



# IC Newsletter

## SPRING/SUMMER 2021



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### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Editor/Writer: Reem Haddad      Layout: Tala Tabbara  
Production coordinator: Sana Yamout  
Contributing photographer: Dory Khayatt

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**Annual Giving Report 2019-2020**  
 and **Inside IC** are available on the  
 IC website.

*For comments or  
 suggestions, email  
 us at rhaddad@  
 ic.edu.lb*

# Q A with Paula Mufarrij, Vice President for Academic Affairs



**Q: What were the key factors that made online courses successful at IC this past year?**

**A:** Preparation ahead of time. The fact that IC had already trained teachers in online training and that the ERC (Educational Resources Center) had already acquired the necessary technology tools and software made it very easy for IC to shift online.

**Q: How do you ensure the quality of online courses?**

**A:** We did our best to follow the recommendations given by the accredited agencies, and we use the Danielson Framework, which is our reference for best practices in teaching and learning. The key to their success was that directors and educational technology coordinators had held several sessions on what makes a good online session, including being aware of your image on-screen, knowing what a breakout room is, and most importantly, keeping students at the center of teaching. So basically, we gave them tools to empower them to have successful sessions. These tools were not only to our IC standards but to world standards.

**Q: How would you rate our hybrid class efforts?**

**A:** From a physical point of view, it was great. We had the proper setup and the correct safety measures. But overall, I would say it was unsuccessful. The times were uncertain. Many teachers couldn't come because either they were sick or government lockdowns in their areas confined them to their homes. The same thing with students. Sometimes the internet worked, and sometimes it didn't. Sometimes we had more teachers and students at home rather than in class. We missed human contact. But the reality was that the times were unpredictable and very uncertain, so I consider that hybrid teaching didn't really work as well as we would have liked it to.

**Q: What were the biggest challenges of distance learning?**

**A:** Distance learning has been great in making students autonomous, whether in following instructions or undertaking an activity. The only area we have found challenging is how to assess the students. Yes, we can determine his or her skills in communication, thinking, reasoning, and expression of ideas, but what we have found very difficult to assess is the extent to which knowledge was acquired. This is a problem in all online learning everywhere.

**Q: What kind of support did you offer to students?**

**A:** Emotional and psychological support was provided by the counselors at all levels throughout the year, both in Ras Beirut and Ain Aar. Counselors had a list of students who were facing challenges and were talking to them. Learning support teachers were also giving students all the necessary support needed. This did not stop at all because we went online.

**Q: Did IC have to change the curriculum to adjust to online learning? If yes, how?**

**A:** Yes, the curriculum was reviewed in the sense that teachers were requested to teach the essentials. Look at the basics and refrain from details. We mapped what we could teach and what we could not teach in all subjects and at all levels. Now, at the end of the year, we have another map of the curriculum of what we were able to teach (essentials) and what we could not teach (non-essentials) in the past year or so.

**Q: How did IC train teachers to make classes engaging?**

**A:** First of all, every school has an educational technology coordinator who trains the teachers to use technology in education, for example, how to use Zoom in group work, or check on students, or giving assessments. Besides this, we have IC teachers who have placed on our website how to teach various online subjects. They advise on how to teach better and follow more effective practices. These sessions have been extremely beneficial to other teachers. In fact, we plan to go more in-depth with these website sessions in the coming year.

We held two online in-service days in the past year. These were meant mainly to remind teachers of the Daniel Framework, go over what is good teaching and preparation, and how to follow up on google class such as activities, links, unit plan, essential terminology, objectives of lessons.

Interestingly, thanks to Google class, we now know way more than before about what the teacher is doing and how she or he is preparing for class. We are learning more than ever now from each other, and more than ever, IC is a learning community.

Online school has allowed us to have a more thorough look at the practices of teachers. True, we lost in the emotional aspect, but we gained somewhere else.

**Q: Assuming that COVID will be under control next year and schools reopen, what changes will take place at IC?**

**A:** We may adopt the blended model next year. Our practices are going to change. Why do I need to bring the Ain Aar directors to our Ras Beirut meetings if we can just meet online? Why do I need students to stay in the late afternoon on campus when I can give them their classes online?

We have gained much expertise in online teaching over the past year and a half, and we will use it next year. It will help us gain precious time.

Even more important, teachers have realized that there is no reason for students to be in class to listen to lessons. Students can listen to prerecorded sessions at home and come to class to discuss what they learned. This is called flipped learning, and this is what we will see at IC next year. Our students have learned to be autonomous learners. Frontal teaching will become less and less. There are going to be more discussions, more student engagement, more involvement in real-life situations, and more motivation to come to class. Computers are automatically part of learning. Students now find it natural to have their own devices in class at all times.

It's a new world for education.

