



# IC Newsletter Summer 2013



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# Note from the Editor

We're here! We actually moved to the new Elementary school. What can I say other than that it's wonderful! It's everything that we thought it would be and more.

Students have never seemed happier.

The reason is simple: they finally have the space that they need to move and run. This alone has made

them better learners. Do we miss our old school? Yes, of course. It played an important part in IC's history but we had long outgrown it.

In "The Move" we bring you the emotional difficulties of leaving it and then the joyous beginning in the new school.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters. You made this dream come true. What started out as a vision is now reality. Our children finally have the state-of-the-art school that they deserve.

It is not over though. We still have a vision of a new Middle School and annex to add to our preschool and new additions to our Ain Aar Campus. We will be writing to you about those in due time.

For now, enjoy this summer issue. For, in the midst of a turbulent region, it's wonderful to see that our children are not only learning but thriving.

Indeed, our preschoolers are getting closer to nature and making efforts to help other less fortunate schools (A day out in Nature, On a Mission). And, nothing could possibly stop our most popular event, the International Day. We take you on a behind the scenes look at what makes it so special.

Laugh with us as you read the personal story of a mother and the PYPX project in the Elementary school, root with our young gymnastics team who made our school proud in the Jordan competitions this year and chuckle about the story behind Ain Aar's lonely wall.

As for the alumni feature for this issue, meet **Fuad Halwani '07** who is affecting the lives of several young men in the Sabra and Chatila camp by teaching them about filmmaking (In a Most Unlikely Place).

We also continue with our now very popular series: The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan. IC is here because of the vision, trials and tribulations of this one man. We are forever in his debt.

Once again, thank you all for your invaluable help. It has been – and still is – a true partnership.

Have a wonderful summer!

Best regards,



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



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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](https://www.facebook.com/ICLebanonAlumni) and on  
Twitter: [https://twitter.com/  
ICLebanonAlumni](https://twitter.com/ICLebanonAlumni)

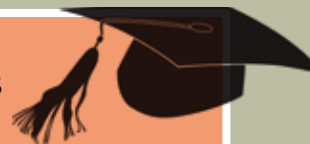
On these platforms, we will be sharing the latest news from IC campuses, current events for students & alumni and updates on our Partnership for Excellence Campaign.

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

Best Regards,

Moufid Beydoun  
Vice President  
Alumni & Development

We will be celebrating the:  
50th Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of 1963 on July 3, 2013  
at 8pm at the IC Elementary School.  
25th Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of 1988 on July 4, 2013  
at 8pm at the IC Elementary School.



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

The IC Alumni & Development Office and the IC Alumni Association announce  
the All Alumni Reunion on July 5, 2013 at 8pm at the IC Elementary School Court Plaza.

For more information contact [symmout@ic.edu.lb](mailto:symmout@ic.edu.lb) or [info@icaalebanon.org](mailto:info@icaalebanon.org)

Tel: 01 367420/30 - 71 686772

# The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:

*Like a “mighty wind that blew,” as Protestant Minister Alexander MacLachlan said, the Kennedys came into his life and became his friends and supporters for the next 37 years. Thanks to their generous donations, the school expanded and thrived.*

*Meanwhile, and for the fourth time since its establishment in 1891, the ‘Collegiate Institute’ changed its name. This would mark its last time. In 1903, ‘International College’ proudly entered the second decade of its history...*

The news couldn’t be worse for MacLachlan. Turkish authorities had just informed him to evacuate one of the leased buildings of the school. It appeared that the landlord found a buyer for the property and according to Turkish law, sale of property took precedence over a lease.

This would effectively downsize the school considerably. It would mean that MacLachlan would have to dismiss a large number of students. Not one to take direct orders, the Protestant minister threw himself into researching and finding a loophole in Turkish law. He found it: Turkish law also granted the tenant the right to purchase the property. The price was set at £1200. MacLachlan put in his personal savings which amounted to £500. He appealed to the US Board in Boston for the rest. He was refused. He sent other letters of appeals and received no answer. Just as he was beginning to despair, he received a small note from a friend. “Why not appeal to some of your Presbyterian friends?” it said. “Of course”, MacLachlan thought to himself. He had many Protestant friends right here in Smyrna. Among them was a British friend who had been following the progress of International College with great interest. The friend immediately came to the rescue and supplied the needed £700. “I am putting it at your disposal,” he told the relieved MacLach-



lan “to help the College out of this almost impossible situation.”

The sale went smoothly enough but the experience left MacLachlan anxious. He couldn’t rely on the US board. That had become clear. He had to find his own source of funding.

One day he heard that Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-American industrialist who led the enormous expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19th century and one of the most important philanthropists of the time, was seeking worthy causes to dispose of his great wealth. MacLachlan felt certain that Carnegie would be sure to choose his humble school in Smyrna. Friends tried to dissuade him. Even John S. Kennedy, now a staunch friend of IC, wrote and discouraged him but nevertheless included an introductory letter to Carnegie. By now, even the Kennedys realized that very little could dissuade MacLachlan once he got hold of an idea.

For his part, Carnegie had purchased a 12<sup>th</sup> century castle, “Skibo”, a few years earlier in the Highland county of Sutherland, Scotland. He had just spent over £2m in modernizing the crumbling castle

and was immensely proud to take on the new role of a Scottish laird. (Today, the castle is an exclusive £1000 a night members-only hotel and country club)

It was to this castle that MacLachlan set his focus. If only Carnegie could hear out MacLachlan, then he was sure Carnegie would bequeath a sizeable donation to IC – thus ending all the school’s financial woes.

Funding the trip proved to be a challenge. Limited school and personal funds afforded him a third class ticket on a ship heading to Marseille. Not really befitting of a minister but, as MacLachlan put it, “a midsummer travel in the Mediterranean is quite as tolerable on the open deck as it is in a third class cabin below,” he wrote in his 1937 memoirs, *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*.

A long slow train journey then brought him to the north-east coast of Scotland – still a few miles short of his destination. Since there was no public transportation in sight, MacLachlan doggedly set off on foot to reach the castle. It took him a few hours on the dusty road but he finally arrived.



# Smyrna (Part V)

It was then that he saw it: a grand 100-room baronial castle with imposing towers, turrets and battlements set in the midst of 20,000 acres of gardens, rolling lawns, herbaceous borders, orchards, woodland walks, greenhouses, ponds and a waterfall. It was for Carnegie, his “heaven on earth.”

The exhausted reverend was welcomed quite cordially to the castle and even invited to stay for a fortnight if he so wished. Guests at Skibo were treated like royalty. They fished for salmon in Carnegie’s streams, swam in his pool, and played golf on the course that Carnegie had carved down by the sea. And each morning at 8:00am, a kilted piper woke everyone up by playing bagpipes under the bedroom windows. The morning meal was served in the breakfast room off the main entrance hall, accompanied by Bach and Haydn pieces played on the huge pipe organ. On the first visit, each guest would be given a spoon embossed with “Skibo” in silver lettering – after finishing their breakfast. Visitors included King Edward VII, British Prime Minister Lloyd George, Booker T. Washington, Kipling, Polish Prime Minister Paderewski, the Rockefellers, and even Helen Keller. But the Protestant minister had no intention of reveling in this luxurious castle with its silk walls and velvet sofas. His beloved school back home needed him and the funds he had set out for.

