78, Hania Ahmar '92, Joseph Abu Zeid '73, Nabil el Sheikh '00, Karim Kano '74



Mishka Mourani and Joseph Abu Zeid '73

Letters to the editor

Dear editor,

I had started collecting stamps when I was still in grade school but I had no experience with what were good philatelic practices or how to really arrange my stamps in the most appropriate manner.

My joining the Stamp Club at Prep came about mainly at the urging and encouragement of our adviser, Mr. Conde. He was instrumental in teaching us the basics of philately and how to make the most of this very interesting and widespread hobby. Mr. Conde's stories about how he developed his own collection kept us all enthralled and eager to learn more about how to improve our own collections.

The story I remember most vividly is the one where Mr. Conde was with the US Forces in the Pacific Theatre during the Second World War. He recounted how Conde, every time the US Forces (I'm not sure but I think he was with the Marines) landed in a new town during their fight with the Japanese, would go straight to the local Post Office and pick up as much of their stock of stamps as he could handle, and that while all his colleagues ran off to chase women and go to the bars!!!! It seems he eventually got himself an exceptional collection of Japanese and other Asian stamps. Occasionally, he would share with us some of his spares and I still have a number of stamps in my collection that were given to me by Mr. Conde.

Over the years, I continued to add to my collection. Working with UNICEF in many countries around the world allowed me to considerably expand my collection, even though I had practically no time to work on my stamps. The most important novelty in my stamp collecting career was my specializing in stamps and covers of Indochina and the three countries that became independent when the French colonial period ended: Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. This came about when in 1980 I was appointed the UNICEF Representative in Hanoi and I discovered the interesting and beautiful stamps of that area.

I have continued to collect stamps and since my retirement in 1995 I have devoted a lot more time to expanding and organizing my collection, especially those from the Indochinese countries. I belong to stamp associations (American Philatelic Society and the Society of Indochina Philatelists) and to a local grouping, the Lakeshore Stamp Club in Montreal, where I now live.

It is very often, while I am working on my Asian and Indochinese stamps, that I remember Mr. Conde and how his tutoring had fanned my interest in philately, an activity that I continue and enjoy a great deal until today. Interestingly, my own specialization in Indochinese countries seems to have brought me full circle back to my learning from Mr. Conde...

Fouad M. Kronfol '52

PS. Some of the other members of the Prep Stamp Club whom I remember include the following: Raja As'ad, Ismat Asha, Munir Katul, Eddy Khairallah, William Ogden-Smith and Elftherios Athanasiade. I would be interested to know their whereabouts and if they are still involved with stamp collecting...

Dear editor,

There is something magic at IC that keeps it in our minds everywhere we go. IC is one of those things that doesn't leave my mind and I like it. I spent all my school years at IC, 1964 in KG1 - 1979 Bacc II - Math. After IC, I moved to AUB and graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Electrical Engineering to be more precise. Fifteen years is a long time to be going somewhere everyday but it was the greatest experience of my life and I still love it. After graduating from AUB, I worked for three years in Beirut before moving to Abu Dhabi in 1987. Abu Dhabi has become my second home since then. Currently, I am with Oracle (Computer Industry, Software, and Hardware) working as a sales director for the Banking and Financial Industry. I am married with two boys. Rafik, 20, is currently in his junior year, studying Business Administration at the Lebanese American University. Karim is in Grade 11 and will be moving to Lebanon in a year to start his university studies.

My memories and the enjoyable times I had at IC are endless. Beginning at the Elementary school, moving to Middle, and then to Secondary school, each period had its nice moments. Our one year at Mechref campus was the best. Studying there - the classes, the campus, and the environment - took me to another dimension in education. Afterwards, I was back to the Ras Beirut campus from 1976-1979. One should remember the students vs. teachers football game and the English vs French section water balloon fighting, which involved some eggs...

I am attaching a photo of my class taken in 1970 during one of the trips that IC used to coordinate. It was a trip to the airport to visit TMA (Trans Mediterranean Airways). At the



Letters to the editor

time, I was in 4th Elementary. This was one of many trips IC arranged for us. I still remember one trip to Foremost Dairy Factory, another to Bonjus factory, and another to the Lebanese Museum. These trips were very enjoyable and, one way or another, definitely affected our perspective on life and business.