# Q A with **Moufid Beydoun '64**, VP for Major Gifts and Director of Alumni and Advancement Office



## **Q: Why is it important that IC continues with its efforts to fundraise?**

**A:** Fundraising aims to enhance the general operations of an institution. It has become an accepted practice in schools and colleges. As a private independent school, we depend on hard income to cover the cost of running our institution. Income comes mainly from tuitions or any other form of investment such as an endowment. We have two types of fundraising: our annual fund and our capital fund.

The annual fund goes into the school's operational budget, which also includes professional development and tuition assistance. Capital fundraising consists of all major work, such as the building of new facilities and developing new major programs.

We are lucky that we were able to complete most of the capital development projects before this crisis. We built the elementary school, gym, preschool, middle school, annex – the main capital expenditures are done.

We are now concentrating - because of the crisis and needs of parents - on tuition assistance. We opened the financial aid door throughout the year (pre-crisis, it was before a particular deadline), and anyone can apply anytime. We also accept applications from new students starting from nursery (before a student had to be in school for a least a year to qualify). So definitely our financial aid budget increased, and still, our income is in Lebanese pounds. How can we finance this extra demand?

We are going out and fundraising. We are fundraising all over the world. We are targeting a wide array of donors. The most important thing in fundraising is honesty and transparency. We want our donors to see everything for themselves. And what they see is a financially sound school with a good reputation. People like to give to successful institutions. It gives them a feeling of satisfaction knowing that they are helping a legacy continue doing its work.

## **Q: Who are the donors?**

**A:** The Board of Trustees are the first constituents. They are critical in fundraising. We are lucky to have very generous board members who are involved in the school. We have raised over \$70m, and over 25% of it came from board members. And they continue to donate during this crisis generously.

Our second constituents are our alumni. They continue to care about the school and want it to continue with its mission. We always keep them in touch with the school through local and worldwide reunions, emails, social media, and the IC Newsletter. I don't know any other school in Lebanon that reaches out to their alumni as we do. We do everything to bring them into our inside circle. One of

my primary duties, other than fundraising, is to keep the IC spirit alive. This alone enthruses many alumni to donate and keeps them well connected.

Other constituents are the parents. Their children are currently benefiting from the new facilities and services, and so many are eager to help out if they can.

And then we have what we call 'IC friends.' People who simply believe in IC and what we do. Finally, through USAID and ASHA, we have the US government, which gives a certain amount every year.

So how do we do our solicitations? Through meetings, events, one-to-one visits, campus visits, appeals, naming opportunities, etc.

Our job is to satisfy the donor and bring out his generosity.

**Q: What if donors don't come through?**

**A:** We always try to convey an honest picture of the school and its needs. Not everyone has been affected by the crisis. Remember, our constituents are worldwide. We do our research. We know who has been affected by the crisis and who hasn't, and so we know who to approach. Our alumni and friends are responding right away. The ones who have not been affected by this crisis are highly aware that IC has lost some of its donors. They care. So they give.

We are doing mass fundraising like before. It has become more targeted because we know that some of our usual donors are suffering.

**Q: Is there a possibility that IC may not survive this crisis?**

**A:** No. IC will definitely survive. Thanks to all the previous fundraisings, IC has a healthy endowment fund. Because of the wisdom of our board, the money was kept and invested in the US. It is supporting all our deficits here during the crisis. Our usual direct sources of income, the tuition, and development fees are in Lebanese pounds. So our endowment fund is helping us right now. And, of course, our local and worldwide fundraising efforts are also continuing to support the school.

So the school is safe. IC is here to stay. It is going to stay. I just enrolled my granddaughter at IC in preschool. And she is going to graduate from IC. This is how much I believe in our school.

**Q: Why is it essential for IC to survive?**

**A:** I ask another question. Why is it essential for the education system in Lebanon to survive? Lebanon has four major worthy hubs: the banking system, healthcare, tourism, and education.

All of them have been heavily affected by the economic crisis and pandemic. We have to safeguard our education system, and each one of us has to play a role in preserving the system. We have to hold on to it. This is the only way we can guarantee a future for the country.



Rula Haddad (Norregaard) '84

# From Spain with Love

## Part I: Li Beirut

Like the Lebanese diaspora everywhere, **Rula Haddad (Norregaard) '84** stared in shock at her television screen at blood-soaked Lebanese emerging from their destroyed homes in the wake of the August 4 explosion.

Like all Lebanese diaspora, she yearned to do something to help. Anything. But practically imprisoned by COVID in her Madrid apartment, there was little to do. She turned to social media. And there on a Facebook page was a phone number. Does anyone want to join us help our people in Lebanon?

Haddad reflected. She had moved to Spain from Washington DC only two years earlier. While in DC, she had managed to run her own interior design company and several fundraising campaigns for her children's school. She could do it again – from home as COVID dictated.