On his second day at Skibo, he was accorded an interview with Carnegie. It was apparently a long interview (unfortunately, MacLachlan never revealed the details) but the end result was that MacLachlan was refused any financial help. “My visit was barren of any financial gain to the College,” he wrote in his memoirs in an obviously sad tone.

Deeply disappointed, MacLachlan immediately set off on foot back on the dusty

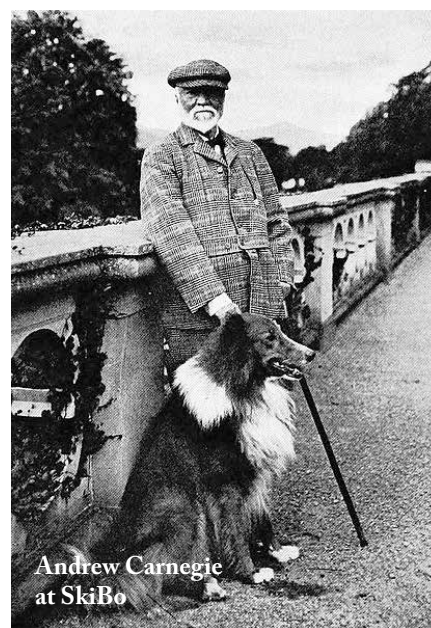


road leading him to the train station.

It was a “fool’s errand” – as he called it. Still, he did manage to get something out of it: the story of his long, lone journey stirred the heart of a Scottish Christian philanthropist who ended up sending the school a generous check of a few hundred dollars.

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; Carnegie’s summer home returns to glory days, Sunday July 14 2002, (David Bear) Travel magazine.*





# The Move

March 22, 2013. It's the last day in the Elementary school – the building officially known as Reynolds Hall. On this last day, it is school as usual except for frequent ripping sounds resonating through the halls. Glimpses of teachers hovering over empty cardboard boxes filling them up one by one is an ever reminder that this is indeed an unusual day.

In only a few more hours, the children will go home, teachers will tape up the last few boxes, and doors will be shut permanently. There is a distinct feeling of anticipation yet at the same time, a deep sense of melancholy.

This building, after all, has been home for oh so many years.

For those who have been here since 1984, when IC took it over from the British Embassy, it is a poignant moment.

"What can I tell you?" says Najwa Haddad, the Office Manager and Secretary to the Elementary school director. "I have been here since the beginning. I saw generations grow here. This is so difficult for me."

Inside, French teachers Charles Tabet and Wael Issa, are in the teacher's lounge – their last meeting in this building.

"Twenty-five years I've been here," exclaims Tabet. "How can I leave?"

Next door, Mona Beyhum, is taking advantage of her students' absence in the class to finish up packing. "I have been coming to this class every day for the past 26 years. My life is here..." she begins and stops. Tears escape. She struggles to hold them back. It is just too emotional.

In a corner of the class there is a 'suitcase of memories' – the brainchild of Elementary school Director, Julia Kozak. Students had filled the suitcase with little 'memorabilia' to help them in their transition.

Arabic teacher, Lina Oueidat, walks down the hallway – children in tow. "I'm excited," she says, "but sad. I've become attached to this building. But change is good. It's better for the students."

The students themselves seem excited.

"But can we take the monkey bars with



us?" asks one. "I don't want to leave them here."

The child is quickly assured that there are other monkey bars in the new school.

At 2:00pm the bell rings. The children start for home. At 3:30pm the teachers leave one by one. At 4:15 Kozak walks out the door and heads home.

As she walks past the green gate, she pauses to look at the building and blinks tears away. The school had captured her heart 11 years ago when she arrived from Canada. They are precious years to her. "This is it," she says to herself. "This is the last time I walk out of this door."

It's been a good twenty nine years. The sparkling new Elementary school is on the hill just above. Its glass – some of it tinted – glitters under the sun. Inside, green, pink and blue walls await the children. Brand new desks and chairs await its new occupants. The old furniture was left behind. Teachers will only be bringing with them books and essential material.

Two weeks later, excited children arrive at the new Elementary school. The rain hardly dampens their enthusiasm. Wide eyed preschoolers look across their playground in surprise. Cardboard walls had blocked the view of the construction site for the past two years. Now, suddenly, the wall is down and there is another play-





ground adjoined to theirs. Moreover, there are strange children in that playground.

Who could they be?

"They are ACS (American Community School) kids of course," one preschooler is heard explaining. The rest of the preschoolers nod in agreement.

The elementary school children are guided to their respective classes. As children do, they seem to have already taken a quick familiarity to it. There are still many corners to explore and halls to speed through. The adventure has just begun.

Teachers seemed to have gotten over any melancholy as they proudly led their charges on a tour of the school. Beyhum, followed by her young students, waves cheerfully. The suitcase had been opened and the little 'memories' distributed. Hana Bekdache, Assistant to the Director, greets visitors with a beaming smile. "I feel so happy," she says. "It's like I have moved to a new home. It's a fresh new start."

Kozak, of course, is on hand to welcome the children. She's been back to the old Elementary School to collect some things and is relieved to report that the building without the 'IC family' is just an empty shell. "This is where we belong," she says firmly.

IC President, John Johnson, is the first to make it to the playground for the ribbon cutting ceremony to take place that morning. But it is still raining. Not that it fazes him. "My mother always told me that rain



is good luck," he says.

He looks around in silence. Since his arrival in Lebanon seven years ago, building this school and scrutinizing the details has been a main preoccupation. He had to worry about every single detail. But the last chapter is this: plotting the details of the move. There were many worries for this day. Is it the right day for the move? Are the teachers ready? Is the right furniture in place? Will IC drop off times drastically congest Ras Beirut?

All, it seems, went perfectly as planned.

"I feel so good," he says. "The kids are in

school, the traffic worked, the children are excited."

He pauses.

"It was a dream. And here we are."

At 9:00 am sharp, IC Directors and several board members joined the President to cut the inauguration ribbon. As if by cue, the rain suddenly lets up. Students file out to the playground. Some stand on the stairs, some on the walkway above and some stand with squished faces against their classroom windows overlooking the playground.

The honor of cutting the ribbon went to Board Member **Imad Taher '58** and his second grade grandson, Imad. As the Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, he has been overseeing and approving every step of this project.

"We wanted to have a beautiful school for beautiful children like yourselves," he tells the gathered youngsters. "Study well and succeed. This is for you."

As the children return to their classes, Johnson and Taher walk slowly up the stairs.

"It's all been worth it, hasn't it?" Johnson says. Taher nods silently as the two men make their way back to the main campus. Phase Number I – the building and moving to a new Elementary school is over.

Just below, the old Elementary School stands forlorn. The usually impeccably clean entrance is littered by flying debris. The building was now a solid part of IC's history.







# The Lonely Wall

*Once upon a time, there was a wall in IC's Ain Aar campus that was drab and white.*

*Nobody liked it much. The children didn't play with it or look at it. So the wall cried. One little boy heard the crying and told his friends: the wall is crying. "What do you want 'wall'?" asked the children, "why are you crying?"*

*"Because I'm drab and white," cried out the wall. "We'll make it all better," cried the children. And so they set to work. They thought and drew. And finally, they made all kinds of beautiful colors for the lonely wall....*

It so happened that the PYP lines of inquiry for that unit was about communities. Each member of the community had a role to play including the second graders themselves. Somehow, they had to beautify the wall and make IC Ain Aar a prettier school. The students and their art teacher, Lara Mansour, set to work brainstorming ideas. Since they were studying the work of artist Gustave Klimt, why not draw the infamous Tree of Life as a mural?

