

IC Newsletter SPRING 2019



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Contents

FEATURES

The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan4
 Bayard Dodge returns to Beirut6
 The Anglo American Cemetery: a hidden gem8
 The Sixth Founders' Day Reunion Bulgaria 201910
 The rebel and Nigeria: The Anwar El Khalil story.....14
 The trees, the birds and the ecosystem.....16
 A teacher teaches: a special Teachers' Day tribute from IC.....18

CAMPUS NEWS

Teachers' Day Dinner Program20
 New Preschool, New Middle school22

DINNER AND EVENTS.....23

ALUMNI

IC Parents' Committte Ras Beirut.....32
 IC Alumni Association34

In Memoriam.....35



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SAVE THE DATES

Montreal	Dinner	Friday April 26th, 2019	RSVP to ICNY@ic.edu.lb
Toronto	Brunch	Sunday April 28th, 2019	RSVP to ICNY@ic.edu.lb
Houston	Dinner	Tuesday April 30th, 2019	RSVP to ICNY@ic.edu.lb
Dallas	Dinner	Thursday May 2nd, 2019	RSVP to ICNY@ic.edu.lb
Paris	Dinner	Thursday June 6th, 2019	RSVP to alumni@ic.edu.lb



REUNIONS

Date	Graduating Class	Reunion	Location
October TBA	1960-1969	50th Anniversary	TBA
July 5	1970-1979	Decade Reunion/Honoring Class '79	IC Campus
July 6	2000 to 2018	Let's Party Reunion	IC Campus
August 10	1994	Get together Reunion	IC Campus

The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:

Reverend Alexander
MacLachlan



Greek Evzone soldiers stationed in Smyrna (Izmir) as the Greek population welcomes them into the city on 15 May 1919.

Greek Premier Eleftherios Venizelos arrived to the Paris Peace Conference obstinately clinging to his ultimate Megali Idea dream: to carve out a Greek empire out of the fallen Ottoman one. Venizelos knew he already had Britain Prime Minister Lloyd George on his side, but now he had to win over the rest of the powers. The conference had five major powers: France, Britain, Italy, Japan and the United States. But the ones who really controlled the conference were the "Big Four": France, UK, US and Italy

These were the men that Venizelos had to win over, and Venizelos knew how to do that well. He was reportedly a charismatic man and a gifted orator. By the end of his persuasive speech, the powers had obviously become sympathetic to his vision to the extent that they were willing to overlook the consequences of a Greek occupation.

The Italians unwittingly helped Venizelos' cause when, angry at being refused some territory, suddenly decided to take things into their own hands and landed some of their own troops on the Aegean coastline. A crisis ensued.

"My opinion," said Lloyd George impatiently, "is that we should tell Mr. Venizelos to send troops to Smyrna. We will instruct our admirals to let the Greeks land wherever there is a threat of trouble or massacre."

"Why not tell them to land as of now?" said President Wilson. "Have you any objection to that?"

"None," responded Lloyd George.

"Nor have I," said Wilson. "But should we warn the Italians?"

"In my opinion," replied Lloyd George, "no." After lunch, Lloyd George telephoned Venizelos and asked to meet him at the Quai d'Orsay.

"Do you have troops available?" asked Lloyd George

"We do. For what purpose?" said Venizelos.

"President Wilson, M. Clemenceau and I decided today that you should occupy Smyrna."

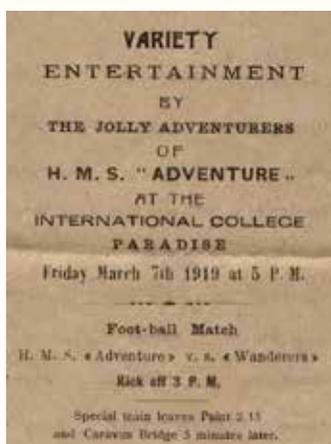
"We are ready."

May 15, 1919

Just before 7am, hundreds of people began gathering at the picturesque quayside in Smyrna. It was especially ornate today with blue and white flags flying from many of the buildings. Stretched across the quay was a steamer with the words "Kalos Elthete," (welcome) with a large bust picture of Venizelos some seven or eight foot in height.

The groups of excited Greeks looked out eagerly in the horizon waiting breathlessly. "Long Live Venizelos!" they shouted repeatedly.

And then, it appeared: a puff of smoke in the distance signaling the arrival of the awaited vessels. As the crowds watched eagerly, Patris, the great liner, arrived first and docked at the Bay of Smyrna. It was soon followed by the Averoff, Atromitos



Smyrna (Part XX)

and Leonidas. As the groups cheered, the vessels blew their whistles.

Greek troops began disembarking looking incredibly pleased at this wonderful reception.

The cheers were almost deafening. Only one somber face looked on in dismay. Protestant minister and IC president, Reverend Alexander MacLachlan had a foreboding feeling. A sense of impending doom took over his whole being.

This is a crime, he thought. A crime which some of the allied powers are largely responsible for. More specifically: Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Venizelos.

The Greek soldiers erroneously marched the wrong way - southwards along the quayside, a route that passed the Turkish Ottoman governor's *konak* and the barracks of Ottoman troops.

It was then that someone fired a shot. The Greek troops immediately unleashed a barrage of bullets. Chaos ensued until the Ottoman troops waved a white flag and the Greek regiment rounded up the survivors and marched them up the coast. They then forced them to board the *Patris* which was repurposed as a temporary prison.

Horrified, MacLachlan watched the Greek soldiers beating the Turks with their guns and stabbing them in the back with their bayonets. The Greek civilians then robbed the corpses and threw them in the sea.

MacLachlan saw with dismay that some of the prisoners were not even Turks but Armenians and Jews who must have taken cover in the barracks. The fez, a traditional ottoman hat, was worn by many, not solely the Turks. But the Greeks wouldn't know that. They were obviously using the fez to identify their targets.

MacLachlan took a closer look at the prisoners marching along the quai and spotted a face he knew well: Lieut. Col. Suleiman Fetih Bey. It was the amiable Fetih Bey who had settled an IC claim for 300 Turkish liras that MacLachlan had presented to the military authorities only six months ago. The claim was for expenses incurred in repairs and cleaning up of the college premises after the embarking of the 2000 military war prisoners, who for three months, occupied IC campus and



The NY Times, published May 17 1919

buildings during the war. Fetih Bey gave the claim his prompt attention and secured a cheque for the full claim within two days. He must have been in the barracks when the Greeks landed. He must be one of those killed. MacLachlan turned away distressed.

The surviving prisoners were finally brought inside the *Patris*.

By now, discipline had broken down completely as soldiers began firing at anyone they thought was Turkish. They ransacked the Turkish quarter smashing windows and kicking down doors. Local Greek criminal gangs joined in

and looted the prosperous areas of the city. The rampage continued into the evening hours and into the night.

The next morning, MacLachlan, checking in on his Turkish friends, drove quickly inland towards Geoztepe and stopped in front of his friend's house.

He knocked at the iron entrance door. No answer. He continued knocking getting increasingly panicked. Finally, a servant opened a small slit. MacLachlan practically barged in and with great relief saw that the family members were all present and safe after their night of terror. Their home had not been looted. But how did they escape the fate of so many other Turkish homes in the area?

Well, explained the family, the Greek neighbors protected them and repeatedly prevented the mob of looters from entering their home.

MacLachlan returned to IC. He shuddered for what the days ahead would bring....

It is estimated that up to 400 Turks and 100 Greeks were killed by the end of that fateful day in May 1919.

On July 18, the Supreme Council (Paris Peace Conference) appointed an interallied commission to investigate the events and acts that had taken place during and after the occupation of Smyrna. Among many findings, the commissioners finally concluded that "the Greek occupation [was] not justifiable." Order already existed in Smyrna and the occupation "assumed all the forms of an annexation."