The names of the students in the picture are as follows:

Standing - Left to Right

Samir Khattab, Fouad Saadeh, Walid Haddad, Claude Moughani, Fadi Isamil (standing 5th from the left), Fadi Farhat, George Sawan, Ikram Sirgi, Asaad Abu Khalil, Saleh El Fadel, Rabii Al Aridi, Dani Hampakidis, Mrs. Mamdouha Beidas.

Sitting - Left to Right

Charles Sweid, Rachid Khalifeh, Paul Salem, George Fleifel, Samer Kanaan, Hani Khatib, Oscar Bitar, Bassem Azar, Fadi Lakkis, Mutaz Summakieh, Ramzi Antipas.

I would like to get in touch with any of the above names. I met Captain Mutaz Summakieh (in the front of the picture, second from the right) recently and he is a pilot based in Dubai. He told me that this school trip in 1970 made him decide to become a pilot.

Fadi Ismail '81
fadiismal@yahoo.com

Dear editor,

It is a great honor for me to keep in touch with you. I would like to thank you for your efforts to keep IC Alumni connected with each other, especially through the Newsletter. I also would like to express my cordial respect and appreciation for the great efforts you are undertaking to help, improve and promote IC in all areas.

I visited IC last year for the first time since my graduation in 1976. I still maintain contacts with some of my great friends, but would like to keep in touch with all. I came to Lebanon from Yemen in 1966 and spent, in this spectacular country, around 11 years which were the best ever in my life. During these years, I felt at home. I made many friends and never felt any discrimination whatsoever. I really felt as a member of the Lebanese society, enjoying the good days and feeling with them the sad days during the sorrowful war in this peaceful country. Lebanon was and will always be the only Arab country that is very rich in human resources. In my country, with all respect, we are still an illiterate society and this has been reflected in our way of life. As you know, Yemen has suffered a continuous crisis since 2011, which has tremendously affected our lives. However, we keep our fingers crossed, as we feel now that the country is moving towards a big change which will hopefully improve our lives.

Yemen is very rich in its resources and is still virgin, and thus so many investment opportunities are available in all sectors. It will be my great pleasure to welcome any friend who would like to pay a visit, and will make all arrangements to make him feel at home as I have felt in Lebanon.

There were so many interesting events during my stay in Beirut. However, I will only summarize some:

I used to live in Verdun and walked every day to IC. There was a restaurant which I always passed by. I believe it was called Horse Shoe. One day, I decided to have a meal there knowing that my mother had just given me my monthly petty cash which was 20 Liras. When I finished eating, the waiter gave me the bill which shocked me from my head to my toes. It was 30 Liras!! I gently told him that 20 liras is all I have. I begged him to let me go back home to get him the rest of the money, but he refused and then the punishment came: he took me to the kitchen and told me to wash and dry all the dishes. I kept doing that for about two hours with tears in my eyes. From that day on, I avoided passing by that restaurant until the day I graduated.



There was a teacher in our class whose lectures were boring to some students, and one day these students drew graves on the black board and wrote: "In the memory of those who died waiting for the bell to ring."

And there was another teacher who used to wash the students from his mouth when he spoke. As a result, we struggled to come early to class to get seats in the back. The punishment of late students was to sit in the front!

Eng. Yahya Mohsen Ishak '76
Sanaa-Yemen



Class 2B-1972

Letters to the editor

Dear editor,

Wow! fifty and some years later you unveil an obscure part of my personality which for 'obvious' reasons I have deeply buried way down in my unconscious.

To the uninformed reader, I mean those people who never knew my father, it may look, the way you describe it, that he sort of tolerated my behavior, me being his son. I guess I have to ask you to withdraw that or rephrase it in a truly non ambiguous manner.

This being said, in the days you mention, and at my age it would have been quite impossible, for me to leave home at 6am to go downtown have a Fatte which, by the way, I never liked and still don't, stuff myself to the point I would display the colors of the rainbow and then attend Mr Dumonts' class at 8!!! But I guess that the same uninformed reader does not know much, not to say anything, about Maurice Dumont.