The work began. "The students did the work," said Mansour. "My responsibility was to prepare the wall."

No sooner had she drawn the tree and painted the base in black, than the students – 92 in all – began cutting and coloring different shaped circles to "hang" on the tree. They dabbled in different graduated hues using soft and wax pastels "with colors ranging from warm to cool," explained Mansour.

Once the circles were ready, parents – as 'members of the community with a role to play' were asked to help out.

For a week, during art class, parents and children could be seen deciding where the circles should be placed on the wall and pasting them accordingly.

"It wasn't pretty before," said Lea Chamaa, 7, who was one of the students working diligently on the wall. "Now, it's beautiful."

But according to Ralph Etyemezian, 7, the other walls "will now get jealous, we have to work on them too."

Mansour is already on top of that. Plans are already underway to decorate the other walls. But not before the dull cement stairs are decorated with mosaics that grade 3 are currently preparing.

*And the wall was not lonely anymore....*





# A mother, three fifth graders and PYPX

So, the good intentioned mother, at the constant urging of her daughter, decides to help out the fifth graders research their PYPX project. The subject chosen is street children in Lebanon. Among their quest is to find out if these children are exposed to drugs. The mother takes the three fifth graders: one boy and two girls to the Ho-beish Police station – the headquarters for Drug Enforcement in Beirut. The officer who usually faces hardcore drug addicts finds himself under the scrutiny of three wide-eyed children, each armed with a list of questions. He launches into a lengthy explanation of the types of drugs used in Lebanon and its dangers. Before long, other curious officers on the floor begin to outdo themselves in wanting to provide information to the youngsters. The biggest attraction is a wide display of drugs used in the country.

“You see this?” asks the officer. “This is heroin. Very bad. The worst. And this, this is cannabis. Sometimes people sneak this out of the country by hiding it in carbon paper. Now, this stuff here is....”

“What’s ‘carbon paper?’” asks one child.

“You know, to copy from,” replies the officer. “Now this drug is called....”

“What do you mean ‘copy from?’” asks another child.

“The paper you put between papers,” the officer replies. “Now about this drug...”

“Why do you put it between the papers?” continues a child.

Sighing, the officer goes to his office and brings back some carbon paper.

“This is carbon paper,” he says. “Now about this drug...”

“How does it work?” asks a child.

The officer walks back to his office and brings out a notebook and gently places the carbon between the paper and writes a letter. He then shows the children the copy.

“See? Carbon paper,” he says. “Now, these drugs here...”



“Does it work with a pencil as well?” asks a child.

“Well, we only use ink at the station here so I’ve never tried it,” he says. “You see these pills here, these are...”

“Can we try and see if pencils work?” asks a child.

The officer walks back to the office and gets a pencil. The children gather excitedly to see if the ‘experiment’ works. It doesn’t.

“What if we used different colored ink?” one child inquires.

But there is only blue ink at the station. The officer quickly disposes of the carbon paper. “Now about cannabis...” he begins hesitantly.

The next day, the mother, proud of herself that she was able to help out her daughter and friends in their research, takes her daughter to the Security Generale Headquarters to get her passport renewed. As the mother waits her turn patiently, she suddenly hears an excited shriek from her daughter. She turns to see her precious fifth grader pointing to a few officers taking notes. “Look mom!” the daughter practically shouts in the middle of the Security Generale lobby filled with all the good law enforcement officers. “Look! The carbon paper used to hide cannabis!”

**Moral: RUN don’t walk  
to the nearest exit after a  
PYPX project.**



## PYPX Exhibition

The Primary Years Program Exhibition (PYPX) is held in May and open to parents. The exhibition marks the last PYP project before fifth graders graduate to the middle school. The final project encompasses all the skills they have been learning since preschool, which include research, inquiry, communication, presentation, social, writing, and IT skills. Every PYPX project is required to have an action component. Fifth graders are divided into groups – with a mentor (teacher or parent) assigned to each.





# A Day

The two small boys stood together on a small rock and peered cautiously down at the ground below them. It was a dirt floor. "I don't like sand to get in my shoes," one boy declared disdainfully to nobody in particular.

Seeing no reaction, the boys jumped down from their tiny perch and ran after the other preschoolers making their way into the Baadba forest. The sand was forgotten.

Today was not like any other day. Today's classes for the KGII and Grande Section children will be held in the forest. This means every teacher from the preschool – from English, French, Arabic, music, art and librarian – are holding their classes in the forest.

The aim is to familiarize city children with what they lack in most: nature. "Our children are surrounded by concrete," said KGII teacher, Doha Berjawi. "Even playgrounds are concrete. They need to be in touch with nature."

The idea, which was first implemented last year, came about when preschool art teacher, Joumana Boukhaled, returned from a teacher exchange program in Qatar where they held a 'school without walls' day. Preschool director Ghada Maalouf loved the concept and created a 'school in nature' day for her own students.

"If we want our students to take care of nature, they have to have a personal relationship with it. They have to hear and listen to its sounds, touch it, explore its textures, feel it with their hands, feet and whole body. They need to smell it and see its colors, shapes, beauty and generosity," she said. "Only then nature becomes a friend, a





# in Nature

known and familiar friend, something they care naturally for, only then, will they respect and help protect the environment. They will hopefully act for an environmentally sustainable future."

The syllabus for the day had been studied carefully: The science lesson consists of using the five senses, math by adding up sticks and stones, Arabic by naming and writing the Arabic terminology of collected objects, art by creating portraits from items found on the ground and music by rubbing stones or sticks to create a specific rhythm. As for the library, the children were in for a treat as librarian Nayla Ejeh reenacted the story of Fossifou who destroys and then rebuilds nature.

The children ran from one 'class' to another eagerly. Any qualms about sitting or lying down on the rough ground were quickly overcome.

"There was a time when holidays consisted of a summer in the mountains and letting the kids run wild in the woods," said Arabic teacher Hanan Khansa. "Now parents are quick to take the kids travelling all the time. They are missing out on nature."

Indeed, by the look of things, the preschoolers seemed to be enjoying their 'classes' held in various corners of the forest.

"I like it here," said Layana Hoss, 6, as she carefully inspected the petals of a flower with a magnifying glass. "I like flowers."

At the day's end, no one seemed in a particular hurry to leave.

"I wish we could always have classes here," said Maher Haidar, 5. Unfortunately, Beirut was calling. Students piled back on the bus. For better or for worse, they were city children again.





# On a Mission

Once again, the preschoolers were on a mission. This time their quest was to find out the needs of their counterparts in a public school nearby. In other words, they must observe their surroundings, ask appropriate questions and come out with a conclusion – not an easy task for five year olds. But they didn't seem particularly inhibited. "It's a journey of discovery," explained teacher Nada Bekdache to her Grand Section students. "We are going to find out what they need."

The public school in question was a well looked after school and even boasted an integration program in the school for children with disabilities. "As you can see," the director was quick to point out to the visiting children, "our students here are clever like you. They have parents who love them like you do, they have lovely homes like you and have lovely meals like you. Perhaps the only difference here is that we don't have as many toys as you do in your school."