But ultimately, the occupation had given new life to a movement, which had so far found little success: Turkish nationalism. The fervor would eventually re-establish the Turkish republic and motivate the Greco-Turkish War, which ended in 1922 with the utter annihilation of the Greek armies.

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; Paradise Lost, by Giles Milton; The Interallied Investigation of the Greek Invasion of Smyrna, 1919, Peter M. Buzanski, The Historian, Vol. 25, No. 3 (May, 1963), pp. 325-343; Ionian Vision: Greece in Asia Minor, 1919-1922 by Michael Llewellyn Smith.



BAYARD DODGE RETURNS TO BEIRUT

Bayard Dodge was falling in love with Lebanon – again. A member of the IC Board, he was in Beirut to attend the school’s Board meeting.

“A thousand memories,” he said. “Yes, a thousand memories.”

As he walked through AUB and IC, little did students realize that strolling among them was not only the great great grandson of AUB’s founder, Daniel Bliss, but also the great-grandson of the famous Protestant philanthropist, Cleveland Dodge, whose family had supplied a large amount of funding to the university. In fact, it was Cleveland Dodge who is credited with protecting AUB (and IC) during WWI when, fearing the reprisals by the Ottomans on American institutions, he asked US President and good friend, Woodrow Wilson, not to declare war on Turkey. Woodrow obliged and instead only severed diplomatic ties. Cleveland Dodge was also a founder in 1917 of the Near East Relief which provided food, shelter, schools and protection for hundreds of thousands of Armenians fleeing Anatolia.

Both Dodge’s grandfather and father served as AUB presidents. His grandfather, Bayard Dodge, was appointed as president

in 1923 and served until 1948. His father, David S. Dodge, first served as acting president in 1981 then president in 1996.

But Dodge was oblivious to his family history at the moment. He had become immersed with his own memories. He had reverted to the wide-eyed small blond boy who roamed the mountains of Ainab and Shemlan and only went indoors when he heard the dinner gong summoning him home. Other American youngsters followed suit, each heading towards their homes on the American hilltop of Ainab. The Dormans, the Leavitts, the Smiths, the Crawfords, the Kerrs. Many a weekend was spent with the American families gathered to play competitive games of tennis and evenings spent around a bonfire singing a variety of popular songs.

Those were the summer days.

In the fall, Beirut would beckon the Dodes and the American families back to the city. Life was just as exciting there. As long as they stayed clear of the tramway lines, the young Dodge and his buddies were allowed to wander around Ras Beirut. As they grew up, Beirut became even more thrilling. For wasn’t the infamous spy and KGB agent, Kim Philby, living in the picturesque Normandy hotel

by the waterfront until he fled in 1963? And wasn't it fun to watch cruise ships arriving to Beirut's port to pick up yet more passengers as they made their way to Venice?

And what about the exciting tourists coming in to the country? For its part, the Saint George Hotel, was host to Beirut's most recognizable tourists, including Brigitte Bardot, Peter O'Toole, Egypt's King Farouk among others.

As for exploration, the AUB campus provided ample space for their boyish frolics. In the evenings, the dynamic multinational society kept the city alive with endless receptions, parties and elegant dinners.

"It was the most perfect place for a young American boy to grow up," he said. "We were like goats. We could roam anywhere we wanted and we did."

It was still the age of innocence. It was a time when Americans were still admired in the country. A time when anything American was fascinating and above reproach. So much so that when US battleships arrived to the Khaldeh coastline in 1958, as requested by Lebanese President Camille Chamoun, to prevent a perceived potential all out civil war, Lebanese sunbathers ran up to them in welcome and small boys helped the astonished marines drag their weapons onto shore.

In the background however, strong rightist and leftist feelings were beginning to brew. Regional events had a strong effect within the country. The US pro-Israeli foreign policy was stirring anti-American feelings throughout the region. But too young to fathom the rumblings underneath the serenity of his surroundings, Dodge was living the idyllic youth.

But reality set in sometime in the early 70s. By the time he was 18, many warm smiles had turned into angry glares. Usually friendly eyes stared at him with suspicion. A favorite pastime, hitchhiking to St. Simone and St. Michel beaches (today's Ouzai), no longer seemed safe for an American. He referred to himself as Canadian instead.

Things were changing. And changing fast. The perceived



Somewhere in Chouf (1968) An ideal childhood



Ainab hilltop overlooking Damour River Valley facing SE (1962)

Courtesy of Bayard Dodge

magnificence of America was dissipating.

Dodge finally left the country in 1976 after living through the beginning of the civil war. Back at college, he turned on the news every night. "It was horrifying watching what was happening in Lebanon," he said. "I couldn't concentrate on my studies and finally took a year off."

But the biggest blow was yet to come: in 1982 his father, then acting president of AUB, was kidnapped as he walked to College Hall. He was the first US citizen to be kidnapped.

Fortunately, his father was released – unharmed – exactly a year after his abduction. A family friend, Malcom Kerr took over AUB's presidency. Kerr was assassinated two years later.

Bowing to his mother's wishes, Dodge never returned to Lebanon. The last Dodge had effectively disappeared from Lebanon.

It wasn't until 2000, that then IC Chairman of the Board, Bill Turner, knocked on the Dodge family door. "We need a Dodge back on the Board of IC," Turner told them.

And thus it was that Bayard Dodge joined the IC Board of Trustees.

Now, back in Beirut, one of his visits was to the Anglo American cemetery to pay homage to his great great grandparents. This was his first visit. And indeed, his first knowledge of their final resting place.

He stood thoughtfully for a few minutes in front of Daniel Bliss'

grave. Here lay his great great grandfather – the very founder of AUB. The Presbyterian missionary had arrived to Lebanon in 1855 and with his wife, Abby, opened a boarding school for girls in Souk al Gharb.

During the Christian-Druze civil war in 1860, Bliss and other American missionaries sought refuge in Beirut. While there, they decided that the country would benefit from an institution for higher learning. Bliss immediately sailed back to the US to ask the American Presbyterian Board for Foreign Missions for the necessary funds. He found himself facing the Board's president, William Earl Dodge, Sr.

Little did Daniel Bliss know then that his granddaughter,

Mary, would end up marrying William Dodge's great grandson – thus sealing the two families and their destinies in Lebanon. His other granddaughter, Margaret, would end up marrying Leslie Leavitt – IC's first president after the 1936 move from Smyrna. As Bayard Dodge explained, "The Bliss and Dodge family tree in Lebanon is like the ancient Banyan tree at the AUB Medical Gate. It gets complicated."

And thus it was that Bayard Dodge was born and reared in Lebanon.

"I spent enough time away from Lebanon," he said, "I was always finding reasons why I couldn't visit. Finally I bit the bullet. And here I am. It was time to walk through my memories and roam around again. It was time to come home."

Bayard Dodge is retired after a 35-year career in international insurance. In addition to serving as a Trustee of International College, he is a Director and past Vice President of the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, a member of the governing Council of Norfield Congregational Church, a Director of The ELM Project and serves on the Development and Gala Committees of the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. He lives in Southport, Connecticut.

The Anglo American Cemetery: a hidden gem

Beirut. Today, a concrete city. The only proof that it was ever anything else are sadly yesterday's pictures.

"All this area was once covered with pine trees and agricultural lands," said **Nayla Al Akl '96**, an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Associate Dean of Student Affairs at AUB, showing a map of Beirut. The area in question extended from Badaro and all the way to the sea including what used to be about 1,300,000 square meters of pine forest.

Another of Al-Akl's maps shows today's brusque reality: a mass of concrete with only a few remaining open and green 'spots'. The obvious ones are the Golf Club and Horsh Beirut Park. Some are university campuses. And the others?

"They are cemeteries," explained Al-Akl, an expert on cemetery landscapes who has been working on the Beirut cemeteries since 2015. "Some of them are very old."

A few of the cemeteries, she continued, were actually part of the forest. They were located on the outer edge off the city within the wooded area. Over the years, as most of the trees disappeared due to intensive urban expansion, fires and human interventions, the only spaces left intact were the cemetery grounds sheltering the pine trees – and ironically preserving fresh air for the living.

