



# IC Newsletter WINTER 2016



  
**Happy  
Holidays!**  


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# Note from the Editor

A new face greets from these pages. Allow me to introduce myself, fresh off the plane from Geneva and a role at the International Committee of the Red Cross. My name is Chris Greenwood, I am a British citizen and I am here to work with Moufid Beydoun and his colleagues building relationships with our enthusiastic (amazingly enthusiastic) alumni and parents. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to serve the cause of education in Lebanon and I cannot emphasize enough how warmly and sincerely I have been welcomed by all those I have had the pleasure to meet.



We have many things to share with you. First, our pride and joy this year: our newly completed Anwar Al Mulla Sports field in Ain Aar. The scene of our children playing in this field with the backdrop of Lebanese villages is breathtaking. Thank you for making this happen.

Our second exciting announcement is that the construction of our new Middle School and Preschool buildings is well underway and should be completed by the end of 2017.

In this issue, we bring many exciting articles to you. First and foremost is IC's first US university tour. Not only were our students exposed to the options of universities abroad but it was an excellent way to put IC on the college map.

Then please do read about the remarkable contributions of Dr. Michael Fakih, a parent, and May El-Khalil, a grandparent, who have made a huge difference in our community, each in his and her own way.

And for those who still remember and cherish their old teachers, we bring you Nadi Nader, IC's beloved Math teacher who always believed in his students and never accepted any failures. Until this day, his students continue to say, "if it wasn't for Mr. Nader we wouldn't have been as successful as we are today."

Finally, read about how a handful of Ain Aar students managed to make a video clip about their beloved school and a teenager at our Ras Beirut campus who published her first book.

And, of course, we continue with our very popular Alexander MacLachlan series.

We wish you all a Happy Holiday and the very best to you and your loved ones.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greenwood".

*Christopher A Greenwood, PhD  
Vice President & Director for Advancement*

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For comments or suggestions, email us at [rhaddad@ic.edu.lb](mailto:rhaddad@ic.edu.lb)



# The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:

Alexander MacLachlan



Rev Dr. Alexander MacLachlan (center 3rd row) surrounded by faculty and students

**B**y 1915, Turkey stood staunchly on the side of Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As WWI raged on, ethnic divisions widened and Armenians, who were already being viewed with suspicion, are said to have sided with the Russians. On April 24, 1915, Talaat Pasha \*, the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire, ordered the arrest of over 250 Armenian intellectuals and politicians in Istanbul, including several deputies in the Ottoman Parliament – most of whom were later killed.

In May, the Ottoman Parliament passed legislation authorizing the deportation of

Armenians from the empire as part of Tehcir Law. Throughout the summer and autumn of 1915, Armenian civilians were removed from their homes and marched through the valleys and mountains of Eastern Anatolia toward desert concentration camps. It is estimated that well over a million Armenians were slaughtered or died on the marches. \*\*

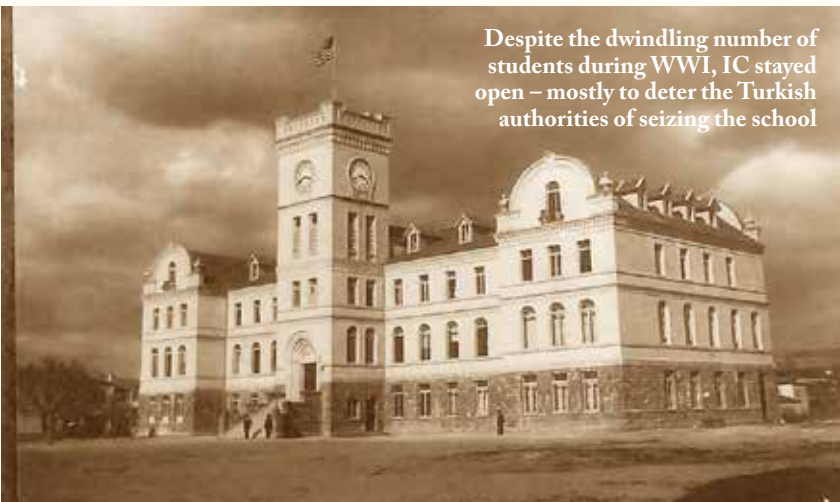
Tens of thousands of orphans, however, found some refuge in the protection of foreign missionaries...

Protestant Minister Rev. Alexander MacLachlan was having his lunch in the dining room of the school building, when two small boys were ushered in. They looked to be about 9 or 10. They were accompanied by the Protestant pastor of the Armenian Evangelical congregation. "Here are two new students for you!" said the pastor.

MacLachlan, looking up from his lunch and seeing that the boys were too young for his preparatory school, jokingly answered, "Full pay of course!"

On a closer look, the boys looked forlorn and their appearance seemed haggard. They were wearing native homespun long gowns with a light girdle of the same material tied about the waist. They had cotton underclothing and were barefooted and bareheaded. In one hand, each carried a small bundle of extra clothing, and under

Despite the dwindling number of students during WWI, IC stayed open – mostly to deter the Turkish authorities of seizing the school



# Smyrna (Part XIV)



the other arm, a roll of bedding.

Their names, explained the Armenian pastor, were Muggerditch and Gourken. They were cousins and had just arrived from Erzingan (North-Eastern Turkey) where their fathers had been killed. The village was one of the main spots for the extermination of the Armenian refugees.

Their mothers had survived the massacre and, in a bid to save their boys, put them on the road and told them to find their way to Trabzon on the Black Sea coast. Once there, they were to ask for the American mission. Each child was handed a small sack of food and set on their way by foot.

It took the boys some weeks to reach the Black Sea port, although they got occasional lifts by caravans. Their supply of home food soon ran out but several people along the road provided additional supplies.