Haddad immediately joined the WhatsApp group. At the time, there were perhaps five participants. All Lebanese. But within a few days, the participants swelled to almost over 40, even taking its administrator, Pam Haydamous (daughter of **Soha Maamari '79**), by surprise.

A landscape architect who had moved to Madrid in 2017, Haydamous had quickly organized a group in the wake of the Beirut explosion. She called it 'Li Beirut.'

As she watched the horrific scenes on television on August 4, Haydamous thought about the little park in Karantina. She and fellow landscape architect, Zeina Kronfol, had renovated Karantina's public park to

bring the community groups together. The success of the project spurred them to start their own landscaping company, Greener on the Other Side.

At the moment, however, she had no idea if the park had even survived the blast (fortunately, it did).

Her attention turned to Li Beirut. Ideas were by now flowing back and forth on the WhatsApp group as more people joined in. Some were Lebanese, some Spanish, and at least one was Japanese.

It was agreed. First aid supplies first. Financial contributions were most welcome. Haydamous set up a bank account, promising – and delivering – complete transparency. Donations began coming in from all over Spain.

The supplies arrived almost immediately as Li Beirut members headed towards Spanish pharmacies. The blast was all over the news. Spaniards were eager to oblige. Boxes of paracetamol, bandages, antiseptics, and other essential medical supplies

soon made their way to Haydamous' residence. Strangers were knocking on Haydamous' doors and donating supplies. Finally, nine large suitcases and seven boxes were packed. Only a few days after the explosion, Haydamous and her husband got ready to travel to Beirut. But then came the dilemma: the airline baggage allowance will certainly not allow the couple to check in 16 luggage pieces.





Pam Haydamous

Li Beirut members came to the rescue. A frenzy of phone calls located enough people traveling on that same airline, both Lebanese and Spanish, and they cheerfully agreed to check in a few pieces of the luggage under their names.

Finally, the plane touched down at Beirut airport. Haydamous heard of several nurse volunteers from Jbeil who were paying for first aid supplies from their own pockets. LiBeirut immediately concurred: give them the supplies.

First mission completed. Haydamous turned to mission number 2. The Li Beirut group had collected about 3,000 Euros and wanted to adopt an old historical house to help renovate. That's when they met, Jacqueline Salem. Unmarried with no children, the 71-year-old had spent all her savings to fix her shattered front door. She was now attempting to do the rest of the repairs herself. LiBeirut took over. A few weeks later, Salem had her home again.

Back in Spain, LiBeirut's fundraising continues. But this is becoming increasingly hard. "Lebanon is no longer in the news," said Haddad. "So we have to keep reminding people here about the economic crisis. Every time I go to the supermarket and buy food for my children, I am aware that so many Lebanese back home can no longer do that. This is what we keep reminding them."

Before Li Beirut renovations



After Li Beirut renovations



# From Spain with Love



L to R: Lili Maalouf, Ana Zoueïn, Marya Turk '06, Davina Abdalla

## Part II: ThriveLeb

Across town, **Marya Beydoun Turk '06**, another IC graduate, is busy with her fundraising efforts. The mother of two young children has only been in Madrid less than a year, but somehow, she spun a network web of 250 mothers. These 'expat-moms,' as she calls them, have more or less adopted the cause of Lebanon.

"We live in an international compound," she explained, "and so the mothers here formed a group, all of us English speaking ex-pats. The idea is to help each other in Spain. They have become my 'go to' group. Whenever I need something, I go to them. We support each other."

The group's first test came right after August 4. Like all Lebanese in the diaspora, Turk stared unbelievably at her television screen. With

years of experience in media and communication working with luxury fashion brands while living in Dubai (before moving to Spain last year) and running her own little fashion business, Turk was no stranger to strong organization skills.

She set to work and contacted a few Lebanese friends in Madrid. Turk and friends Lilli Taleb, Sabine Yazbeck, and Samer Taleb got together. Finally, (Lilli) Taleb and Yazbeck suggested setting up an NGO: ThriveLeb. The group set up a gofundme account.

Turk turned to her expat-moms group. Turn on your televisions. This is my city. Please help. Donate to the fund. To her surprise, the fund registered 13,000 Euros almost immediately.



**THRIVELEB**

today, tomorrow and always



Beit el Baraka at work

“It is very frustrating to see what is happening back home. We are still small, but we are trying to do our part.”

Lebanese expats living in Spain soon heeded the call. What more can we do?

A few weeks later, a member of ThriveLeb, Lili Taleb, arrived in Beirut and donated the fund’s money to Beit El Baraka, a Lebanese on the ground movement actively rebuilding damaged properties. ThriveLeb’s contribution helped to rebuild four damaged homes in the disaster zone.

Meanwhile, in Madrid, Turk continued to brainstorm with ThriveLeb members to keep the fundraising momentum going.

And so she asked the mothers to donate luxurious second-hand items. From her own home, Turk held a garage sale in strict respect of social distancing rules. Proceeds went to ThriveLeb.