One, in particular, had caught the attention of Al-Akl and indeed, many historians: the Anglo-American Cemetery (AAC) in Furn el-Shubbak.

From a landscape point of view, it was a thrilling find. "The first time I walked in there, I felt I had left the city," she said. "I couldn't believe where I was."

Before her was a dense pine forest, sand and "a huge amount of vegetation," she recalled. "I really felt I was in a garden. It was an urban ecological dream. I loved it."

In the corner of the cemetery, she spotted a foreign family toiling in the earth. They were keeping up the place "out of respect", they said.

With her landscape instincts at rest, she looked with curiosity at the tombs.



Nayla Al-Akl presenting at an open day held at AAC on October 30th, organized by the Anglo-American Association, with members from AUB and the UK and US embassies, the event aimed to promote a new vision for a green, sustainable space in Beirut with a rich cultural and ecological significance within the city.

What she had not realized, and indeed many Lebanese do not know, is that this cemetery is unlike any other. It is history. It tells the story of the Protestant missionaries who arrived in Lebanon in the 1800s and ended up founding many educational institutions including the Syrian Protestant College (today's AUB) and the Beirut University College (today's LAU). History buffs would be interested to know it is the resting place for big missionary names including Pliny Fisk, Daniel Bliss, Dr George Post, Henry Harris Jessup, William Carslaw, Robert West, Eli Smith, Cornelius Van Dyck, Stephen Penrose and many others.

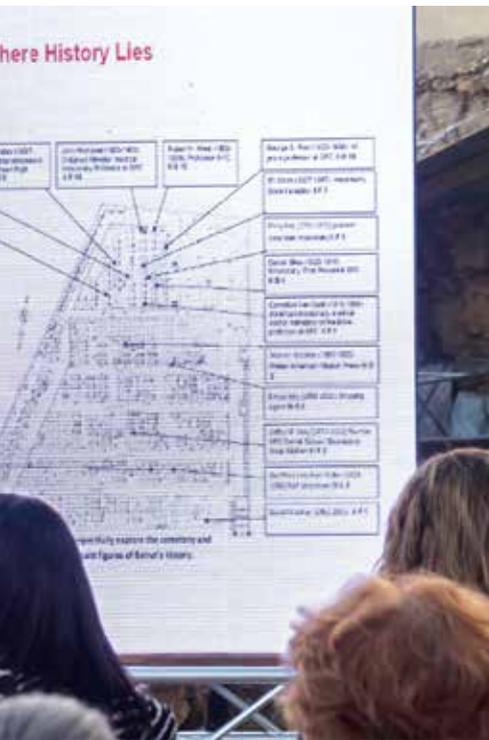
More recent graves include IC alumni **Basel Fuleihan '81** who succumbed to his wounds inflicted during the Hariri assassination in 2005.

The cemetery was established in 1913 when American and British residents of Beirut realized that the cemeteries, where foreign nationals

could be buried, were filling up quickly. (Those were the days when many missionaries would actually retire and die in the country they were sent to serve).

To solve the problem, the British Embassy, AUB and the American Mission purchased a plot of land in Furn el-Shubbak - conveniently located at the last terminal stop for the newly established Beirut Tramway. The first grave was dug was in 1914 – that of British national Waldemer Vernon Vogel.

According to Dr. Christine Lindner, author of "From Foreign Soil to the 'Ard of Beirut: A History of the American University of Beirut and the Anglo-American Cemetery", published in the One Hundred and Fifty (AUB, 2016), some of the graves found in the AAC today were originally from a graveyard, once located in the missionary compound in Zokak al Blat, but were exhumed and transported in 1960 to AAC.



Aerial view of the cemetery



The grave of AUB founder, Daniel Bliss

“Two years prior, the American Mission was notified that an urban planning project was to be enacted for which a new road would cut through the Mission Compound and disrupt the cemetery,” she wrote. “...Although miles from the buzz of College Hall, by 1960, the AAC was the resting place for three generations of the SPC/AUB Anglo-American community, and the University’s second permanent mark on Beirut’s cityscape.”

The years, however, have taken their toll on the tombstones. A handful have been lovingly renovated by family members but most are in disarray. On some, the writing is barely legible. And yet every name tells the remarkable story of the missionary who arrived in Lebanon and ended up changing the very fabric of Lebanese society.

Today, a committee formed of the British and American Embassies, All Saints Church, the International Community Church and the American University of Beirut under the auspices of the Anglo-American Cemetery Association, guard over the cemetery and are working on advancing and promoting it.

Al-Akl is currently working with this committee in turning the cemetery into an urban garden that is highly protected and preserved from a variety of aspects, including ecologically, spiritually, culturally and historically.

For her, the vision for AAC is that of a multifunctional landscape at once “a peaceful place for bereavement, a beautiful garden for contemplation, a place for commemoration, and a conservation site,” she said. “This cemetery links past with present and we need to insure that we not only protect but more importantly advance its future role as an integral part of the city.”

For more information and/or to donate much needed funds to renovate the AAC, go to <http://anglo-americancemeterybeirut.blogspot.com/>



The Sixth Founders' Day Reunion Bulgaria 2019

The Sixth Founders' Day reunion took place at the American College of Sofia (ACS) in March bringing together, once again, several schools established by the same founding fathers: the American Board Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) - Protestant missionaries who established schools and universities throughout the region in the 1800s.

Seven students from IC travelled with IC President, Dr. Don Bergman, Bruce Knox, Secondary School Director and Newsletter writer, Reem Haddad, to Bulgaria. Under the theme of History and Technology, students from the schools participated in various workshops in ACS' new facilities which boasted dedicated spaces for robotics and electronics, audio-visual production studio, 3-D printing and CAD lab, and a fabrication room.

The six schools which attended this year's Founders' Day were: International College, American Collegiate Institute (Turkey), Pierce College (Greece), Tarsus American College (Turkey), Uskudar American Academy and of course, ACS.

Until 1934, these schools were closely related doing many activities together but the Ottoman Empire's demise led for a struggle for Turkish self-determination

and schools were subjected to heavy restrictions. The role of ABCFM and its missionaries dwindled considerably. With the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923 and the US depression in 1929, some of the Board's schools eventually either shut down permanently or relocated to other countries. Some, however, remained. As the years passed and as they adapted to their new environments, the schools lost touch with one another.

At the time, IC was offered several options, among them moving to Beirut or to Bulgaria to be affiliated with ACS. The Board decided on Beirut and accepted an invitation by then AUB President Dr. Bayard Dodge to come and take over the University's Preparatory School. It then severed all ties with Turkey.

It took 76 years for IC's sister school, the American Collegiate Institute, to locate IC. In 2012, IC received a surprise letter asking for a reunion in Izmir (Smyrna), Turkey - IC's original birthplace.

Since that day, the 'cousins' - as they are lovingly called - have been getting together on a yearly basis.

Next year's Founders' Day has already been slotted for Izmir - the birthplace of IC.



Nadim Chahine
 Haddy Alchaer
 Emesa Melki
 Yara Chami
 Kareem Ghanem
 Marie Jeanne Baroudi
 Catherine Daher



YARA



Last weekend we got the opportunity to represent IC in the annual Founders' celebration in Bulgaria. Not many know that IC actually has 5 other sister schools across Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria, and neither did I before this trip, but it was a wonderful experience to meet students who go to schools that share the same roots as ours. When we first arrived to Bulgaria we were taken to our host families who were incredibly welcoming. I think that host families are the best way to experience local culture. Our hosts fed us amazing Bulgarian food and even gave us Bulgarian bracelets in celebration of their recent national holiday. When we went to the American College of Sofia, each school that was present gave a presentation about their school. We each gave a speech about our favorite facilities offered by IC such as the music, arts, sports, service, and others. I loved showing how proud I am to be an IC student!