By the time they arrived in Trabzon it was midwinter. As instructed by their mothers they asked for the American Mission and were taken to Reverend Lyndon Crawford of the American Board of Commissioners. The 64-year-old Protestant Minister stared at them in disbelief. Trabzon itself was reeling from its own violent scenes. Harboring



Armenian students still attending IC despite rumors of massacres in the rest of the Ottoman Empire

two little Armenian boys was out of question. Moreover, there was neither a boarding school nor orphanage in the area. But, as far as he knew, the Armenians in Smyrna remained untouched and the good Reverend MacLachlan would surely not turn away two small orphans.

It was a three-day journey by cargo steamer but the boys had a better chance of surviving in Smyrna. Fortunately, there was a Greek boat in the harbor that would soon be leaving for Smyrna. Crawford appealed to its captain, agreeing to provide the boys with food for the journey if he would only give them passage either on deck or between decks. All the captain had to do was deposit them on Smyrna's quay. Once there, Crawford told the boys to find the "Sailor's Rust" and someone will come for them. It was there that British sailors found them and brought them to the Armenian pastor in Smyrna.

MacLachlan looked at the two boys. They were far too young to be admitted to IC and the school, barely meeting its own costs during the war, didn't provide scholarships. But, "no argument was needed to persuade us that notwithstanding the fact of our having no available resources to take on such cases, their claim as they stood there, bright-eyed and attractive even in their unkempt clothing and barefoot, was irresistible," recalled MacLachlan in his 1937 diary, *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*.

While the pastor took the boys to the kitchen with instructions for the cook, Ohannes, to fatten them up, Rose MacLachlan dived into the relief

clothing depot and selected complete outfits for the boys. A thorough cleanup at the Turkish bath and trip to the barber produced two sparkling boys wearing western outfits.

Muggerditch and Gourken proved to be excellent students. The cost of their education, about \$2500, was covered by a female donor in New York who also presented each of them with a substantial check at their graduation from IC. The boys were ultimately reunited with their mothers and faithfully supported them after graduation.

Forty-two years later, Muggerditch invited MacLachlan to his Bronx home in New York and introduced him to his Armenian wife and daughter.

Meanwhile, even though Smyrna was beginning to feel the effects of WWI, its residents, Turks, Greeks and Armenians, continued to live in coexistence.....

*To be continued...*

*\*In 1919, Talaat Pasha received widespread condemnation across the world for his leading role in the Armenian massacres. In 1921, Pasha was assassinated by an Armenian student in Berlin.*

*\*\*The Turkish government today denies Armenian accusations of genocide but admits that deportations took place as did some killings – as part of a war – and not with the intent of eliminating an entire race.*

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





## Q&A WITH IMAD RAAD, IC'S NEW HEAD OF SECURITY

**I**mad Raad joined IC in March 2016 with the aim of improving the school's security and safety procedures. Previously, Raad held several senior security positions with high profile institutions including MEA, Qatar Airways, British Mediterranean Airways, Air Arabia, Presidential Flight (Royal Jet) and Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel. He also headed the startup of security operations for high risk destinations such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Central Africa. Raad is a graduate of Criminology from Texas State University.

### Why are we seeing some changes in the security measures at IC?

We are enhancing existing campus security that takes into account both local and global realities. Threats today have evolved from those in the 1980s and 90s. Those intending harm to others have become more indiscriminate, exposing more innocent civilians to the consequences of their



unlawful actions.

It is important that we become more proactive in our security operations. At IC, security personnel are being trained to be more observant and aware of potential risks in the surrounding environment. When considering security, it is necessary to look at the whole, including both internal and external risks. Security is not only the job of IC security personnel. An important feature of the security plan is to raise security consciousness for everyone in the IC community. That means the faculty, staff, the administration, students, and parents all need to be involved. They are the eyes and the ears of the school community and should alert IC's security personnel whenever they see something that warrants attention.

### Why are these measures necessary?

IC is one of the most prominent institutions in Lebanon. As such, it



can draw the attention of those whose intentions may not be in the best interest of our community. Watching the news from around the world is a daily reminder that misfortune, including physical harm, property damage and random acts of violence can occur anywhere and at any time. IC often hosts events that include the presence of high profile individuals which warrants additional security precautions. In all cases, IC events are assessed by the security department for logistical, safety and security purposes, while acknowledging that the school also values a welcoming and friendly environment. Without proper security measures in place, IC is only reactive, rather than proactive, regarding security. In summary, the new security protocols are all about awareness and proper training so we are better prepared to respond whenever and wherever needed.

**What are the new security measures**

#### **that have been taken at IC?**

We are now concentrating on the formal training of guards, which includes classroom sessions on a variety of security topics. All guards attend a mandatory training program that consists of a series of security courses that address both theoretical and operational components of security. These courses include a series of intensive week-long training sessions. Rotating schedules and “making rounds,” knowing what kinds of things to be looking for and observing are also essential security elements.

Faculty and staff have already received copies of IC’s new Security Brochure. Additional security information will be shared to emphasize their role in early detection and prevention of potential risks. The more everyone contributes to security, with proper training and awareness, the safer everyone will be.

**What would you like to say to**

#### **parents to put them at ease?**

No one can promise 100 % security but, as I said, security must be a joint effort. We need everyone in the IC community to be vigilant. If you see something, say something.

I want to assure parents, students, faculty and staff that IC’s security department takes its responsibility seriously and will do its utmost best to provide IC with proper security coverage.

*For any inquiries contact the Security Department via: [iraad@ic.edu.lb](mailto:iraad@ic.edu.lb)*



## IC STUDENTS TOUR US UNIVERSITIES



Seven 11th grade students accompanied by IC President, Dr. Don Bergman, and College Admission Advisor, Marie Assir, went on a first-of-a kind tour of US universities in October in a bid to familiarize students with the upcoming world of universities.