Now, about your "two fellow avengers":

Witold was a dear and very close friend and we were together at IC right from the 6ème and all the way through to terminale. After '61 we followed separate routes.

I left Lebanon in 1963 and saw him again in 1973, during my honeymoon. My wife and I got together with him and his wife for a nice and sunny day in Kaslik. It was not until 1999 that I met him again in his office in Hamra at the Mobil Oil Company,

where he made his career. He passed away a few years later, may he rest in peace.

Selim, or Solly as I remember, was not a close friend. A rather open and humorous guy as I recall. We had no personal relations except maybe buying cigarettes by the piece and small bars of chocolate at this little tiny shop that was located at the corner of Wadi Abu Jamil and the top of Rue de l'Alliance and, sometimes, sharing a baby foot game at this Armenian grocer 10/20 meters from the aforesaid shop down Rue de l'Alliance.

So, really, come on! Do these two guys look like they were harassed by me.

Sorry Selim, your story does not hold, and I challenge any 'super Freud' to the contrary.

Now, to bring you up to speed, I have three kids and six grand-kids that keep us rather busy.

I am an active retiree and will gladly talk to you if you should so wish. Try Facebook, although I'm not a great fan.

Serge Doubine '61

Many apologies

The toddler who appeared in the photo "Philosophy Class 1941-1942" is not the son of former Philosophy teacher, Ariel Doubine. The child's identity remains unknown.

Zahleh



Souheil Metni, Elie Khoury, Math Professor Robert Courson Shaglassian
Back: Nicolas Khairallah

The Speech

The message that popped up at her computer screen couldn't have been a joke. **Joy Jamal Eddine '08** looked again. The International Special Olympics was asking her to be the key note speaker representing them at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Global Youth Conference in Austria this year. Could she talk about how youth can make a difference in this world, citing herself as the example?

The 21-year old AUB student had to take a deep breath. A keynote speaker? Austria? True, for the past six years she has been very active in the Special Olympics and has attended several youth conferences abroad. But to actually take the stand and be a keynote speaker was an overwhelming thought. Still, it was an honor she couldn't refuse. She threw herself into the task. After much writing, editing and practicing to anyone who would listen, Jamal Eddine found herself on a plane to Austria last December and, despite losing her luggage en route, managed to make it in front of her audience spic and span ("always carry an extra pair of clothing in your handbag" she said laughing).

Never one for stage fright, she jumped right into her speech.

"When I was 15 years old, I went home one day after school and anxiously waited till my parents got back from work to tell them the great news" she began. Very few people can pinpoint the exact moment that defined the path of their future, but Jamal Eddine can. It happened right here at IC. The year was 2007 and she was taking part in the Community Service Program which



is a pre-requisite for graduation. Students had invited athletes with disabilities to IC for a game of basketball. Jamal Eddine was taken aback when the athletes turned out to be great players and wonderful companions. It was then that she instinctively knew she had found her calling. "It was the one cause that I really cared about," she recalled. "People with disabilities are a marginalized group who are frequently made fun of and hidden from public view. From that point on, I became obsessed with the Special Olympics; its mission, its goal, its story and, most importantly, me being a part of it." That same year, Jamal Eddine was chosen to be a youth leader representing Lebanon and the Middle East – North Africa Region at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai. Whilst back on IC campus she began her own campaign to ban the word "retard" from teenage vocabulary.

After graduating from IC, she began her studies at the American University of Beirut. A year later, she founded the Special Olympics College Club on campus which focuses on spreading awareness about the importance of accepting people with disabilities in society. The club, which started with 30 supporters, today boasts more than 100 members.

Her efforts had not gone unnoticed. In 2008, she was invited as a global youth advisor for the Special Olympics at the Summit on Education in Washington, DC. In 2009, she was the Global Youth Leader at the Special Olympics International World Winter Games in Idaho and later that year she took part in the 6th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations in New York.