EMESA

About a month ago, I received an email asking me to represent IC at the annual Founders' Day Celebration which was to take place in Sofia, Bulgaria. I had no idea what this celebration was, nor what I would be expected to do if I accepted. Three weeks later I boarded a plane with six other students, Ms Reem of the IC newsletter, and the mother of one of my classmates, on my way to a country I had never been to, to present my school's story to supposed "sister schools" I had never heard of and live with people whom I had never met. I was, understandably, nervous. However, once we got there, I felt my nervousness turn to excitement. I met my amazing host family and somehow became instant friends with my "student host", Vicky. I got my first glimpse of Bulgaria and, through my host family, was introduced to an entirely new culture with its own unique traditions and strange superstitions. At the American College of Sofia, I gave my first speech and discovered that public speaking is not as utterly terrifying as I had once thought! In fact, I quite enjoyed the experience. I also got to meet students from international schools in Greece, Turkey, and, of course, Bulgaria. It's incredible.



CATHERINE

I have not been a student at IC for a long time and never had the opportunity to learn about the history of our school before our trip to Bulgaria to represent IC in the annual Founders' Day Celebration. All the schools were asked to create a video about how people view their school. We decided to create a video about how we viewed IC which made it very personal. This short yet incredible trip was an unforgettable one. It taught me about Bulgarian culture and even Greek and Turkish culture. Also, it made me good friends with people I never knew I would even talk to. We got the opportunity to learn more about our school and also our teachers (Ms Reem, Mr Knox and Dr Bergman). IC is truly an amazing school and we are lucky to have sister schools that share the same history as us.



KARIM

A few weeks ago, I was notified that I had been chosen to travel to Bulgaria to represent IC at the Founder's Day Celebration. I did not hesitate one bit to take this opportunity. Once in Bulgaria, I was welcomed by my host family whom I found very friendly and respectful. Throughout this trip, I realized that my host family treated me as if I was a part of them and I was so comfortable with them that I considered them my second family. Our presentation went very well, We spoke about our school with all the details and showed them our video. Then, we spent our day experimenting at different workshops, such as 3D Printing, Graphic Designing and Programming. I enjoyed the workshops a lot, especially because I made lots of new friends from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria and discovered their interesting cultures. I would like to thank everyone who made this trip unforgettable: Dr. Bergman, Mr. Knox, Ms. Reem, my host family and the IC students who traveled with me. I would also like to add that we are so lucky to be IC students, and to have "sister schools" in different countries.



HADDY

The Founder’s Day trip, in my opinion, could be easily described as the best cultural experience I’ve ever had. Bulgaria is an astounding country that highly exceeds its reputation and is definitely worth another visit. What truly made this trip so exceptional for me personally were the new Bulgarian and Turkish friends I made during the reunion. It was so easy to connect with them, even though they come from completely different backgrounds and cultures, because all of us share the same needs and wants in life. But more importantly, we share schools founded by the same missionaries, so it is, in part, our schools’ common heritages and history that united us. This was an important point of connection that helped us understand each other’s cultures and paved the way for new friendships. Lastly, I would like to say that if you are ever selected to represent IC during Founder’s Day, it is not an opportunity to pass!



NADIM

Traveling to Bulgaria and representing IC was a trip I will never forget. Presenting our school and the values it stands for really made us connect with the students from our sister schools from Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey. I walked in the American College of Sofia as if I was entering the International College campus. The most important part of this trip was learning the history of our schools, and how they evolved to be the institution we learn in today.



MARIE JEANNE

Founder’s day has been one of the greatest trips I’ve ever had. I’m so glad I got the opportunity to travel to Bulgaria to represent my school with 6 other incredible students. It has been a fantastic experience: sleeping at the house of people we’ve never met before who turned out to be such amazing hosts, bonding with students from different countries who have such diverse cultures, getting to know better all the other students. I’ve not only enjoyed this trip but also learned a lot from it, such as the history of many international schools and discovering Bulgaria and its traditional foods. I really am happy I took this one of a kind opportunity and encourage other selected students to go as well!

The rebel and Nigeria: The Anwar El Khalil story

In 1964, a small school opened in the African city of Lagos. It was set in a beautiful stone building with ample garden space. The children running around spoke Arabic with a Lebanese dialect. The classes, the lessons, the teachers – there was something very familiar about them. Uncannily familiar.

It ought to be. It was a replica of IC.

And why should we not have a replica, thought **Anwar el Khalil '53**, who at the time was living in Lagos with his wife and two children (he now has four). The young father dreaded the separation doomed to come: the division of his family. Like the rest of the Lebanese families living in Nigeria, wives and husbands separated as soon as their offspring reached school age. Wives dutifully returned to Lebanon, children in tow while men stayed behind in Nigeria. As a result, children grew apart from their fathers. Once, El Khalil's own toddler had lovingly referred to him as 'uncle' after he returned from a long business trip. No, thought El Khalil, this cannot continue.

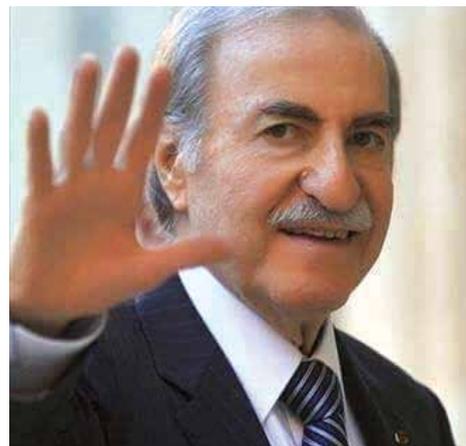
His memories of IC came flooding back. It was the best education. And why should his children be deprived of an IC education?

The fact that he lived in Nigeria and not in Lebanon didn't seem to faze him. "We simply bring IC here," he decided.

El Khalil gathered the leading members of the Lebanese community to find out if they were up to financing such a project? The answer was a resounding yes.

As for IC, was the school willing to send their teachers and directors to create another campus in Nigeria?

El Khalil found himself asking that very same question to Bill Nystrom, IC's then Vice Academic President. "I am looking for an arm for IC," said El Khalil. "Cost is no object. We want exactly what you have here. We want your teachers, your books. In fact you will be the administrators. It



has to be your exact curriculum so that when our children reach grade 6 they will automatically be admitted to IC in Beirut."

Nystrom agreed. But it will be very costly. El Khalil returned to Nigeria and created a board of very affluent trustees. The first board that was effectively the working engine of the project included: Joe Taher, André Kamel, Alex Bouri, Hussein Mansour, Anwar El-Khalil. Most had children. The necessary capital was duly collected and the work began.

As agreed, IC teachers began recreating a replica of their curriculum.

The Lebanese embassy offered its suburban premises and the newly formed board financed the building of a new embassy closer to town.

The first Board of Trustees with IC teachers. Anwar Al Khalil was the Chairman of the Board. IC administrators included Elementary school director Najwa el Sayed and William Nystrom.



Finally, the school opened its doors. Several of IC's teachers and directors had moved to Nigeria. As chairman of the board, El Khalil couldn't be more pleased. It was IC – in Lagos. All too soon, there was a long waiting list, not only from the Lebanese community. All wanted to enroll their children in this IC replica including diplomats and personnel from various embassies.

For El Khalil, the project was a challenge.

Now those who know El Khalil, know quite well that he was not a man easily dissuaded once faced with a challenge.

Perhaps he got it from his father who, rather accidentally, found himself in Lagos in 1926. As the story goes, El Khalil's father, Mohamed, who had immigrated to Mexico in 1910, had a dream that his mother was dying. Mohamed was very fond of his mother and immediately set sail for Lebanon. On the way, the ship stopped in the port of Marseille, France, where he met a Lebanese traveler heading towards Nigeria. The two got talking and somehow the traveler managed to convince him that Lagos was a stone's throw away from Marseille. Mohamed thought he could go and be back in ample time to catch the next ship heading to Beirut. The stone's throw

turned out to be a six-week journey.