The seven-day trip was a co-venture between the Cairo American College and IC. Bergman and his counterpart in Cairo had already launched such a program when both worked together in their previous posts in Chile. The trips were such a success at the International School Nido de Aguilas that Bergman decided to launch a similar program at IC.

“Many of our students do not have the opportunity to visit universities outside of Lebanon,” said Bergman. “They are unaware of the range of options that may be available to them.”

Those options are immense and increasing

on a yearly basis. Students can opt for small campuses or large ones. Closed ones (with a campus) or open ones (no campus). Ones that are nestled in old traditional buildings and others in more modern facilities. Ones that emphasize liberal studies or ones that emphasize sciences. The choices are endless. It is a matter of finding the right fit between student and college – a task that Bergman believes lies on the shoulders of the Secondary school, students and their parents.

“After families invest 15 years of education in their children,” said Bergman, “I believe that one of our responsibilities as a school is to provide them with as many options as possible when it comes to universities. The family then chooses the one that is most suitable for them whether it involves going abroad or staying close to home.”

The tour concentrated on the New York



and Pennsylvania areas and included the universities of Columbia, NYU, Fordham, Parsons, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova, Lafayette, Lehigh, Princeton and Rutgers. Most of them offer scholarships to international students.

Truth be told, the tour is also a shrewd marketing tactic for IC. Universities receive applications from thousands of schools worldwide. Universities which give daily tours to potential students, see literally thousands of applicants every year.

“Most have never heard of IC, but when we, as a group, arrive from a school from a faraway country, the university will remember it,” said Bergman. “Even years later when applications arrive from IC, they will remember the name.”

Assir, a trained, experienced college admission’s advisor, who joined the Secondary school a year ago, chose the colleges according to three categories: Ivy League, top universities and safety schools – strongly advising students to apply to all categories. It is her job to guide the students in choosing the right university for them.

“At the end it’s all about choices and options,” she said. “It is about finding the right fit for the student. It all depends on what he or she is looking for.”

The trip, she continued, was an eye opener to most of them. “For those students who are choosing to study abroad, it is really valuable to go on such tours.”

Perhaps the biggest eye opener was meeting their peers and discovering that US universities value well-rounded students.

Both Jad Soubra, 16, and Giorgio Saade, 15 – IB1 students – have returned with a sound resolve to get more involved in extracurricular activities.

“I always thought that getting in university is about good grades and that’s what I was aiming for,” said Jad. “But the heads of admissions of all the universities that we visited said that it is not enough. The students that we met think like us and even better. It was an eye opener.”

The boys reported that competition from their peers in the US was stronger than they had imagined. “These kids were really involved in so many things,” said Giorgio. “I am not talking about academic competition. Grades are just numbers but it is the extra activities that tell universities who you really are and the skills that you offer.”

Both IB students are now registered in as many extracurricular activities as they can handle.







## C'EST L'IC AIN AAR STUDENTS RECORD A VIDEO CLIP

**H**ow the idea came about exactly to produce a video clip no one could remember. At the beginning, they thought of making some kind of film for their Fifth Grade PYPX project. Something that would show the best of their chosen PYPX theme: Creativity and Music.

But that soon fizzled out. And then, as things often do, everything fell naturally into place. First, they had to record a song. But it had to be a song where they would use their own lyrics and even play the instruments. After all, PYPX is all about the students' own research and initiative.

It just so happened that Kay Tohme and Joanna Atallah were taking piano lessons. It seemed that the same piano teacher was also teaching Silvio Farah drums. Would he help out with their quest to record a song?

Luckily, the piano teacher turned out to be multi-talented. He soon wrote up the notes of the chosen melody, taught Kay the notes on the piano, Silvio his part on the drums, Joanna how play the Ukulele and introduced Paul Abi Karam to playing the bass. .

It also so happened that Silvio's mother owned a production house complete with a recording studio and, of course, as all doting mothers do, would love to put the studio at the







disposal of the children. After all, she was one of the group's mentors.

It was providence.

The CM2 quartet set to work. Each reportedly spent two hours every day



practicing their instruments. They only had six weeks to learn their parts, practice the lyrics, record their song and produce the video clip before presenting their PYPX project.

Those weeks would also have to include their own research about their theme of creativity and music including the use of graffiti and architecture. The aim was to see the beauty around them. What more natural for four young students surrounded by the breathtaking views from the Ain Aar campus than to admire their very own school?

"Part of our project was also to see what we can change here at our school," said Silvio. "How to make it more beautiful."

All in all, they discovered that they really loved their school in Ain Aar.

Thus, the idea of writing the song about it. Based on well-known Algerian singer Khaled's "On va danser," the students wrote their own lyrics and

aply called it, "C'est L'IC."

"We took a paper and wrote down our ideas," explained Joanna. "Then wrote the lyrics together."

Once the students had perfected their instruments, they practiced after school on the rooftop of Ain Aar's building with IC music teacher, Georges Manoukian.

"We stayed for two hours every day," explained Kay. "We practiced it over and over."

Homework was quickly completed. The song became the priority. "I just wanted to get to my instrument," said Paul. "It had to be perfect."

Finally, with a few days left until their presentation, the young singers showed up to the studio. It took a few takes, but the recording went perfectly. Soon after, they produced their video clip.

Meanwhile, their proud home room teacher was looking on. "This is a wonderful way to leave behind their imprint at the Elementary School at Ain Aar," said Randa Kazan. "It is something that will stay forever and tell future generations that they were once here."

The clip proved to be a hit at the presentation. But even more fun was watching the hits they received after uploading it to YouTube.

Yet perhaps the most excited at Ain Aar was none other than its Upper School Director, Diana Aboulebd, who was enthusiastically lobbying the Administration to publish it on its website.