That was immediately evident as the children toured the preschool. While the furniture seemed new and up to date, the preschool classes were definitely lacking in toys and books. The playground was quite large but had one solitary slide to be used by 90 preschoolers. For their part the public school preschoolers seemed intrigued by their young visitors and timidly stared at them. The



IC children shyly stared back. Teachers rushed to break the ice. First a song that both groups joined in with (well, at least the girls did) and then an art activity.

Still the two groups didn't speak. The chance finally came, however, when IC students – as assigned – had to question their counterparts about their needs in their school. Armed with questionnaires, IC students began. "Do you like to play with your friends?" asked Celine Abu Shaker, 5 (IC) struggling to read the questions. "My mom gives me coloring paper at home," responded Miriam Khalil, 5 (public school). "Do you miss your friends here when you go home?" "My mother is at home and my daddy works." "Do you want more toys at your school?" "I don't know how to go down the slide, do you?" "Do you like homework?" "I like helping my mama at home."

Celine diligently "wrote" down her answers as her classmates all around conducted similar questionnaires.

It was finally time to go. The public school children presented to their guests little paper stars and waved good bye. IC students promised to see how they can help out the school.

Back in class, there were many discussions between Bekdashe and her students. The school needed books. How about writing up a few books for them and buying the rest? What about puppets? Everybody loves puppets. And so





the brainstorming continued.

A few weeks later, several students, teachers and staff were gathered around some tables on campus munching on cupcakes. Behind the tables were the pintsize preschoolers. They were keeping their promise: It was their bake sale. By the end of the day, they had raised over L.L. 1m – just enough to buy some puppets, books, and a few playground items. They also painted some tires in bright colors and planted flowers in pots to present to the public school.

Moreover, the preschoolers invited their new friends over to IC. Teachers reported a wonderful interaction between the two groups. “I was really impressed how they got along,” said Bekdache. “Both sides were caring and respectful to each other. I think our students really learned to feel with others and be open minded.”

Two weeks later, IC students returned to the public school. They were eager to see their new friends. With much pride they presented them with the tires for their empty playground, the books, puppets,



and potted flowers.

They didn't stay long this time – just enough to make sure that their peers liked the gifts.

It was a job well done. Mission accomplished.



# Flips and Cartwheels



From a distance they looked like well-dressed school children – looking impeccable in navy suits, ties, pants and skirts on a class trip to Jordan. But a closer look revealed giggling children who would suddenly erupt into handsprings, flips or cartwheels.

Introducing IC's Gymnastics Team: Eighteen girls and three boys ages 5 to 13. The team was only three years old yet it was already taking part in the METS interscholastic competitions.

The competition this time was being held at the Amman Baccalaureate School, where four Jordanian schools and IC were meeting in a 'friendly' competition.

Friendly or not, it was certainly professional. Princess Rahma bint El Hassan herself, whose daughter is also a gymnast, was presiding over the event – at the beginning as an official royal but later jumping to sit on the wooden pew to cheer on the teams with the rest of the parents.

After the official opening, the two -day competition began. The first day showed off the carefully choreographed floor exercises while on the second day competition revolved around the vault and beam (only

IC gymnasts performed on the beam). At the closing ceremony, Princess Rahma presented each gymnast with a small trophy. While the competition was indeed 'friendly', the athletes were nevertheless scored. And so International College is pleased

to announce that its young gymnasts ranked first or second in most categories with Joya Issa (KG1), Alexander Blanford (grade 3), Elizabeth Hess (grade 4), and Youssef El Sayed (5ème) coming in First in the floor exercise and vault categories.





"I feel good," said Lana Beydoun, 9. And "confident", added Lynn Domiati, 9. As for Omar Chmeitilly, 8, "I feel so proud," he said.

On hand was their gymnastics coach Rabiha Daaboul who had been training his young charges for a grueling six hours a week for the past few years. A gymnast himself and a licensed member of the Lebanese and International Federation of Gymnastics, Daaboul joined forces with Ghassan Majed – also a gymnastics trainer – to open professional gymnastics classes at GYMBO, an athletics club in Mazraa.

It is here that the IC athletes come three times a week for their training sessions.

"It's a lot of work," said Daaboul.

"The kids have to love it or they wouldn't do it. I also heavily depend on parents – who also have to believe in gymnastics and in us."

self with a considerable list of potential gymnasts. Still, they may not meet the standards. He visited the athletic clubs frequented by the students and observed each candidate.

Finally, he made a list of eight gymnasts and flew to Jordan. Back in Beirut, the Athletics Department realized that they were on to a potential gold mine, so to speak. Word began to spread. A year later, 12 gymnasts made the team. Today, 18 students – under 14 – are assiduously being trained at GYMBO.



"We are looking forward to having more gymnastics and get the material necessary to train them inside the school," said Fathallah.

Middle school PE instructor, Osman, believes gymnastics will soon become a steadfast and prominent part of IC's Athletic Department.

"We are still building the team and that's not easy," he said. "It's a sport that depends on the performance of individuals and that takes time."

The younger the child, the better the potential result. In fact, the star of the METS competition in Jordan was IC's very own KG1 student, Joya Issa. The five-year-old smiling mop-pet flipped and tumbled in front of a cheering crowd and strutted off as if she'd been doing it her entire life. To make a long story short, IC's gymnastics team did very well indeed.



The program is supervised by IC's Athletics Department. Two IC coaches, Mazen Fathallah and Osman Osman, accompanied the students to Jordan.

The history of IC's young team is rather an unusual one: it was suddenly formed three years ago when the IC Athletics Department received an invitation from Amman to compete in the METS tournament. Two problems arose: firstly, there was only three weeks to prepare the team for the tournament.

Secondly, well.... there was no team.

There was only one thing to do: go around the classes and ferret out the students – if any – who were taking gymnastics lessons.

To his surprise, Fathallah found him-







## International Day

*What only started out as an idea eight years ago is now a firm IC tradition which attracts more than 2,000 people every year. Moreover, it has become the social event of the year where the IC family gathers and chats into the early hours of the evening. The basic idea behind International Day is that students of grade 3, CE2, and 1st intermediate, 6ème, from both campuses (Ras Beirut and Ain Aar) not only research every aspect of a selected country but actually try to live the experience as much as possible which includes learning the national song and dance of the country, wearing its national costume and tasting its ethnic food. From the surface, it may all seem like a wonderful show followed by an enjoyable reception. But little does the audience know that, if you dig a little deeper, behind the scenes, hundreds of students, teachers, parents and IC personnel have been working diligently for the past five months for this one important day...*

**November 2012.** Hana Bekdache, the Assistant to the Director at the Ras Beirut Elementary school and Celine Abou Rahal from Ain Aar meet with the International Day committee. The committee is made up of eight Ras Beirut and Ain Aar teachers, chaired by IC President John Johnson. Together they must choose eight countries - one from every continent. This year's selections were: Kenya, Jamaica, Belgium, Mauritius, Mexico, Egypt, Hungary and Sri Lanka. There are many details to iron out and many people to coordinate with. Books on the selected countries are ordered. In only four months, teachers and students will start their research. Music teachers are immediately notified. It is now up to them not only to research the traditional songs and dances of the countries but to teach it to their students. Traditional costumes for 450 students must be sewn. Parents will be asked to help out. The physical plant personnel - around 40 of them - will be brought into the fold. The scouts must be notified. Certain jobs must







Mishka Mourani, Hana Bekdache, Celine Abou Rahal

be outsourced. What mistakes were done last year? The committee goes over them to make sure they are not repeated. Yes, there is a lot to do. International Day is only 178 days away. The work begins.