Mohamed found himself unwillingly wandering around the city. At first reluctant, then eagerly. An idea had dawned on him: a transport company. The country obviously needed one. To make a long story short, Mohamed built El Khalil Transport Limited, which became the largest transport company in Africa. His children, among them Anwar, eventually took it over and expanded it.

As for Mohamed's mother, five years after he made his momentous landing in Lagos, he finally sailed to Lebanon to find her in ample health. She would live for many more years.

Growing up, young Anwar was sent to a nun-run boarding school in Bekfaya, Lebanon. He hated it and was switched to another school. Again, he was miserable. By that time, his parents had moved to Ras Beirut and enrolled him at IC. The area was dotted with old stone houses, gardens and cactus trees set in rich red soil. The El Khalil children would walk to IC, still known as the 'Prep' at the time.

"The best years of my life," said El Khalil. "All the clubs and all the activities created a life which was socially outside the limits of what we were used to."

It was now the 50s, the time of Gamal Abdel Nasser, Arab national feelings were running high. AUB and IC students were swept in the fervor and student strikes dominated Lebanese streets. "It came naturally to me because IC had allowed us freedom of expression," recalled El Khalil. "A seed was planted in me at IC to become a leader."

"At least in the English section students," he added. "The French section kids were too busy memorizing."

El Khalil's first real brush with politics was in 1955 when in his second year as an AUB student, he joined a nationwide protest after then president, Camille Chamoun aligned himself closely with the pro-western Baghdad Pact formed by Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The energetic El Khalil, helped by an active AUB group, formed a student council at the university and took to giving fiery national speeches at the top of the West Hall staircase.

On March 27, a protest was about to begin in Beirut. AUB students

marched from the Main Gate towards the Medical Gate only to find the iron gate closed and chained by security forces. The students shook the gates open and found themselves hosed down by the forces. Some of the students threw stones drawing fire from the gendarmerie.

Leading the crowd was El Khalil – his photo immortalized in An-Nahar newspaper as an officer raised his gun towards him. The officer fired his weapon but fortunately missed El Khalil. Today, the bullet hole can still apparently be seen in the Biology Building

Nevertheless, the students made it to Bliss Street and continued their demonstration. Some shots rang out and a student (not AUB) dropped to the ground. With horror, El Khalil saw the blood streaming on the street. He ran to the victim with a few other demonstrators and carried him to the hospital. But the student died.

El Khalil and other AUB students were suspended from the university for three months for taking part in the strike. He ended up travelling to London where he became a Barrister-at-Law.

Today at 81, El Khalil is in the process of writing his life story. His Nigeria school being one of his proudest accomplishments. "I just wanted for my children what I had in my youth," he said. "I don't think I was born a leader, but I became a free man at IC. My mind had become alive."

In 1960, El Khalil returned to Nigeria and established the highly successful Seven-Up Bottling Company. He continued his interest in politics and has served many ministerial posts throughout the years. He is currently a member of the Lebanese Parliament, first appointed in May 1991 as one of the additional members added in the Taef Agreement (to become the Constitution of Lebanon) later an election was called in 1992 and El-Khalil has won every election since then, the last of which was carried out in May 2016.

The Lebanese Community School in Nigeria still exists today but under a completely different board and administration. IC is no longer affiliated with it.



AUB president
Fadlo Khuri and
Mona El Hallak



The trees, the birds and the ecosystem

Next time you walk through IC and AUB, look up. Dozens of birds are looking down on you. Some of them live year round on both campuses and others are temporarily resting from their weary and arduous journey as they head north.

Few of us realize, but AUB and IC - extending all the way to the Ecole Supérieure des Affaires (the former French embassy) and the Sanayeh garden - form an ecosystem in Ras Beirut. From a bird's eye point of view, they provide the only greenery in the city, other than Horsh Beirut.

In 2003, the AUB campus was declared a bird sanctuary. Now, of course, these birds need a protected environment. In 2016, AUB was declared to be an Arboretum and Botanic Garden (AUBotanic). By default, so is IC.

Today, every tree in AUB campus has an identity. Each is lovingly labeled with a card containing a scientific name and a QR code for passerbys to quickly collect more information. One can even get a tour with an AUB certified tour guide.

But earlier this year, the tender labeling of trees has expanded outside AUB and into its immediate neighborhood.

The initiative is the brainchild

of Mona El Hallak, an architect and activist who has spent many years fighting to save historical Lebanese houses. In fact, she was the one behind the safeguarding of the Barakat building in Sodeco. Her effort earned her a French Medal of Honor – the “Ordre National du Merite” by the French Ambassador in Beirut in 2015.

It was therefore instinctive for her to restore a cluster of four old houses at the corner of Jeanne d'Arc and Sidani streets. One of them was a well preserved 1930s building - an important heritage site in Ras Beirut. On the side, was a seven story high rubber tree at least 100 years old. El Hallak's imagination immediately jumped to renovating the buildings and creating a garden around the tree.

Then suddenly the buildings were gone. “It was over a weekend,” she said. “One day they were here, the next they were gone.”

Only the rubber tree remained – El Hallak's sole consolation.

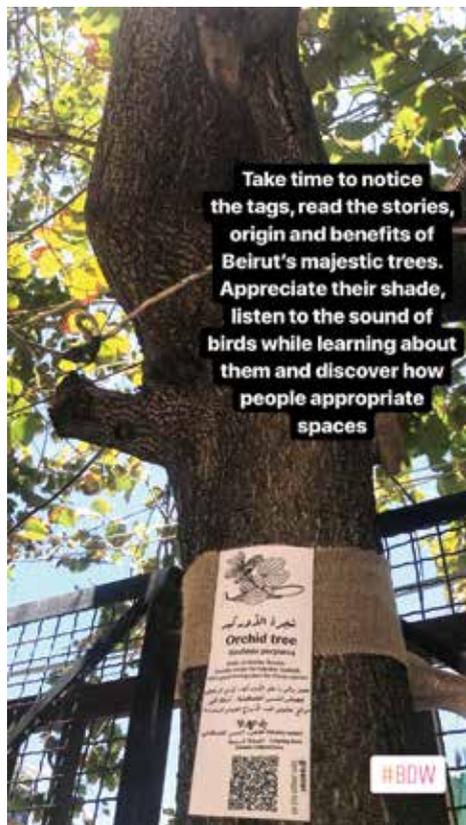
“At least they left the tree,” she said.

A few weeks later, Heba Hage Felder, a neighbor whose terrace overlooks the site called her on the phone: “They are cutting down the tree!” she cried.

The women called the municipality and the police station and after much difficulty managed to stop the further chopping down of the tree - for now.

El Hallak looked sadly around. Once upon a time, Ras Beirut was filled with prickly pear trees, gardens and a rich red soil.

“This is ridiculous,” she said. “We can't



Take time to notice the tags, read the stories, origin and benefits of Beirut's majestic trees. Appreciate their shade, listen to the sound of birds while learning about them and discover how people appropriate spaces



keep losing our heritage and our trees like this. That was the day I realized that we have to do something to make people aware of the trees around them.”

She called in reinforcements: two AUB graduates and landscape architecture consultants: Zeina Kronfol and Pamela Haydamous. The women had founded their own firm, Greener On the Other Side, which specializes in creating green spaces in public domains.

The decision was unanimous: many trees were still around. Let’s save them by making people aware of them.

“Look around,” said El Hallak, “Ras Beirut still has trees. Most are at least 50 years old. Some of the trees are high and huge. Some you don’t see the buildings behind them. Most of them, nobody notices. But they are there.”

The consultants set to work surveying the trees in the vicinity of AUB. The next step was to label each tree with its scientific and Arabic name, provide some information about the tree and print the QR code in collaboration with AUBotanic.

Also included is the kind of bird that uses the tree for nesting - thanks to bird expert, Fouad Itani.