"The students thought about their school and about the community here," she said. "They showed how happy they are here. It is a great message."

*To view the "C'est L'IC" video clip go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYbJ5AfcKs>*







Courtesy of mybeirutmarathon.com

## PEACE MAKING IS NOT A SPRINT... IT IS MORE OF A MARATHON



**T**he following is a true story of perseverance, faith and determination. It is a story of a woman who overcame all odds, to draw the Lebanese from all walks of life, factions, and sects into a peaceful run. From her hospital bed and with a fate yet unknown, May El-Khalil, launched and organized the very first marathon ever held in Beirut. Some call it a miracle, some don't believe. But only El-Khalil knows the truth. For from the very beginning, there was a guiding hand....

May El-Khalil, an IC grandmother and wife of IC graduate, **Faysal El-Khalil '65**, was what you called a housewife with a flair. The mother of four children (one of whom, Sari '03, is an IC Alumni) held cultural events at her home, gave aerobics classes and participated in every sport available. After 23 years in Nigeria, she was greatly enjoying her return to Beirut only two years earlier. She was already an avid runner in Nigeria and would spend her evenings jogging along the

African roads with her husband, Faisal. On the Corniche, she smiled broadly at everyone as she ran along the sea boardwalk.

But this utopic scene would suddenly come to an abrupt and gruesome halt in 2001.

It was a rainy and gloomy day that early morning of November 17th. El-Khalil considered skipping her run. But pure will forced her to get out of bed and don her running shoes.

The skidding van seemingly came out of nowhere and crushed her ferociously against a wall. She vaguely remembers dropping to the ground. Then everything went blank.

Her memories are hazy but she distinctly felt a certain peaceful pull. It was strangely comforting. It felt wonderful to just let go. But something inexplicably held her back.

Ten days later, she opened her eyes to wires and machines which seemed to be hooked to every part of her body. She met the worried eyes of her family's.



And then it came out of nowhere. "If I live, I want to do a Marathon," she declared.

It wasn't what one expected as a first sentence right out a coma. Still, her distraught family pledged their support. But the truth was that El-Khalil may not make it.

Both femur bones were broken, her hips were fractured and there was serious tissue loss.

For the first few months, El-Khalil was placed flat on her back with fixators on both legs and hips. It was agonizing pain, both physically and spiritually.

Meanwhile, word spread about her horrendous accident.

In the year that she remained hospitalized in Beirut, El-Khalil had visitors every single day. Many of them, people she didn't know. They had just seen her running every day.

And then, one day, a young paraplegic man rolled in on his wheelchair. "I was in a car on the day of my graduation from university," he told her. "Life doesn't end here. There is so much to look forward to."

Touched by such intense support, El-Khalil dismissed any weak prognosis. "I refused to be a victim," she said quietly. "Do not ever pity me. I am here for a purpose. If I cannot run marathons anymore, then I want to make sure that others could."

Launching a marathon in Beirut became her main preoccupation. Almost an obsession. She strongly felt that a marathon could bring together a country divided for decades by politics and religion, even only for a day.

A few weeks into her hospital stay, she asked to see a representative from the Ministry of Sports and Youth. "I want to hold a marathon in Beirut," she told him simply. The representative agreed.

And the rest, as they say, is history.



From her bed - and between operations - El Khalil put together a committee and started organizing the event. A year later, she was transferred to a hospital in Miami. There, she underwent yet more surgeries and started rehabilitation. Defying all odds, El-Khalil began to make a remarkable discovery. She spent countless hours training herself. "I was

crutches, looked on.

"Peace making," she said, "is not a sprint. It is more of a marathon". (This continues to be her mantra and is boldly written on her office wall).

"The accident was a turning point in my life," she says today as she prepares for the 14th Beirut Marathon. "I had met my destiny that day. Now I understand that when things must happen they will happen. I was sent back for a reason."



an avid athlete once," she said. "I knew that I had a strong body. I can and I will walk again."

Fifty-two units of blood and 36 major operations later, El-Khalil was able to hobble along crutches. Upon her return to Beirut, she immediately visited political and militia leaders all over the country. "Everyone had to be in on this," she said.

On October 19th, 2003 over 6000 people showed up to the starting point in downtown Beirut. People from all religions stood side by side at the starting line as El-Khalil, on her

*The Beirut Marathon has become the largest running event in the Middle East. Despite the continuous political turmoil, the Marathon has been held every year, still bringing together all political and sectarian factions.*

*In 2011, the Laureus World Sports Academy awarded El-Khalil with its Sport for Good Award. In 2013, El-Khalil spoke at the TED Global Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. The video of her talk has since reached almost 4 million views. In 2014, she received the Fair Play for Peace Award by the Premio Fair Play Mecenate in Italy.*

*Today, the Beirut Marathon Association organizes the yearly Youth Race, Women's Race, and the Beirut International Marathon.*

*The message remains the same: moving and uniting people through the sport of running.*



## THE 'MIRACLE DOCTOR'

Courtesy of <http://quotesgram.com/quotes-about-baby-hands>

**I**t was probably a “Eureka!” moment. Though Dr. Michael Fakih, known by many as the ‘miracle doctor’, can’t recall the exact second – now 30 years later - when he had created his own version of an infertility treatment. But, nonetheless, it certainly was a ‘eureka’ moment which would eventually change the lives of thousands of people.

Even now, the IC father of two is on the brink of another eureka moment: creating healthy female eggs from an otherwise dormant tissue – a move which promises to rock the IVF world. The first human trial is already underway.

This would ultimately allow infertile and older women to conceive.

Thousands of people have been flocking to his clinics seeking treatment. One couple from Australia even sold their home and made their way to Fakih. Today, they are the proud parents of two-year-old triplets.