But the biggest moment came as a keynote speaker in Austria which brought together over 155 youth representatives from around the world. As she looked around at her audience, she knew that her cause had captivated them. "Many of you might be thinking," she continued "Why does she care all that much? Does she have a sibling with different abilities that triggered her passion? Well, my answer to that is: no. I never knew anyone with special needs or different intellectual disabilities till I met my friends at the Special Olympics. You do not need to have a direct connection to a cause for you to be a part of it. You just need to reach out there and find the one, two or even more things that trigger your care and passion and then work towards them." With the echoes of the applause still with her, Jamal Eddine returned back to Beirut. She is currently back at AUB finishing up her BA in Elementary Education with a focus on special needs.



The Big Idea

A bag by any other name isn't a bag. Or in this case isn't a Sarah's Bag. What started as an idea to empower women prisoners, is now a leading bestseller in the local and international arena of fashionable handbags.

By the look of the trendily dressed Beydoun, you would think she was a fashion design student. But not so.

"I was a sociology major," she said grinning. But it is to this field that she owes a large part of her success. In 1995, as part of her Masters' Thesis, she opted to volunteer for a few months at Dar al Amal – an NGO that rehabilitates former prostitutes – researching and interviewing women. It so happens that Dar al Amal, headed by Hoda Kara (who later proved to be one of Beydoun's great inspirers), also worked with women in the Tripoli and Baabda prisons. Kara took Beydoun to see them. Initially, the shock of being in prison was overwhelming. Besides the squalor conditions, women were cramped into rooms with very little to do. Talking to them alone was emotionally suffocating. Their crimes differed: prostitution, theft, forgery, debt evasion and even murder. Each had a sob story and each was looking for some kind of solace.

After a few visits, a small idea began to grow in Beydoun's mind. What if she could come up with a project which would give something for these women to do and provide them with a small income?

"I realized then that if these women didn't learn some kind of skill they would

only go back to their old ways once out of prison," she said. "I wanted to stop this vicious cycle. The only way is to have them work."

It never occurred to Beydoun that her idea may fail. Kara managed to get her a permit to enter the prisons at will and Beydoun went ahead and ordered several small wooden weaving machines. Her idea was for them to make bracelets. But after a few tries, she had to admit that bracelets were unimaginative and certainly unsellable.

It was then that she had her Big Idea. It was simple, fashionable and doable. But most of all, it involved her personal passion: handbags.

During that time, she was helping her brother who was managing a retail store that brought stocks from the US to sell in Lebanon. Among those stocks were defected handbags. To repair them, she sought the help of an artisan. As she watched him work, her idea began to take form. Why not have the women sew designs and give them to this artisan to create handbags?

But Beydoun knew little about sewing or creating designs. A bookstore was her first stop. As she was buying several books about sewing, the woman manning the bookshop noted her interest and offered to take her to several bead wholesalers. It was there that she came upon canvases. She bought one and, armed with her books, set to work. It took a long time but somehow she figured out how to work the canvas. Excited, she took it to the artisan who turned it into a handbag (which today, is framed and displayed in her office). It was a turning point.

She knew that she was on to something. She took several canvases to prison and explained her idea to the women. Many opted to join in and thus began her first team of workers.

By now it was 2000, and customized handbags were in fashion and in



demand. "It was odd," she recalled. "Everything converged together as if the universe conspired for me to do this."

Now, the next test. Would the bags sell?

There was only one way to find out. Beydoun put up a table in the weekly "Souk al Barghout" (flea market) in the downtown area and displayed her bags. Her first customer was her mother who lovingly bought the first bag. But slowly and surely, other customers began making their way to her table. By the end of the day, not only had she sold all the



bags but had orders for more. More displays followed in other markets. The bags were sold every time. Demand increased and Beydoun found herself training more women. Before long, she opened a small atelier and hired designers to help her. Crochets and scarves were introduced. Again, they sold immediately. Her business had taken off and the prisoners were earning an income with any surplus directly going to improve the conditions of the prisons. Today, 150 people make up Sarah's team,

among them 65 women in both Baabda and Tripoli prisons. Moreover, teams of women in many Lebanese towns and villages are working diligently to produce the bags. Each team is led by a former prisoner. For, once out of jail, most of the women form their own groups and continue to work for Beydoun.