About 70 trees were lovingly wrapped

with a thick burlap ribbon adorned with a label. Other than a few cases of vandalism, El Hallak has reported great success. People were indeed stopping, reading the labels and looking at the trees with new interest.

Just in case they don’t take an interest, bollards on the sidewalk are covered with wooden boxes forming seats conveniently facing the trees, and colorful graffiti tell pedestrians to ‘stop and look at the tree’ and ‘listen to the birds’.

IC’s elementary school children were requested to bring their unwanted Lego pieces to school. Dispatch Beirut, a movement aiming to reconstruct parts of Beirut with colorful Legos, ‘fixed’ the cracks.

El Hallak can sometimes be seen on the IC campus surrounded by students.

Look up and see the birds. We are part of an ecosystem. Look at the trees.

Save them.

Her next project: building and installing birdhouses in collaboration with Greener On the Other Side.



For more information about AUB’s neighborhood initiative go to: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/Neighborhood/Pages/default.aspx>

TEACHERS' DAY
SPECIALA teacher
teaches:
a special
Teachers'
Day tribute
from IC

This article is not about IC. Nor is it about an IC parent or alumnus. It is a Teachers' Day story about a lone teacher who decided that he couldn't just retire without looking back. And so he looked back and saw hundreds of children wandering aimlessly on the streets or sitting idly in their destitute homes. And so Elie Fadel did the only thing he knew how to do: teach. This article is a special tribute from IC: Happy Teacher's Day Mr. Fadel!

After more than forty years of teaching Arabic and French at a school in his home village of Damour, Elie Fadel retired. It was a happy occasion. His three children were grown and living abroad. His retirement money, though meager, was in his pocket. Visions of much earned holidays filled his head.

It was then that he looked back. The holiday vision disappeared. Suddenly he had a sense of a mission. He was a teacher. Always has been. Always will be. He knew what he had to do: open a school for these children.

Even though he was a teacher at a Damour school, he used to run an after-school homework program and so had considerable experience running an educational institution.

But that took money. Quite a lot of it. The only money he had was his retirement fund. So be it, he thought. It was a selfless decision. But to his dismay, it wasn't enough to rent and renovate a three-floor shabby apartment building in the Naameh district in the south of Beirut.

He went to the bank and earnestly pleaded his case. Past the retirement age, he was politely but firmly shown to the door.

Determined, he turned to various acquaintances who loaned him some



money. Friends eyed him strangely. Most of the children were Syrian refugees. Moreover, of a different sect. Why bother?

They are children. Full stop, he answered.

He looked around the area. There was a school for Syrian children some distance away. But it was full and turning students away. The Lebanese public schools were



also practically bursting.

The renovations were extensive. The building he had rented was worse than expected. Finally, after several months, the Madrasat al Mahaba (House of Love) opened its door to classes from KGI to grade 8. Parents hesitantly enrolled their children. Seventy-five students registered at a tuition of \$350 a year including books, notebooks and school apron. Word spread fast. The second year 145 students showed up. Today, four years later, the school is crammed with 410 students – about 10% of whom are Lebanese. Hundreds more are turned away. There is just no more place.

“They come because the school is special,” he said. “We are different from the others.”

True. Students stand when a teacher walks into the classroom. They speak politely in almost hushed tones. They pick up their litter before they leave the classroom.

Fadel watched them sternly but proudly. “Here, ethics and cleanliness come first,” he said. “Academics later.”

It was undoubtedly a challenge. “How you see them now is not how they came to us,” he said. “They bullied, they cussed.”

A child who cusses is a child expelled. There is zero tolerance for bullying, cussing or littering.

Classes begin at KG1 until grade 8. In the afternoon, the school opens again for homework sessions.

But the truth is that the Madrasat al Mahaba is not breaking even. Its financial woes are big. It is actually operating on a loss. Parents do not always honor the symbolic yearly fee of \$350 per year. Moreover, Fadel has yet to pay off his loan.

The Joint Christian Council (JCC) has offered some financial assistance but it is not enough. Ironically, Fadel now depends on his three grown children to send him his living expenses.

And yet, Fadel can’t shut down the school.

“Teaching is not a job,” he said, “It is a calling. How can I, as an educator, allow a whole generation to grow up without an education? How can I sit by and watch children become juvenile delinquents if I don’t help them?”

A teacher teaches, he said.

It is his mission.

To donate, contact Elie Fadel at: charityshome4@gmail.com





Teachers' Day Dinner Program

Thursday, March 7, 2019 – Phoenicia Hotel, Grand Ballroom

7:30 p.m. Welcome Drink

8:00 p.m. Lebanese National Anthem – IC Alma Mater

Dr. Don Bergman – Welcome Honoring Personnel

Retirees

1. Mr. Elias Abdel Jalil – Ain Aar Middle School
2. Ms. Michèle Bassim – Ain Aar Preschool
3. Ms. Mariam Farhat – Preschool
4. Ms. Fabienne El Khoury – Ain Aar Upper Elem. & Mid. School
5. Ms. Ibtissam Noun – Secondary School

35 Years of Service

1. Ms. Hanan Khansa – Preschool

25 Years of Service

1. Ms. Hind Abou Rislan – Secondary School
2. Ms. Nayla Abu Fadil – Ain Aar Lower Elementary
3. Ms. Josephine Aoun – Ain Aar Upper Elementary & Middle
4. Ms. Joumana Bou Khaled – Secondary School
5. Ms. Hyam Chamaa – Ain Aar Lower Elementary
6. Ms. Rasha Daouk – Secondary School
7. Mr. Adel Hajj Hassan – Elementary School
8. Mr. Elie Hayek – Middle School
9. Ms. Lina Rahal – Ain Aar Preschool
10. Ms. Imane Ramadan – Middle School
11. Ms. Maya Tabbara – Middle School



AWARDS

Edmond Tohme Outstanding Educator Award

Rasha Daouk

Randa Khoury Innovation in Teaching Award

Maha Shukayr

George O. Debbas Staff Awards

Rita Abboud and Charbel Rizk

Albert Abela Distinguished Teacher Awards

Sima Abou Chakra

Diana Kaaki

Leyla Hamasni Katergi

Hania Abou Rihan

Ranwa Jeha

Adnan Barada

Jared Rock

Joya Habib

Loulou Abdel Ahad

Noel Bou Abboud



Paula Mufarrij, Hania Abou Rihan, Dr. Don Bergman



Dr. Don Bergman receiving an appreciation award



**Thank you
Mrs. Frangieh**

To: Jeanette Frangieh

From: your former student Dr. Tarek Kudsi '87

Subject: full scholarship for a student of your choosing.

I chose to give a scholarship in your name, Mrs. Frangieh, because you define the meaning of a true teacher who cares unconditionally about her students regardless of any social or financial consideration. You are an amazing lady. I will always remember your comforting voice when we used to wait, shivering in the inside, for our grades. God bless you!