**February 2013.** About 30 parents, heeding the calls of teachers to help out in the preparations, show up to the first meeting. "We need your help," explains Bekdache, "We can't do this alone."

Parents are divided and groups created: some will help students with their research (culture, history, tourism, climate, food, customs, etc.) and others will arrange and man the stands as well as provide the feasts.

"But parents, please remember not to go over the top," continues Bekdache. "Keep it simple but creative."

**March 2013.** Parents show up ready to work with students for three hours a day for a full week. Parents and students delve into the library and internet. Before long, the countries captivate both adults and children. Passersby would find mothers and children enthusiastically creating posters and displays.

A few weeks later .... Group by group, students present their findings. Some memorized the facts, some put on a play and some created PowerPoint displays. All were brilliant. Teachers smile in relief. Their charges have certainly learned much about 'their' countries.

Meanwhile, music teachers are busy teach-



ing the songs and choreographed dances to the students. A difficult task. The songs are in the countries' language. Students have to memorize them and learn the dance steps in unison. The music and lyrics are sent home. Would parents please familiarize their kids with the music and help them memorize all the foreign words?

**April 2013.** Invitation cards, prepared by Abou Rahal, are sent out to parents. Costumes are ready and sent home. Some turn out to be too big or too small. They are sent back for quick alterations.

Work to set up the 8 x 20 meter stage on the green football field begins. With the Rockefeller building in the background, the stage is breathtaking. The flowers are in full bloom. IC campus is at its full glory. Rehearsals can now be held on stage.

Abou Rahal sets up a schedule. For the next few days, the voices of singing children are heard all around the neighborhood. No one complains. In the midst of the country's political squabbles and the news of tragic events in nearby countries, it is a welcome respite.

Physical plant personnel are at full alert. It is up to them to set up the stands, arrange the seating, clean up the campus, rotate security guards, provide the sound equipment, arrange for 3,000 water bottles to be delivered on campus, provide and clean WCs, etc.

The last rehearsal is held. The last stand is set up. Everything is ready.

**April 27 2013 4:30pm.** Students show up in all kinds of colors. They are excited. A bit too excited. Teachers are on hand to calm them down. By 5pm, there isn't one empty chair to be found. Enthusiastic parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings, with a sea of cameras, are enthusiastically waiting to see their precious little one on stage. It's all about to begin. Bekdache is

making last minute decisions. If she is nervous, she doesn't show it and is cheerfully greeting guests. An Honorary Consul shows up late, she quickly gives up her seat and leads him to it. Nothing should go wrong. She hopes.

IC Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani takes the stage and welcomes all. Without further ado, the show begins. Group after group take the stage. The children are an instant hit. The songs and dances are performed in sync.

The last performance finishes. Bekdache looks decidedly more relaxed. The second part of the International Day begins: the stands and food.

For the first time, some stands have been set up in the grounds of the new Elementary school. Parents have outdone themselves: delicious smells waft through the school as feast after feast invites one and all to taste.

By 8pm, the crowds begin to dwindle. Parents and their exhausted but happy looking children, still wearing their colorful costumes, make their way out of the campus.

It is over. Physical plant personnel begin cleaning up. It was an amazing evening. Monday April 29. Bekdache is standing outside the Elementary school. There is something serene about her. She smiles brightly. "Now I have to think about next year," she says with only a hint of a worried frown. "We must order the books the students need to read."

And it starts again.







Mishka Mourani, Maya Tohme, Moufid Beydoun '64, Nadine Akkaoui, John Johnson

## IC Ain Aar Spring Luncheon

The IC Ain Aar Spring luncheon was held at the Phoenicia hotel on May 27<sup>th</sup> and was attended by several AA parents, friends, IC administrators and several board members. The speaker was board member and IC parent, Maya Nassar Tohmé, who highlighted the reasons she chose to send her four children to IC.

Most notably, she was seeking a school which would cater to the whole person, which would develop their strength of character and would encourage the children's natural talent. IC was the natural choice. She was later presented with the Partnership for Excellence Plaque.



## The Anwar Al Mulla Gymnasium

Member of the Board, **Anwar al Mulla '63**, toured IC's new Elementary school and grounds – more specifically to see the Anwar Al Mulla Gymnasium in the South Building. He was accompanied by IC President John Johnson and Vice President for Alumni and Development Moufid Beydoun who presented him with a certificate thanking him for his generous support. Mr. Al Mulla currently lives in Kuwait.



# Giving Back

Not too long ago, Vice President of Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** approached his longtime friend, **Hisham Jaroudi '62**, wondering if he would like to contribute to the then newly launched Partnership for Excellence Campaign.

As it turned out, Jaroudi not only wanted to contribute but was willing to give a sizeable donation – enough to name a whole building after him.

“I am towards the end of my career,” he had said back then, “shouldn’t I at least give back to the school that started me off on this road?”

On Thursday May 16, the Hisham Ezzat

Jaroudi Building was officially inaugurated.

‘Ezzat’ being the name of Jaroudi’s father – a hardworking merchant on Foch Street who saved every lira to send his children to IC.

Present at the inauguration was MP Mohamed Kabbani (representing former Prime Minister Saad Hariri) and Acting Prime Minister Tammam Salam. Other attendees included several former ministers



and MPs, Lebanese American University president Dr. Joseph Jabbra, IC President John Johnson and other school officials. Jaroudi was in for a treat when his very own granddaughter, Tamara, accompanied by some members of the IC Choir performed a song for him.

“I am deeply honored to be among such a distinguished audience at this inaugural ceremony of the Hisham Ezzat Jaroudi Building, a timely donation to my Alma Mater, to whom I have an immense sense of obligation to reciprocate for teaching me how to preserve and cherish the genuine and true values of life,” said Jaroudi in his speech. “How could I not contribute when IC has provided quality education for me, for my children, for my grandchildren and possibly for my great-grandchildren which might also apply to hundreds if not thousands of other IC graduates.” Together, Salam, Jaroudi, Johnson and Beydoun removed the IC flag covering a part of the building to reveal the name in bold letters: “Hisham Ezzat Jaroudi Building” Jaroudi was also presented with the ‘IC Partnership for Excellence’ plaque.



John Johnson, Lina Jaroudi, Hisham Jaroudi '62, Moufid Beydoun '64, Tammam Salam

IC proudly  
announces that it is  
the **FIRST** building in  
Lebanon to receive  
the prestigious **LEED**  
Gold Certification.





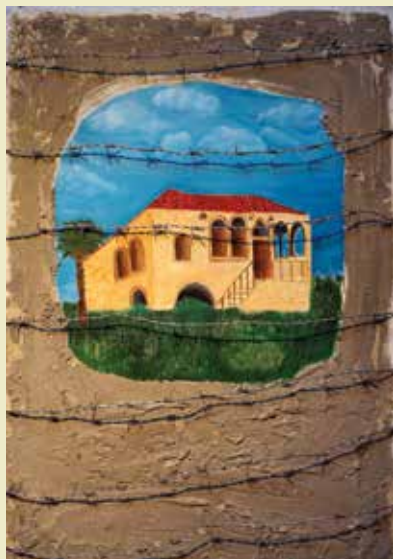


## The 22nd IC Art Festival

### Mythology and Culture

## IB Art Exhibit

IB2 students  
Lara Baitarian  
Lana Barakeh  
Selina Sfeir  
Sara Tohmé  
Sarah Fakhoury  
Chris Badaoui  
Dana Hanna  
Céline Jaber





# IC's Got Talent



## The Inauguration of G&R Irani Auditorium

Tatiana Bondavorich is looking decidedly frazzled. With the looming deadline of the opening of the new Elementary school not too far away, the music teacher is spending all her free time with students repeatedly practicing the music pieces. The Secondary school band is coming to the music room during recess or is it the Middle School? Or has she perhaps scheduled it for after school?