“When I see couples coming in, their eyes are wondering,” said Fakih, “but when they get pregnant, they look you in the eye right away. You feel that their

whole personality has changed.”

His amazing medical journey began in 1982, while a medical student at AUB. Under the mentorship of the then Chairman of AUBMC’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Adnan Mroueh, Fakih found a deep interest in the field of gynecology. “I looked up to him, he was my idol” said Fakih, “I wanted to be like him.”

In 1984, Fakih immigrated to the US and continued his studies at Yale Medical School.

Meanwhile, the first baby born from an IVF procedure was making headlines. Fakih found himself intrigued. Still the success rates of IVF remained low.

In 1986, a new method, the GIFT (Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer), was introduced: sperm and egg would be inserted directly into the fallopian tube (in the classical IVF, the embryo is inserted directly into the uterus) and allowed to do their jobs.

“I was fascinated,” recalled Fakih, “it was much more natural.”

That same year, as Fakih was pursuing a Fellowship at the Medical University



of South Carolina and using the GIFT procedure, he found himself distinctly dissatisfied. The GIFT procedure was useless in cases of male infertility.

Then an idea began gnawing at him. Why not find a way to empower the sperm?

Fakih threw himself into the task. During the day, he worked at his job as required, but in the afternoons and well into the nights he could be found at the lab painstakingly working with mice.

The fiddly procedure involved attempting to impregnate the minuscule uterus of a mouse. The nights were long and endless as Fakih repeatedly tried various methods to capacitate weak sperms. He knew the answer was staring at him in the face. He was determined to find it.

"It was laborious," he recalled. "Do you know how small the uterus of a mouse is?"

A year went by.

And then one day, came the eureka moment. His mouse was pregnant.

Fakih had done the undoable. It basically entailed taking out follicle fluid from a stimulated ovary, clarifying it and incubating the sperm in the fluid. This empowered the sperm enabling it to fertilize the egg when both were later placed in the follicle tube.

In 1987, he tried it on his first human. "After working with tiny mice all this time, operating on a human was peanuts!" he said laughing.

The woman became pregnant. Fakih made headlines in the US.

He had just turned 27.

It was a turning point for Fakih. "It built my personality," he said. "It built my surgical skills."

A year later, he opened his own IVF clinic in Michigan.

At only 28, he had already become a pioneer in the field.

Soon after, his version of the GIFT procedure was accompanied by the ZIFT (Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer).

Fakih soon found himself training hundreds of US doctors. In 1988 AUBMC sent its own gynecologists to be trained.

In 1994, Fakih came to Lebanon to help run the IVF center at AUBMC.

"People keep asking me why do you train others?" he said. "I answer why not? I want to share this. It was helping people."

In 1998, he opened an IVF clinic in Hamra. Then, in 2009, he opened in Abu Dhabi followed by another center in Dubai in 2011.

And here is where a whole new story unfolded. For by 2015 the IVF clinic in Dubai became renowned for its genetics laboratory. This included the testing of embryos for genetic diseases (before implanting), early testing of embryos after implantation, and the testing of pre-marital couples in a region where marriages between relatives continued to be the trend.

Today, thousands flock to his Dubai clinic. (100 procedures per year are free for needy families).

But when all is said and done, it comes down to a single moment. Fakih recalls the story of a Jordanian woman who, after years of trying to conceive, was finally given the good news.

"The entire family came from Jordan," said Fakih, "parents, sisters, brothers, uncles – I think around 15 people gathered around us that day."



As Fakih slowly moved around the handle of the ultrasound machine, all fell silent to hear the miraculous sound: a heartbeat.

"There is no reward in the world like that," he said quietly. "None."



## NO FAILURES: EVERYONE CAN LEARN

### NADI NADER: A Teacher's Journey in Teaching Math

**T**his article is dedicated to the many alumni who have inquired about Nadi Nader, a beloved Math teacher whom they credit with changing their lives. Our quest to find him and relay many messages of gratitude took us to a small village in Koura. There, in an old stone house with traditional Lebanese arches surrounded by fruit orchards, Nadi and Souad Nader welcomed IC back into their lives.

*Our main question: You are known for your teaching methods in Math. So how did you manage to instill a love for Math even in those supposedly weak students?*

Nader's secret is simple: he never gave up on his students. "I have never had a student failing Math," he said. "I did not accept failure and my students knew that."

When told that some students are indeed failing Math these days, the 90-year-old became adamant. "Listen to me carefully," he said. "It is not the student who has failed Math, it is the teacher who has failed to teach well."

He took a few seconds to collect his thoughts. "I would often sit in the classroom and observe my Math teachers," he said, referring to the years when he had

been appointed as the Head of the Math Department at IC in the 1970s. "Those who couldn't teach it the way it should be taught, well, out they went."

Math has always been his passion, rather than an obsession. Even as a child growing up in the little Koura village of Kalhat, he couldn't seem to learn enough Math. Moreover, he loved to teach it. At a young age, he would gather the village children in his parents' old stone home, and teach them Math. He would spend many hours figuring out ways to get his friends to understand the concepts of Math. And when they did, it felt like magic.

It was these hours that – years later – drove him to write many books about teaching Math (his books were used in Lebanese schools for many years).

"Just because you understand and know Math, it doesn't mean you can teach it," he said. "You must find a way to enter the students' minds."

He had no doubts to what he wanted to do after university: teach Math. His first teaching job was at the Islamic Faculty of Educational Studies in Tripoli. Students began to excel. Word about a young Math teacher who could teach just about anyone



Math quickly spread. He soon found himself teaching in five different schools simultaneously.

“He would leave at seven in the morning and return well into the evening hours,” said Souad Nader, then still a young bride. “But I was never angry. I understood and always supported him.”

In fact, Souad was one of the village children that he had taught. She had long seen the magic of teaching Math that her childhood sweetheart possessed.