Lina Mouchantaf, Hiba Chaaban, Zeina Khalil, Paula Mufarrij, Bruce Knox, Hanan Ouri, Don Bergman, Talal Jundi '86, Kim Issa '05, Diana Abou Lebde, Mahmoud Shihab



Paula Mufarrij, Rita Abboud, Talal Jundi '86, Dr. Don Bergman



New Preschool*



New Middle School*





Mona and Safi Mroue



Lara Abdel Malak , Joumana Sheib, Sawsan Khanafer Khatib '90

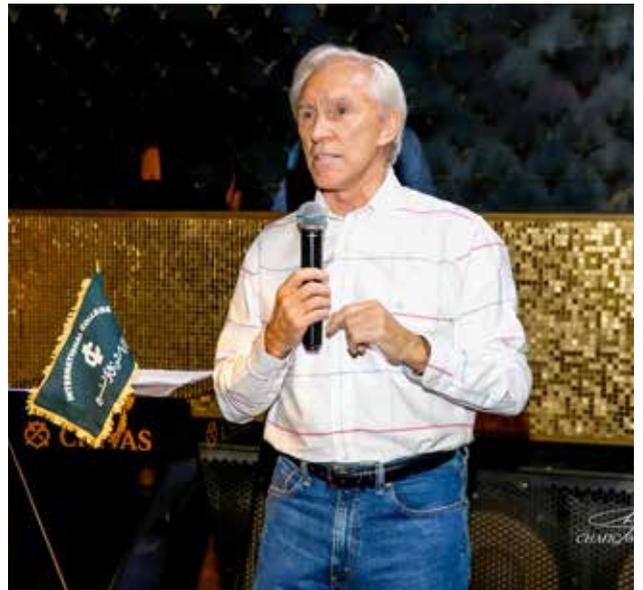
Christmas Party 2018



Maurice Noumair, Elie and Yasmine Kehdi



Mr. & Mrs Rabih Merhi '98 , Ibrahim Takla '62



Dr. Don Bergman





Rami Koteiche '84, Hassan Haidar , Ghassan Hajj Moussa



Zeina Fakih , Farah Haidar, Dina Koteiche

IC Alumni and Advancement Office celebrated the festive season with friends, parents and alumni at Discotek on Tuesday, December 18, 2018. Sponsors: überhaus & Discotek, Jad Chaaban, Tinol Paints, Fawaz Holding, Curli-Q & Chafic W. Ariss Photography. Singer **Raya Awad '07** performed live. Special thanks to: Exotica, Weddings for life, Red Bull, Badr Hassoun (khan al Saboun), Elsa chocolate, **Rakan Fathallah '00** (DJ RAX), Vintage wine, Almaza, Moodz, Ibrahim el Hajj, Castania, Oppa Cotillion, Perrier, Pepsi.



Ihsan Mashmoushi, Cynthia Farchoukh, Sabine Ali Hassan, Lina Maad, Nadine Al Amine, Nina Hmedeh, Diana Ghandour, Sarah Khoriaty

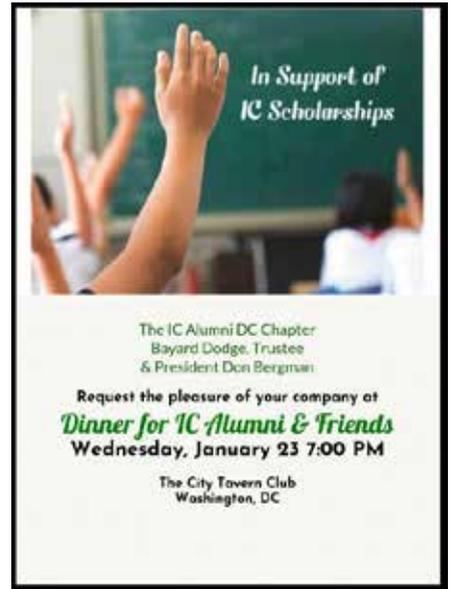


Chantal & Edgar Elias, Salma & Patrick Geamal

Dinners & Events

Washington DC

IC's 'In Aid of Scholarships' event was held on January 23 at the City Tavern Club in Washington DC. Over 35 alumni and friends gathered for dinner along with Board members Matt Reynolds, President Dr Don Bergman, Vice Presidents **Moufid Beydoun '64** and Katherine Murphy McClintic and Advancement Officer **Sirine Ghalayini '06**.



Kate McClintic, Naser Alizade, Susan Klein, Rana El Amine, Moustapha El Amine '86, John Klein, Sana Al Hajj '86



Zana Metelski, Albert Nabti '43, John Metelski, Don Bergman, Moufid Beydoun '64, George Bitar '86



Moufid Beydoun '64, Salma Bazzi, Imad Bazzi '85, Don Selinger, Alasdair McClintic, Hani Mahmassani '73, Leila Alamudine



Makram Alumudine '61, Kate McClintic, Pascal Issa '96, May Sanyoura '01, Faten El Ammar '08, Serene Ghalayini '06, Don Bergman, Firas Wehbe '94

Chicago

Over 18 alumni and friends gathered on January 25th at the University Club of Chicago. They were joined by Chairman Don Selinger, IC President Don Bergman and Vice Presidents Moufid Beydoun '64 and Kate McClintic.



Kate McClintic, Don Selinger, Faten El Ammar '08, Firas Wehbe '94, May Sanyoura '01, Pascale Issa '96, Don Bergman, Mohamad Itani '94, Moufid Beydoun '64, Hani Mahmassani '73, Serene Ghalayini '06, Ragheed Saoud '05



Boston

More than 40 alumni and Friends attended a brunch on January 27th hosted by **Dania '87** and Moussa Mansour in their residence in Newton. Also attending were Board member Bayard Dodge, President Don Bergman and Vice Presidents **Moufid Beydoun '64** and Kate McClintic were present.



Bayard Dodge, Kate McClintic



Sara Mansour '12, Hassana Daouk '74, Ghaleb Daouk '74, Jad Saade '12, Dania Mansour '87, Serene Ghalayini '06, Moufid Beydoun '64, Moussa Mansour, Don Bergman



Reem Haidar, Shadi Haidar '90, Rawia Baalbaki '94, Karim Baalbaki '94, Hilda Abla '92, Hala Abdel Malak, Mohamed Ali Yatim



Karen Khabbaz, John Khabbaz, Don Selinger, Rashid Baddoura '66, Moufid Beydoun '64, Reem Acra '79, Nicholas Tabbal '65, Rania Baddoura

Amal Mudallali



New York

A dinner for Board and IC alumni and friends hosted by board member Marwan Marshi '79 over 65 persons including Lebanese Ambassador to the UN, Amal Moudallali on January 29th at the Yale Club. Several Board members attended including Chairman of the Board, Don Selinger, President Don Bergman, Vice Presidents **Moufid Beydoun '64**, Kate McClintic and **Talal Jundi '86**.



Mirna Noujaim, Mike Naber, Mrs Tarazi, Talal Jundi '86, Zeina Mattar, Khodor Mattar'90



Miami

A dinner attended by around 30 alumni and friends was held at the Texas De Brazil in Miami Beach on January 31st. Present were board member Mac Deford, President Don Bergman and Vice Presidents **Moufid Beydoun '64**, Kate McClintic and **Talal Jundi '86**.



John Nercessian '74, David Hammad '66, Abdullah Jubran '74



Bassem Tannir '94, Fuad Fakhreddine '65, David Hammad '66, Mary-Ellen Hammad, John Nercessian '74, Vera Nercessian, Daniel Tchakerjian '74, Abdullah Jubran '74



Nadine Chatila '91 & daughter Sarah Ghalayini



Sirine Ghalayini '06, Nour Chams, Mohamad Raad '09, Ayl Hobballah '10



Atlanta

As part of IC's 'In Aid of Scholarships' North America events, alumni and friends gathered on February 5 at Maggiano's Little Italy. Joining them were IC's VP for Advancement Katherine McClintic and Advancement Officer **Sirine Ghalayini '06**.



Richard Murphy, Elias Shahine '67, Ralph Anavy '58, Regina Anavy, Don Selinger, Ingie Chalhoub and friends



San Mateo

More than 65 alumni and friends attended dinner in at the Tannourine Restaurant in San Mateo on February 7th. Also present, were Chairman Don Selinger President Don Bergman and Vice Presidents **Moufid Beydoun '64** and Kate McClintic.





Los Angeles

Mike '80 and Hania '92 Ahmar hosted a dinner at their residence in Beverly Hills on February 9th and was attended by over 50 alumni and friends. Guests included Chairman Don Selinger and Vice Presidents Moufid Beydoun '64 and Kate McClintic.