"It's all of the above and it's getting crazy," she said laughing. "During recess, after school hours, Saturdays and over the Christmas holiday. Whenever the school is closed we come. We're here practicing all the time."

The basic idea is for the two bands, made up of guitarists, percussion, piano, saxophone and flute, to play at the opening ceremony held in May. She and Randa Sabbah, the Director of the Music Department, are on the lookout for talent. And not only student talent. Once Bondavorich discovered that a teacher plays the flute, he was instantly roped into joining her band.

"We're meeting on Saturday. I'll see you then," she calls out to him as she speeds down the stairs.

It turns out another teacher has a great voice. "She may sing with us too," Bondavorich grins. Should she ask the school's directors to belt out a song? And would they actually do it? Maybe. It's an idea. The singing, however, comes under the remit of Sabbah. She has three choirs to whip into shape for the opening ceremony. First she has to choose the songs. "Arabic, French or English?" she wondered. "The lyrics have to be meaningful." The choirs will be accompanied by Bondavorich's band. A few dancers will also appear on stage.

"The kids are so happy," said Bondavorich.

"They come to practice on their own. They are giving us no trouble. It's a lot of time but it's fun."

Four months later, all the endless rehearsals were worth it. On May 14, the inauguration of the G & R Irani Auditorium was held. The instrumental band, choirs, pianists came together in a brilliant display of talent.

"Maybe we stop teaching academics and become a school of arts," laughed Sabbah as she stood on stage.

Not very likely, but there was no question that IC is the place to be in Lebanon for musically talented students.



## Concours de Chant Francophone at UNESCO



## Dr. Michael Thompson at IC

Dr. Michael Thompson, well known American author, consultant, and psychologist specializing in children and families, presented a series of lectures to parents, administrators, and teachers in April. His presentations concentrated on entertaining yet informative lectures dealing with child behavior and how parents, teachers and administrators can help students succeed. He offered a morning session for administrators and counselors using case studies to look at normal and abnormal behavior. He presented useful guidelines to help the counselors interpret and deal with each of them. This session was followed by a session for parents entitled "The Pressured Child" with time set aside for questions and answers and another one for teachers who attended an interactive presentation on some of the challenges they face at school.





# Dinners & Events



Raya Jallad Saadi '61, John McCarthy, John Johnson, Fouad Malouf '56



Basem Ziadeh '69, Adnan Kronfol '65, Moufid Beydoun '64, Zeki Beydoun '66

## London

In March, IC President John Johnson and Vice President Alumni & Development Moufid Beydoun '64 travelled to London

and hosted a lunch at China Tang restaurant. Many alumni and friends of IC attended, including Board members **Fouad Malouf '56** and John McCarthy.

## Geneva

In what has become a yearly event, IC President John Johnson and Vice President Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** travelled to Geneva in March accompanied by Development Officer Nadine Akkaoui to attend an IC alumni/friends reception sponsored by Bank Audi and organized by John McCarthy.



## Saudi Arabia

In April, Vice President Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** travelled to Saudi Arabia where he met with various alumni. His first stop was in Jeddah where he met with many alumni and friends who showed great interest in the future plans of IC and generously contributed in the Partnership for Excellence Campaign.

In Riyadh, Mr. Beydoun met with many alumni and attended an IC alumni/friends dinner hosted by **Mohammad Rayess '65**. Again, all were very excited to hear about the latest developments at IC and wanted to contribute to the campaign.



**Top right picture:**

Mohammed Majzoub '91, Rabih Haout '88, Mohamed Kabbani '91, Mohamed Rayess '67, Hisham Kalo '87, Bachir Barghout '65

**Bottom right picture:**

Saleh El Khalidy '74, Bassam Badran '76, Amer Mahmassani '77, Hassan Turk '63, Moufid Beydoun '64, Nabil Turk '69



In al Khobar, Mr. Beydoun met with several alumni and attended a lunch hosted by **Ramzi Shami '64** - also attended by several alumni and friends.

**Standing:** Ramzi Shami '64, Roy Spiridon '02, Moufid Beydoun '64, Ghassan Spiridon '68, Georges Saadeh '54, Mounir Haddad '72, Walid Captan '78, Dimitri Salameh '62  
**Seated:** Randa Captan, Bernadette Shami, Mona Haddad



## Washington DC

IC president John Johnson flew to Washington DC in April to attend a reception for IC alumni and friends hosted by **Nizar Zakka '85** and **Ghinwa Zantout '86**. It was a wonderful chance to reminisce and update attendees on the latest exciting news of IC: the move to the new Elementary school buildings.



# In a most unlikely place

In a most unlikely place and in a most unlikely building, **Fuad Halwani '07** can be found every Wednesday afternoon for three hours standing among teenage boys explaining with great zest the wonderful art of filmmaking.

The place is the poverty stricken and congested Palestinian camp of Sabra and Chatila – home for thousands of Palestinian refugees, poor Lebanese and the most recent arrivals: Syrian refugees.

The boys – aged 15 to 23 – are students of the electronic school run by the JCC (Joint Christian Council) which runs many programs in refugee camps throughout the country in the aim of equipping young refugees and underprivileged Lebanese with some kind of skill. Usually, once classes are over for the day, the boys leave the school and wander aimlessly around the camp. Some may find a tiny space to kick a ball, others go back to their overcrowded homes and yet others prefer just to loiter around.

Truth be told, life in and around the camp is – for the lack of a more descriptive word – dreary. The future is bleak. Refugees are barred from working in over 70 skilled jobs and unemployment rates for the Lebanese are high, particularly for the Lebanese youth which stood at 22% in 2007.

But for the past few weeks, these boys have not been thinking of the camp or their future. For they have discovered something new in themselves. Something which makes them feel rather special: they are learning to act, write, film and edit.

The last thing on Halwani's mind was to volunteer his time at the camp. He had never even heard of JCC until he met a young German theology student, Anna Steinke, who was studying at NEST (Near East School of Theology). They got to talking. As an exchange student, Steinke had already visited the JCC center in the camp and was struck by the boys. No sooner did she find out that Halwani was a filmmaker did she suggest the idea of him starting an acting and filmmaking class for the boys. JCC was thrilled and offered its premises.

Before he knew it, Halwani found himself in the impoverished camp offering the boys a chance to learn how to make films. Would these underprivileged boys even want to learn this rather luxurious art usu-

ally reserved for the more elite? And, quite honestly, what for, he thought to himself. But he would prove himself wrong. The boys' enthusiasm took Halwani aback.

"It was a challenge at the beginning" said Halwani. "The whole idea was too distant for them. But they wanted to learn everything and I realized that I really wanted to teach them everything."