In 1955, Nader was recruited by IC to teach Math. The young teacher, who was finishing his B.A. degree at A.U.B., accepted and moved his family to the city. For the next 36 years, Nader taught Math to generations. His name became a household name. Desperate parents would seek him out hoping that he would be able to save their children from failing this core school subject. And he would.

“Everyone can learn Math, everyone,” he said. “It is just a matter of showing them how.”

Many of those so-called Math failures, ended up becoming engineers and doctors. Nader rattled off their names proudly.

“My students were my children,” said Nader, the father of three IC Alumni himself (**Sonia ‘75, Wisam ‘78, Marwan ‘82**). “I loved each and every one of them.”

At the beginning of every school year, he would quietly mark the weak Math students in class. These became his protégés and his ultimate challenge. His home would frequently be filled with students – whom he would insist on them coming to his

house where he would volunteer to give them further lessons and Math drills.

“Their success was my success,” he said quietly.

And they did succeed.

“In all my years of teaching I have never insulted or yelled at a student,” he said. “And I never stopped believing in my students or allowed them to stop believing in themselves.”

In 1991, Nader retired from IC and continued to teach at Rawdah High School until 2005. Today, he and Souad spend most of their days in their ancestral home in Kalhat, Koura – the very place that he first discovered his beloved subject of Math.

“This is where it all started,” he said as he looked over the orchard just beyond his home.

His eyes suddenly tear up. “I miss teaching Math so much. I miss my students. I miss seeing the light in their eyes when they understand the concepts.”

Nader remains silent as he goes back into his memories.

“At night, during my dreams, I still teach,” he said. “I am back at IC, in front of the class and teaching. I can see it all. When I wake up, I feel good.”

All too soon, it was time to leave the Naders. But just one quick word before departure.

“You tell IC: never give up on your students,” urged Nader. “Everyone can pass Math. There is no such thing as a failing student. A good teacher will see to that.”

**Nadi and Souad Nader surrounded by former students during the dedication of “The Yacoub Saba Haddad Physics Lab”**





## TEENAGE TALK

### IC Student Publishes Book

What started as a simple teenage vent in a diary-like style, ended up as a published book, “Teenage Talk.” Even now, a year later, its young author, Catherine Choumali, 16, still can’t believe it.

“I certainly didn’t start out writing a book,” she said. “It was just a bunch of thoughts and feelings.”

Once that first word came out, she couldn’t stop. Every confusing observation and thought spilled out.

“I am a person who really cares about what people think of me,” she said.

“The more I wrote, the better I got to understand myself and then eventually others.”

And so, day after day, week after week, Catherine would come home and turn to her laptop. With her vents of the day over, she would feel a sense of relief and turn her attention elsewhere.

And so it continued, until one day her mother borrowed her laptop and accidentally came across her daughter’s writing. Amazed, she urged Catherine to turn her writings into a book.

“I knew that anyone going through that same phase would benefit from my writings as I am,” she said, adding that she felt herself growing more serene as she wrote.

“My friends say I am more patient and calmer now,” she said, “which I couldn’t have become without writing.”

Ironically, Catherine hated reading. Books never interested her. That is until *Teenage Talk* was published. And then, suddenly, she couldn’t stay away from the book store. “I have to read everything now,” she said. “It’s like I want to make up for all these years.”

The positive response overwhelmed yet immensely gratified the young author who has already started writing another book.

“I don’t feel that I wrote a book,” she said. “It’s like, instead of punching someone who got me mad, I punched the paper. That’s all. I think all teenagers feel like letting go of their feelings and I just did that.”

*For more information about Teenage Talk please go to Catherine Choumali’s Facebook page.*



## Scholars 2016-2017



## Baccalaureate and Brevet Results

**Lebanese Brevet:** 100 % success vs 76% nationally-over 50% obtained their certificates with honors.

**Lebanese Baccalaureate:** 100% success - 6 students ranked in the top twenty (English and French) for Beirut in Economics, General Sciences and Life Sciences.

**International Baccalaureate:** 90% success - IB students

obtained an average of 34. In 2015 the world average was 30.2. This year's average not yet published

**French Baccalaureate:** 100% success-89% with honors

*Mishka Mourani,  
Senior Vice President*



## New Parents' Reception Ras Beirut

Dr. Don Bergman hosted a reception for new parents to welcome them to the school.





## The Anwar Al Mulla Sports Field and Ain Aar Family Day

IC officially inaugurated its new sports field, The Anwar Al Mulla Sports Field, at its campus at Ain Aar on Saturday, October 29th in the presence of Mayor Jean Pierre Gebara, IC Board







members, administrators, teachers, parents and students. IC President, Dr. Don Bergman, thanked the sponsors and the Ain Aar Parent's Committee. He also thanked the Mayor who said that the residents now identify their village of Ain Aar with IC. Dr. Bergman presented Mayor Gebara with a plaque of appreciation for his instrumental role in assisting International College in its mission of improving educational facilities in Ain Aar.

For his part, **Anwar Al Mulla '63** said that he feels proud to be an IC graduate and feels honored to be part of IC's Tradition of Excellence legacy. He was then presented with a football – signed by Ain Aar students – which he ceremoniously kicked and scored a goal.

A family day at Ain Aar followed where all joined in games and activities.



Anwar al Mulla '63 kicking and scoring a goal



Dr. Bergman and Mayor Gebara





## Apple Day

In an effort to support Lebanese farmers, apples were distributed across both Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campuses.

Apple farmers, who were forced to throw out a large portion of its apple produce, held various protests across the country demanding the government to help them sell their products to foreign markets.

The Syrian crisis has prevented the usual exporting of Lebanese produce (by Syrian roads) to the Arab and Gulf state markets.