Walid Ismail '04, Karim Ismail '06, Shadi Sanbar '67, Shahrokh Alebooyeh '58, Shirin Alebooyeh, Omar Nasserdin '99, Maha Beydoun, Michelle Chahine '05, Nadim Sinno '05, Marya Nabhani, Tim Nabhani '01



Don Selinger, Ghada Irani, Ray Irani '50, Moufid Beydoun '64, Najwa Beydoun '76, Hania Ahmar '92, Mike Ahmar '80



After a year and a half of hard work, and halfway into our term as the IC Ras Beirut Parents Committee, we would like to share with you the various workshops and events we have done so far, and introduce our new logo.
CONTACT US You can email us on: ic.rb.pc@gmail.com

WELLBEING AND AWARENESS SESSIONS

We are working closely with the school climate unit and counselors to complement and assist them. We are also recommending some programs while funding others, and offering sessions and workshops to students and parents.

ROAD SAFETY 7/3/2018

We invited YASA to conduct a speed awareness campaign to secondary school students.

EFFECTS OF SMOKING 25/3/2018

We worked with Dr. Salah and Ms. Ammar to educate middle school students on the effects of all kinds of smoking.

STUDENT RESILIENCE SESSIONS - APRIL 2018

We also worked closely with the middle school counselors and in collaboration with Mentor Arabia to lecture all middle school students on how to build resilience.

HERITAGE DAY 24/11/2017

To celebrate Independence Day, we invited speakers to give lectures about Lebanese food, which was offered to students by the cafeteria, while celebrating the day with traditional clothes and dabkeh dances around the school.



FAMILY FUEL WORKSHOP 1/11/2018

We invited health coaches Karen Jaber and Tracy Assad to conduct a workshop helping parents learn about proper nutrition, and how to optimally nourish their families.



EFFECTS OF SCREEN TIME AND CYBERSPACE SAFETY WORKSHOP 25/1/2019

Speakers from ParentWise and ISSA France Security conducted an interactive workshop to help parents learn about screen time and its impact on kids and teens, and how to protect our children from the dangers of the internet.



COMMUNITY BUILDING AND EVENTS

HALLOWEEN PARTY 20/10/2018

This fun-filled event included numerous activities for kids of all ages: creepy storytelling, magic spells and potions, snake on the loose show, horror house and monster carnival games. Funds raised were used to offer a Golf Cart to the school.



SAIDA CULTURAL TRIP 18/10/2018

This trip for IC moms was an opportunity to kick off the year on a cultural note and engage with the parent community. It included a tour of the old city and a traditional Saidon lunch.



CHRISTMAS PARADE 21/12/2018

The ICPC added a touch of holiday magic to the school, for IC students to delve into the Christmas spirit. Santa, Rudolph, Frosty and Gingerman accompanied a Christmas marching band in a holiday parade around the Ras Beirut campus. Laughter and excitement brought the year to a wonderful end.



FAMILY DAY OUT TO THE CEDAR RESERVE IN BAROUK 25/03/2018

Parents and students went on a guided hike in Al Shouf Natural Reserve to explore the country side and enrich their knowledge of Lebanon, while enhancing the spirit of IC community.



BEAM SYSTEM ROBOT NOVEMBER 2017

When a student fell ill and was told she would have to miss her entire school year, the ICPC endeavored to find a solution that would allow her to keep up with her classes. With the help of Dr. Bergman, a Mobile Beam System Robot was quickly purchased and installed, which ensured a live connection between the classroom and the student at home or at the hospital. This device not only allowed her to properly carry on with her education, but it also had an important impact on her mental health. It is now available for use in the case that any student might need it again.





**INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

جمعية متخرجي الإنترنت شونال كوليدج



Life Long Learning Committee: Oct 4, 2018 Banque Du Liban

In Oct 4, 2018, more than 220 ICAA Members attended the third Brain Bites session held at the Central Bank. The discussion focused on the threats to the monetary situation in Lebanon. The speakers were: the Vice Governor of Beirut Central Bank Dr Saad Andary (ICAA Class of 1969), Mr Adel Satel (ICAA Class of 1980) and Mr Saad Azhari (ICAA Class of 1980). The event was organized by Mr Mazen Hamdan (ICAA class of 1988) the event's Champion. The event also included a brief intervention by Mr Riad Salameh governor of the Central Bank who was quite honest in depicting the challenges yet still attempting to explain the opportunities. The session was followed by a visit to the monetary museum which everybody enjoyed.

The ICAA's first networking event held at MIM museum:



The first ICAA networking event was held at the MIM museum on the 29th of November from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. A first of its kind, this event was a real attempt for ICAA members to unleash the collective power IC alumni individually possess. The event also helped ICAA make meaningful connections to help their careers and businesses. Over 240 attended this ICAA exclusive event, the choice of venue was quite significant, the museum displays more than 2000 minerals, representing 450 different species from 70 countries, and is considered one of the most significant private collections of minerals in the world. It also narrates the story of a successful Lebanese entrepreneur...

Sports committee news: The Beirut Marathon, we ran for a cause

On marathon day, Beirut celebrated all good things; it celebrated health, perseverance and commitment, good vibes and endless cheers. It also celebrated a culture of running

and peace, social cohesion, community and achievements. Most importantly it celebrated support, everyone ran for a cause. ICAA celebrated with Beirut and filled its heart with joy and pride by taking part in an event that continues to put Lebanon on the international map of sports. We ran for our fellow alumni for the Lebanon we love, the Beirut we cherish and the IC we strive to keep a beacon of hope and a melting pot of diversity, a true mosaic of ethnic, religious and social classes in a tarnished region.



**News from The Membership Committee:
Brain Bites 4th Session**

Over 400 attendees were present on Jan 17, 2019 at IC Ras Beirut campus to discuss the facts and the challenges facing a basic right of any developed society: the electricity crisis - a major component of the financial perils hovering around the Lebanese economy. The audience listened attentively to a detailed explanation led by H.E Minister Yasine Jaber (Class of 1970) and an experienced panel of experts. While the subject itself brings frustration to many, it was a chance to express anger, dismay and distress by both speakers and attendees due to the fiasco surrounding this sensitive matter. As ICAA, we believe we cannot remain voiceless and we will always seek ways to improve our knowledge allowing us, and the IC community as a whole to develop an unbiased opinion, yet always trying to avoid entering into Lebanese political quagmires.



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# In Memoriam

We regret to inform you that Dr. **Usama Majzoub '49** passed away in November 2018. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Majzoub family.



We regret to inform you that **Alaa Ismail '80** passed away in November 2018. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Ismail family.



We regret to inform you that **Wael Arab '67** passed away in November 2018. IC staff and faculty send their deepest

condolences to the Arab family.



We regret to inform you that **Saad Matar '69** passed away in December 2018. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Matar family.



We regret to inform you that **Mazen Halawi '82** passed away in November 2018. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Halawi family.

# We did it!

In November 2018, the biggest challenge for our Remy Rebeiz Young Heart Foundation (RRYHF) was to ECG-screen all IC students, in Ras Beirut and Ain Aar, aged 12 and above. Nurses in both campuses worked around the clock to prepare class lists, prepare medical questionnaires and send them to students. The Foundation embarked on a big search for Cardiologists / Electrophysiologists to help us read and interpret the ECGs.

Our cardiologists found eight cases that needed attention.

“Sudden Cardiac Death” (SCD) is an umbrella term used for the many different causes of cardiac arrest in young people (age 12-35). These conditions can be structural or electrical, both affecting the natural rhythm of the heart.

One in every 250 Lebanese people carry one of many types of hidden mutated genes. Your children may be one of them. It can, without warning, suddenly stop their young hearts. No, you cannot rush them to the hospital. It would be too late.

A simple EKG will tell you if your children carry rhythm abnormalities that cause SCD. Our foundation comes regularly to IC to screen your children. We come to offer free EKGs and offer CPR trainings. Please do not ignore our campaigns.

Send us your children.

We lost our child.

Don't lose yours.

**John Rebeiz '68**  
Founder of RRYHF



Screen during  
November

**Keep Those  
Young Hearts Beating**

5 minutes ECG can Save your Life

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