Every session sees new activities. "They write stories, they tell them, act them out, direct them and film them," he continued. "Sometimes, they go out in the camp and film things as well."

The equipment is simple: their mobile telephones and flash drives. Everything is filmed with the phones and then downloaded onto flash drives for viewing.

At the beginning, the boys were continuously joking. But with time, they began to take it more seriously. Even the JCC school personnel have reported a distinctive change in the boys during the electronic classes. They are more attentive, motivated and mature.



Before long, budding actors, writers and filmmakers began to appear. Hassan Asfar, 15, seems to be a born actor. He can improvise with conviction any scene given to him. "I didn't know I could act," he said proudly. "I'd love to become an actor. But I don't think I will have the opportunity." Mahmoud Abou Sbeih, 23, eagerly waits for Wednesday afternoons to learn about filming. "I've always wanted to do this. I love it," he said. "It's great to learn something new."

When Halwani had to travel to Europe for two weeks, another IC graduate volunteered to take his place. **Sany Abdul Baki '06**, a theater major in London, took over the class and then became part of the team. Both men discovered their love for filmmaking and acting while taking theatre classes with IC drama teacher, Riad Chirazi, during their Secondary school days. They decided their future career there and then. At the end of the course, Halwani hopes to produce a short film; written, acted, filmed and edited by the boys. The film,

which will be shot professionally, is hoped to be aired in festivals around the world.

"Teaching these boys has been an amazingly enriching experience for me," said Halwani. "Sometimes it's tough and sometimes I have to put an extra effort to get my message across. But to see them grasp it and enjoy it, is so rewarding. This is something that happens once in a lifetime."

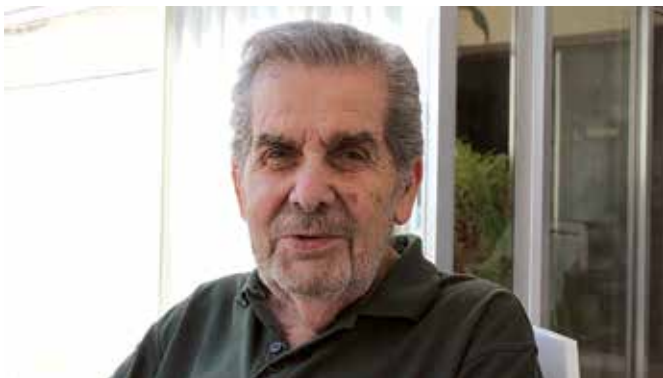




# Updates

‘42

**ZuhairAnnab** sends this photo. “I still have vivid memories of IC. I am 90 years old now, and thank God for my good health. Please visit my website at [zuhairannab.com](http://zuhairannab.com). Please pass my congrats to 2013 graduates. God bless.”



On AUB Beach, c1954

Walid Makarem, Nicolas Khairallah, Mohammad Hamidy, Elie Tabbakh, Abdelrahman Addoun

Up left: Najem

‘53

**AbdurRahmanSaghir** is a Consultant in Weed Management and will be attending the European Weed Research Council meetings in Samsun, Turkey June 22-28, 2013. He is the grandfather of one year old, Aya, (daughter of son Bachir and his wife Hiam Chmailtelly) and to three months old twins AbdurRahman and Noura (son and daughter of his son Mazen and wife Ghina Mumtaz)



Zahleh, c 1954

Nicolas Khairallah, Nazarian, Maroun Azar

‘54

**Nicholas Khairallah** sends the following photos:



Handbook  
year 1960



Excursion with 5eme CLASS

Abdel RahmanAddoun, ElieTabbakhAtassi

Background Nicolas Khairallah

“We would like to have more information about graduates from French section from the years 1959-1960-1961,” writes Nicolas Khairallah. Email: [nicolaskhairallah@gmail.com](mailto:nicolaskhairallah@gmail.com)

‘56

**Elie Antoine Schnaoui** has the pleasure to announce the engagement of his son Alexander (in Shanghai where he is a Senior Officer for THE HAVAS GROUP WORLDWIDE) to Alex Baillie US/Canadian Citizen of Swedish descent, to be wed in Sweden next summer 2014; also the recent publication in the United States of his late wife Caroline (CALLY) Rogers Neill’s book-Biography of Charles VII, King of France (1403-1461), entitled “VICTORIOUS CHARLES: A LADIES’ MAN”.

**Dr. John Bitar** is currently in the US and writes “my IC days were the most beautiful days of my life, these were the days that

# Updates

directed our future and our steps later on in life. The feeling of one family under one common roof was overwhelming. I always enjoy hearing about your news & booming success. Thanks for outlining the future for us.

‘57

**Mohssen Sabra** went to Western Germany after graduating from IC where he studied at the Polytechnical College of Aachen (TH –Aachen ) and was awarded in 1963 the ‘Grade Dipl.-Ingenieur in Elektrotechnik’. From 1964 to 1998, he worked at the Litani River Authority (ONL) as Manager for Hydropower generator, and from 1998 to 2005 as General Manager of Slomiasarl – Lebanon. After 2005, he stopped working in the company but still acts as consultant Engineer. He currently lives in Mechref. He also sends in the following pictures. “The pictures were taken of the French section students at the end of school in 1957 at Mr. Leavitt’s house,” he writes. “One of these pictures shows the “classeterminale – serieMathematiques” of the French section.



‘64

**Sami Asfour** is the president of Future Concepts, a Global Marketing Company and a Real Estate Broker doing local and international residential real estate transactions.

**Mounir Haddad** attended the faculty of Law at the University of Saint Joseph and obtained a Master’s Degree in French Law and Lebanese Law in 1968. He started practicing law 1969 and in partnership with other lawyers, he established his own law firm. “My study of the French Law with an English background (Prep. Sect in I.C) was very difficult,” he writes, “but with the encouragement of many IC teachers, I obtained a Law Degree in French. The family spirit of IC is a big asset to all IC graduates.”

The photo is the graduation held in 11/6/1964 in Hotel Phoenicia.



‘66

**Michel Antaki** sends the following picture.





# Updates

**Issa Kwar** graduated from AUB in 1973 with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.

He is presently a Licensed Professional Engineer of Ontario Canada. After a long career in the Middle East: Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in the construction industry mainly HVAC in the capacity of a contractor, consultant and dabbling in sales and the restaurant business, he emigrated to Toronto, Ontario, Canada in 2000. He is currently the Project manager at Black and Ellard-Willson Engineering prestigious consultants in the mechanical and electrical fields.

He is married to May Kwar presently Senior account manager at the Royal Bank Of Canada and has four children: Nayef graduated from York University with a degree in Bachelor of Science; Basel is in his last year at York seeking a BA in business economics; Luma is in her 3rd year as a psychology major, and aLeen also 3rd year in kinesiology.



Photo is of eldest son's Nayef graduation from York University in Toronto.

## '80

**Ziad Khatib** sends the following photo: "I apologize for the quality of photo. This is the Arabic class with the late Alfred Khouri in 1979 Rockfeller Hall room 205 for 6th A class (class of 1980) .