## The Yacoub Saba Haddad Physics Lab

Thanks to a generous donation from the Haddad family, "The Yacoub Saba Haddad Physics Lab" was inaugurated in Rockefeller Hall.

The dedication ceremony took place in the presence of the family of the belated physics teacher, Yacoub Haddad, IC administration, former students and teachers.







## Dinners and Events



### Montréal

Fifty-five people showed up to the Kaza Maza Restaurant in Montreal for an evening of reminiscing, meeting old and new friends and great networking. Thanks to IC Alumni Ambassador in Montreal, **Khaled Hajar '84**, who organized the special evening.







Najla Jahshan, Ghassan Jahshan '90 (with family), Khaled Renno '90, Mohamad Saadeh '96, Rana Saadeh and family



George Karam '70, Kate McClintic, Amy Bakri, Fifi Jamal '80, Nahed Ghalayini, Nadine Ammache, Lina Baba '87, Maher Ghalayini '86, Ahmad Jammal, Elise Karam '73

# Toronto

More than fifty people showed up with their families at the Eggspectation Restaurant in Toronto for an IC Reunion Brunch.



Moufid Beydoun '64, Jean Fayyad, Hisham Osman '16, Malek Akkaoui '16, Nadim El Hassan '15, Talal Akkaoui '15, Mia Debbas '16







## IC Dinner in Atlanta

More than 20 persons showed up to Brio Tuscan Grille. VP for Alumni & Development **Moufid Beydoun '64** from Beirut and Kate McClintic, VP Advancement and Development from New York attended the event and explained about IC's projects and the Partnership for Excellence Campaign.





10th  
Anniversary



20th  
Anniversary



25th  
Anniversary



# Class of 1964 Reunion

Front row: Moufid Beydoun, Said Abou Izzedine, Sami Abi Saad, Nabil Watfa, Rizkalla Zeidan, Karim Tohme, Ghassan Saghiri,  
 Left Row: Raja Shaffu, Farid Matar, Hassan Rifai, Azmi Arab, Joseph Shikhani, Mosbah Alamudine, Karim Azar



Top row : R to L: Khaled Haddad, Ghassan Taher, Safwan Ajlani, Marwan Stanbouli, Adnan Kronfol, Joseph Shikhani, Amin Nassar, Farid El Khalil, Rafic Zeidan  
 Second row: R to L: Moufid Beydoun, Souheil Abi Rafeh, Wissam Suleiman, Zoheir Itani, Moustapha Barbir, Elie Baroudy.  
 Bottom row: Nabil Idriss, Faysal El Khalil

# Class of 1965 Reunion

Fifty years after graduation, 1965 classmates met at Faysal al Khalil's '65 residence in Monsef on September 18th to reminisce and catch up on each other's news.



R to L: Omar Chatila, Bashar Ulaby, Farid El Khalil, Ramzi Taher, Yacoub Haddad, Marwan Stambuli, Zuhair Itani, Wissam Sleiman



R to L: Issam Habbal, Adnan Kronfol, Marwan Stambuli, Ramzi Taher, Oussama Bachir, Wissam Sleiman



# Updates

'46

**Raja T. Nasr** received his BBA from AUB in 1950 and taught English at IC from 1950 to 1952. He then went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he received his M.A. ('54) and Ed.D. ('55) degrees in Education, Applied Linguistics, and American Literature. He served as Professor of Education and Linguistics at BUC (now LAU) for 32 years. From 1964 to 1966 he was Director of the Center for English Language Research and Teaching at AUB. He has trained teachers of English and Arabic in 21 countries (4 continents) and served 16 governments educationally. He has numerous publications (45 articles and 60 books) in the fields of Education, Applied Linguistics, and Arabic and English teaching and learning. He has recently been awarded the title of Emeritus Professor of Education from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, where he has taught for 26 years. He has been awarded the Medal of Education (first class) from both the Governments of Lebanon and Jordan. He is currently teaching part-time in a number of universities, and he is a popular public speaker in the USA. He has very fond memories of IC as a student and teacher. He remembers planting the (now) tall tree nearest to the elementary school building as a sixth grader in 1941. (Two of the other trees were planted by Anis Salti and Samir Samaha.)

'56

**Nicholas Khairallah** asks if anyone has class photo year 1955--1956 section Secondaire Classe de 4<sup>ème</sup> A? Please send it to nicolaskhairallah@gmail.com Or whatsapp at 03 668 690

'59

**Dr. Munir E Nassar** just completed writing his second book. nassarmd@gmail.com

'64

**Dr. Ismail Khalil** received the Career and Mentor Recognition Award from the American College of Surgeons, Lebanon Chapter. "The highest honor a mentor can earn is recognition by leading surgeons in the country who were in the past



his students. I am very grateful to the ACS colleagues for bestowing this honor upon me," he writes.

'69

**William Khouri** sent the following photo that "I found of IC Elementary School Grade 4 Mrs. Khayr's Class taken in 1961 on the elementary school steps," he writes.



'94

**Sami Houry** was appointed by the Calgary City Council as a board member with the Calgary Heritage Authority in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Calgary Heritage Authority advises City Council on Calgary's heritage resources, raises awareness of Calgary's heritage and evaluates potential heritage sites.

'01

**Reem Beydoun** and Ali Salameh have the pleasure to announce the birth of their first child, Lynn, born on October 12 2016.



'02

**Sara Mukallid** is currently working as an education adviser at the United States Department of State. Sara is based out of U.S. Embassy Riyadh and is responsible for educational outreach strategies. Sara is married to Amine Hammoud, her long life partner and mom to Sam who is 3 years old.