Sarah's Bags have managed to break into the highly fashionably arena of Parisian society. Her bags have been spotted carried by famous notables among them Queen Rania of Jordan, Lebanese diva Sabah and French actress Catherine Deneuve.

As for the women, some have used their incomes to pay off debts, some to hire lawyers and others are simply saving their money. They are getting what Beydoun wanted to give them from the beginning: another chance at life.

As for Beydoun, mother of two (one of whom studies at IC), Sarah's Bags has been one big adventure which started with an idea. Inside every bag, she inserts a small paper. "It all started with a bag. What if every woman in prison could stitch, bead or sequin her way out?"

"For me, every day is exciting," said Sarah. "Meeting new prisoners and seeing how they change is exciting. Going to the atelier every day is exciting. I love what I do."

For more information go to <http://www.sarahsbag.com/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

As part of International College's continuous efforts to connect with our alumni, we are proud to announce that we have recently launched two social media platforms dedicated to our alumni.

PLEASE join us on **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ICLebanonAlumni> and on **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/ICLebanonAlumni>

On these platforms, we will be sharing the latest news from IC campuses, current events for students & alumni and updates on our Partnership for Excellence Campaign.

We hope to keep in touch with you on our pages.

Best Regards,

Moufid Beydoun
Vice President
Alumni & Development

Please email us your
updated contacts
(email, mailing address,
phone numbers) to
alumni@ic.edu.lb



We will be celebrating the:

50th Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of **1963** on **July 4, 2013**
at **8pm** at IC Martin House Garden.

25th Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of **1988** on **July 5, 2013**
at **8pm** at IC Martin House Garden.

All Alumni Reunion:
July 6, 2013 on campus
For tickets/information
contact the office of alumni & Development at:
alumni@ic.edu.lb
Tel/fax: 961 1 367433

A great loss: Patriarch Ignatius IV (Hazim) of Antioch

Born in 1920 in the village of Mhardeh in Syria, Ignatius Hazim was the son of a pious Greek Orthodox Syrian Arab Christian family. He attended IC from 1936 until 1942 and graduated from the French Philosophy Program. He continued his studies at the American University of Beirut and was reportedly highly influenced by his philosophy professor Charles Malik in the matters of philosophy and spirituality. In 1942, he co-founded the active Orthodox Youth Movement of Lebanon and Syria. In 1945, he traveled to Paris and graduated from the St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute. He was consecrated to the episcopacy in 1961 and elected Metropolitan of Latakia in Syria in 1970. In 1979 under the name of Ignatius IV, he became the Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch, the third ranking hierarchy of the Orthodox Church after the Patriarchs of Constantinople and Alexandria, effectively making him the one hundred and seventieth Patriarch after Saint Peter.

In 1988, he founded the University of Balamand and served many years as its dean. Known for being simple, direct and down to earth, Hazim broke several traditions in the Orthodox Church including inaugurating an unprecedented practice of frequent communion. In 1971, Hazim was appointed the Orthodox Metropolitan of the Syrian city of Latakia. In 1979, at the height of Lebanon's devastating Civil War, Hazim was appointed Patriarch of the Levant and Antioch.



He published a number of books on theology and earned honorary doctorates from Paris' Sorbonne as well as from theology academies in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Minsk, Belarus.

During an official visit to the Patriarch's residence in May 2010, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev awarded the Patriarch the Russian Order of Friendship.

On December 5, 2012, he died in St. George's Hospital in Beirut following a stroke and was buried in Syria. He was 92 years old.



We regret to inform you that Dr **Ramez Azoury '49** passed away in January 2013. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Azoury family.



In the memory of our beloved friend **Mark Sawaya '99**, who passed away and left us too early. Mark, also called affectionately Markus, was known for always being cheerful, generous...and wearing shorts in the middle of Winter. After graduating from AUB, he joined the Murex office in Paris, working in a job he loved, in a city he adored. Whatever he was doing, wherever he was, he was always the same, ever so genuine and ever so kind. Perhaps that's why he is so special.

Wael Bekdach '99



In Memoriam



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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