From left to right: Nabil Rashidi, Saad Baalbaki, Saad Azhari, Nadim Ladki, x, Zohair Saba, Nabil Dab-bous, Badi Sha'rani, Mr Alfred Khouri,

Imad Dana, Mohamed Ahmar, Usama Jadayel, Haig Krakirian, Rana Shammah, Aida Azar and Ramia Midani

## '89

Mazen Slim is living with his wife and daughter in Montreal-Canada and will be completing a new graduate diploma in Health and Social Services from McGill University in December 2013. He is presently working at Sun Life Financial, specializing in retirement planning, wealth management and Group Benefits. Mazen is looking forward to have an IC Alumni Branch established in Montreal in the near future. "IC marked my life," he writes, "and I still miss those old good days!"

## '93

**Dr. Talal Jaber** and his wife Mirna AbouChacra were blessed by a new baby brother for their daughter Sama, currently an IC student, and their son Melhem. Ramzi Talal Jaber was born on December 27, 2012, in Virginia Beach USA.

**Bachir Houssam EL-Smadi** obtained the Associate membership in the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments of the U.K. and is looking to obtaining his Chartered Financial Analyst Diploma of the US in the coming three years. After working for the past five years with NBK Capital in Kuwait, he submitted his resignation and relocated to Canada in May. He is currently contemplating an offer with a big Canadian Financial Conglomerate. He is married to Abeer Lotfy (Egyptian).

## '94

**Abdel Kader El'Tal** finished his BS in Biology and MD degree at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

He specialized in Dermatology at AUB and Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

He super-specialized in Procedural Dermatology, which consists of training on skin cancer surgery (Mohs surgery) and cosmetic procedures.

# Updates

He is currently American Board Certified in Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery.

He has been working at Wayne State University as Assistant Professor since 2011, but is joining the faculty of the American University of Beirut in July 2013.

**Alex Ghanous** and his wife, Melanie, welcomed their third child, Isabelle Alexa, in July 2012. "We hope to introduce her to my old campus soon, as it's worth the trip from Melbourne, Australia!" he writes.

**Eng. Shadi Ahmadiéh** is currently working with Solidere–Beirut and is married to Nisreen Mohtar (Interior Architect) who is finishing up two more courses at LAU before graduating with a double major in "ART". "As per the Ahmadiéh's tradition of being educated at IC," he writes, "our sons Fadi (KGII) and Sami (accepted to Nursery 2013-14) are members of the third generation at the Middle East's best school - IC"

## '99

**Cynthia Ghorayeb** earned a BA from AUB in Elementary Education and an MA from LAU in TESOL.

She is the founding partner of *etcetera*, Educational Teaching Consultancy (founded in July 2010). *Etcetera* collaborates with schools and parents to offer supplemental educational services to learners of various needs and skill levels.

## '01

**Diana Zeaïter Joumblatt** earned her Ph.D. in computer science from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie - Paris in December 2012. Her Ph.D. studies were funded by a merit-based grant from the French ministry for higher education and research. Her research during her Ph.D. was on the automatic detection of Internet service degradations on users' laptops and desktops. "On this occasion," she writes, "I would like to thank my classmates and my teachers at IC. I consider myself so lucky to have experienced such amazing moments during my three years spent at IC where I built lasting friendships and unforgettable memories."

## '02

**Sara Mukallid** and Amine Hammoud would like to share with you the joyful news of the birth of their baby boy, Sam Hammoud born on May 19.

## '05

**Balsam Khodr** has been working in the Human Resources Department at Phoenicia InterContinental Hotel, Beirut for three years now. She has recently moved to head the Talent Resourcing section at the Hotel, recruiting for both Phoenicia and Le Vendôme InterContinental Hotels.

**Mirna Hamady** is currently working at Kashida, a product and furniture design company she has co-founded in 2011. Kashida creates functional home accessories and furniture pieces inspired entirely by 3D Arabic typography ([www.kashidadesign.com](http://www.kashidadesign.com)). After a BFA in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut, as well as work experience in branding and publication design, Mirna ventured along with co-founder Elie Abou Jamra to set up the company which is based in Beirut.

## '12

**Karma Osman** is currently studying Business Administration at AUB. She is also running her own line of handmade accessories called 'Rue Des Demoiselles'. RDD has been growing for almost two years now. Karma participated this past December in a Christmas exhibition at Biel, and it was a great success for her. Her items are also being sold in a boutique in Switzerland called 'Moontaha'. Karma is looking forward to developing her line of accessories in the future. For more information about Rue Des Demoiselles, check out its Facebook page (Rue Des Demoiselles) or follow her on twitter (RueDesDlles). This photo of Karma is from RDD's second collection/



**Carine Safa** is currently in her sophomore year, studying political studies in the American University of Beirut. She won the Student Representative Committee elections and was elected the President of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. "Even though it has barely been a year since my graduation, but the memories of IC still bring tears to my eyes!" she writes. "I always smile whenever I hear something from IC, my dearest school!"



We regret to inform you that on June 3rd 2013, **Dr. Munir Shammaa '43**, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and founder of the Division of Gastroenterology at AUBMC passed away.



Dr. Shammaa obtained his MD from AUB in 1951, followed by his residency in internal medicine at AUBMC and specialty training in gastroenterology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He returned to AUB and joined the Faculty of Medicine as clinical instructor in 1957. He then served for 50 years on the Faculty of Medicine, and is recognized as the founder of the Division of Gastroenterology, which he headed during most of his career at AUB.

Dr. Shammaa was widely recognized as a leading clinical gastroenterologist and master clinician. His reputation for diagnostic acumen and clinical excellence led him to consultations throughout Lebanon and the Arab world. He was also recognized as a great teacher of students, residents and fellows. His lecturing skills, bedside instruction, and scientific rigor were deeply appreciated by generations of trainees who passed under his mentorship. He helped numerous young physicians build successful careers in gastroenterology. Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Shammaa was also involved in basic and clinical research in collaboration with his life-long friend, the late Dr. Ussama Khalidi.

In addition to his illustrious medical career, Dr. Shammaa was an active public advocate for national and human rights and a talented writer who published a number of books, reflecting on his life as a physician and on AUB and Ras Beirut, the community he loved and lived in, all his life.

Dr. Shammaa served on the board of directors of IC for more than 10 years and he was Trustee Emeritus the last few years.

He is survived by his wife, Therese Malek, and his daughter Ramla (married to Malek Wehbe, IC class of 1982) and their daughter Jana (IC elementary school).

#### Awards:

National Cedar Medal of Commodore rank  
Gold Medal from Lebanese Order of Physicians

### *Bliss Street Boy*

*To my friend Munir with the smile  
That lights up for many a mile  
Let me offer you praise  
For your most gracious ways  
You're the essence of Lebanese Style*

*'Bliss Street Boy' you have been all  
your life,  
Man of peace, when others seek  
strife.  
Is it Buddha or Zen  
Whence you draw acumen,  
Or from Thérèse, your most lovely  
wife?*

*I'll never forget poker games  
When you fooled us with your wily  
claims  
Of not seeming to know:  
Should you go high or low?  
Then you'd win, and we'd call you  
names.*

*Let me thank you for your grace  
In helping me feel in my place*

*From your wisdom I learned  
Whenever I turned  
For advice, with that smile on your  
face.*

*So honorary consul of Yemen  
Whom I'm proud to call also a  
friend  
Next year on the Côte  
Will we cycle or float  
Or will it be Beirut again?*

*Art Charles,  
Beirut June 2006*



We regret to inform you that **Remy Rebeiz '10** passed away. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Rebeiz family.

We regret to inform you that **Toufic Farah '65** passed away in May 2013. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Farah family.

In Memoriam



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