# Updates

'03



Omar Abou Faraj and Samer Sobh are proud to introduce dubz, designed to make travelling more enjoyable by relieving travelers of the hassle of handling their luggage on their travel day as they move around Dubai. The idea came to be on a trip that Omar and his wife, Nayla, took to Georgia. Their last day in the country was spent dragging their suitcases along with them to the different areas they visited, as their flight was late in the evening and their hotel check-out time had been at noon. Upon his return to Dubai, Omar immediately approached his IC classmate, Samer, with the idea and within a few months dubz was born. For more information, contact Samer (sanmer@dubz.ae) and Omar (omar@dubz.ae)

'04

**Fawzi Saoud** completed 3 years of undergrad in biology at AUB followed by 4 years of med school at AUBMC. After finishing 1 year of residency at AUBMC in the department of Obgyn, he moved to the US to complete 4 years of residency in Obgyn at the university of Texas medical branch in Galveston, Texas. He is currently busy with a three-year

maternal fetal medicine fellowship at the same institution. "I am thankful for all 15 years i spent at IC," he writes.

'06

**Caline Matar** graduated from AUB with a BS degree in Biology in 2009, and pursued her graduate studies and obtained her PhD. In Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at EMORY University, Atlanta, GA, USA in 2015 where she joined the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard in Boston, MA, USA for a post-doctoral fellowship. E-MAIL: matar.caline@gmail.com

**Lea Matar** graduated from AUB with a BS in Environmental Health in 2010, and had an internship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Epidemiology Branch of HIV and AIDS, Atlanta, GA, USA. She pursued her graduate studies at the MPH level in Global Health and is appointed as program coordinator at the dept. of Global Health at EMORY Univ., Atlanta, GA, USA. Lea\_matar@hotmail.com

'13

**Ali Ammar** is currently in his senior year as an Economics student at the Lebanese American University where he is president of the Entrepreneurship Club. He is working with his best friend **John Karam '13** on a startup as well. After he graduates, he hopes to pursue a Masters degree in Finance or Financial Economics in the United States. "Below is a picture of **Nadim Nahas '13**, **John Karam '13**, and myself during our unforgettable fun-day at our most beloved IC!" he writes.



## SAVE THE DATE

An IC reunion will be held in Dubai on April 29th, 2017.

For more information, contact: nakkaoui@ic.edu.lb

The Office of Alumni and Development and the Parents' Committees (Ras Beirut and Ain Aar) are proud to announce a music concert by **Billy Eidi '73**, Composer and Pianist, on **February 27th, 2017, Assembly Hall at 8pm.**



# James J. Sullivan

(April 27, 1921 – September 4, 2016)

James J. Sullivan passed away at the age of 95 on September 4th, 2016 in Greenville, NC. As was his wish, his ashes were brought to his beloved adopted country, Lebanon.

A native of New Andover, Massachusetts, Sullivan was teaching art in private schools in the US when he was hired in 1960 by then IC principal, Leslie Leavitt, as an art teacher and boarding director. Here is where he met and married his wife of 49 years, Samia.

Years later, as the Lebanese civil war broke out, the Sullivans would prove to be instrumental in keeping the school's boarders safe.

Sullivan quickly became a favorite amongst students (indeed many chose to study art thanks to him) and his pipe became a symbol. So famous was the pipe that during the civil war when mail would take months to come through, James received a St Patrick's Day card from a former student mailed a week earlier from the US. It was simply addressed to "Abou Ghalioun" (father of the pipe), Beirut." The confused post office, seeing a card from the US, simply delivered it to AUB. The staff there quickly figured out that Abou Ghalioun can be none other than James Sullivan.

And the loving memories continue. One time, Sullivan was summoned to save a student who was jumping over the IC fence to Bliss Street and had gotten stuck on top (boarders were only allowed out with passes and those whose passes were revoked would sometimes jump over the fence to catch the tramway). Much to the embarrassment of the student, James had to climb up and rescue him. Today, the student is a leading figure in the Gulf.

But life for the Sullivans changed drastically when the Lebanese civil war erupted. As



the battles intensified, keeping the students safe was a perilous challenge especially as the couple were in charge of the boarders.

Mattresses were laid all around the Sullivan home (today's business office and bookshop). Samia found herself cooking for 40 people on one small hot plate while James

provided potable water by filtering it through paper towels.

Other times during battles, James and a supervisor would run up between battles to the cafeteria (today's Preschool), grab food and run back to the boarders. During one such run, a shell fell near them. Jumping in panic, the supervisor somehow managed to somersault and land on firm ground with the tray of food intact. "You see, Mr Sullivan," he cried out. "I didn't spill any!"

Humor kept them going. In one incidence, the Sullivans received a package. Someone decided that it must be a bomb and the police were summoned. The officers promptly put the package near the Elementary School building (with students inside) and before the Sullivans could stop them, shot at the package. There was no explosion.

"It's definitely not a bomb," declared the police. As it turned out, it was a crystal bowl now permanently chipped.

In 1986, Sullivan – a US citizen on holiday abroad – was forbidden by US officials to return to Lebanon. He retired in 1987. Samia remained at IC as the Elementary School Director. In 1992, she retired and joined her husband in North Carolina.

Other than his wife, Samia, James Sullivan is also survived by his sister-in-law, Barbara, and many nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

We regret to inform you that retired IC athletic coach **Samih Chatila** passed away in October 2016. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Chatila family.

We regret to inform you that **Abed Itani '99** passed away in October 2016. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Itani family.



We regret to inform you that **Khaled Najjar '68** passed away in September 2016. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Najjar family.

We regret to inform you **Seifeddine Michel Karam '39** passed away in October 2016. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Karam family.



## SAVE THE DATE

*All you need is*

**LOVE**

*♥ A Valentine Party ♥*

**FEBRUARY 24TH 2017 AT 8:30 PM**

**THE VILLA, DBAYEH**



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE SCHOOL'S  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

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