Another suggestion. What if we reach out to the Lebanese students studying at IE, the Business School in Madrid? It seemed that a large number of Lebanese students were in Madrid, and they themselves were holding various concerts, brunches, and multiple events to fundraise.

“So we decided to promote the events for them,” said Turk. “Someone in ThriveLeb dedicates his efforts strictly to working with the students.”

As a perk, Turk’s husband, **Ramez ‘01**, the managing director of Johnson and Johnson in Spain, gave IE students a workshop on the importance of mentorship in the tumultuous job market.

Soon, word came to ThriveLeb that many people back home were desperate for diapers, both baby and adult. Another call went out in Madrid. The ‘ex-pat mom’s group’ donated containers of clothes and diapers. A Lebanese man, who owned a diaper factor, donated 2000 diapers. Another friend donated enough money for milk. Turk drove around collecting them, and duly sent them to Lebanon.

Next project: fundraising to keep Lebanese children in school.

“There is a lot to do,” said Turk, “It is very frustrating to see what is happening back home. We are still small, but we are trying to do our part. In the end, we are moms doing whatever we can.”



Beit el Baraka at work



## A Path Called Serenity A Journey and Not a Book

In an uncanny coincidence, **Bassam Tabshouri's** '74 eBook came out exactly when needed the most: during a pandemic and a dire economic crisis.

According to Tabshouri, there is a way to overcome those distressing and unabated pangs of depression uninvitingly infiltrating our daily lives.

“Look at the beauty around you, in nature, in art, in spiritualities, in wonderful human souls,” he said. “Take the time to see it. Be like the bee which always go after nectar wherever it is.”

Dostoevsky, he added, had it right. Beauty will save the world. Not only outer beauty but also and more importantly inner beauty.

So dear reader, why don't you try it? Search for a beautiful painting or a classical piece of music. Stop all distractions. Look. Listen. Or both.

It could take seconds or minutes, but at some point, a deep sense of calm overtakes you. The healing, said Tabshouri, has begun.

Now, instead of you searching the internet for endless hours to find suitable artwork (which inadvertently produces more unwanted stress), Tabshouri has done the work for you.



Beauty will save the world?



The result is 277 pages of paintings (many are original), photos, music, and words of wisdom - weaved in an interactive eBook: "A Path Called Serenity."

Tabshouri's journey with his book began in 1975, at the start of the civil war, when still a young AUB student. Tabshouri, faced with the shock of seeing the ugly atrocities around him, made a decision: He would not bow down to the anger of a country in strife. Instead, he would search and find an inner peace that will see him through the war.

He struggled to keep his emotions in check over the years - a rather tricky task as other young friends took up arms or held heated political arguments.

"To keep my sanity amid a war, I had two choices," he recalled. "Either find ways to stay calm or resort to drugs or alcohol. Or perhaps just go insane."

Tabshouri turned to intensively reading books on psychology and spirituality (one book per day). He began to view the world differently. He felt a spiritual awakening of sorts. Somehow, each atrocity became a learning experience. He was slowly gaining a more profound understanding of humanity, the evil, and the good of it. He didn't know it at the time, but he was subconsciously building up a spiritual library of contemplations.

In 1978, he joined groups working on reconciliation and inner change locally and regionally. In 2001, he joined an international group working on the same issues. The conferences, activities, interactions, and travels to different countries further enriched his experience.

Fast forward to 2008. Tabshouri, then an engineer working at AUBMC, was having lunch at the cafeteria when a group of professional and well-educated staff started loudly arguing. Tabshouri stared sadly at them. If our educated classes in the country cannot control their tempers, then who will?

So, he wrote a small article entitled "Freedom of Anger and Remembrance of Wrongs" and circulated it among friends. He also appealed to the AUBMC's Human Resources Department to do something about it. A couple of weeks later, he was asked to prepare and give several one-hour sessions (based on his article) to hundreds of employees.

Thus began the second leg of his journey.

Now older and more mature, Tabshouri had managed to amalgamate all his experiences into one notion: Beauty.

It was no longer enough to seek 'freedom from anger and remembrance of wrongs' but to search for beauty.

Hence began the third and last leg of his journey: collecting materials for a potential book. Before long, it had become an all-consuming project. He listened to hundreds of music pieces and studied thousands of paintings and photographs. He researched the most valuable inspirational stories from around the world and from various religions. He filtered through dozens and dozens of motivating videos.

Next came the tedious and highly laborious work of securing the necessary copyrights and updating the content as needed.

Finally, after almost nine years, 'A Path Called Serenity' was released. The eBook invites you to find your own path through a multidimensional journey of inspirational quotes and stories, 200 paintings and photos, and more than 230 links to music and videos. This internal and external journey also includes over 800 steppingstones (all reproduced with permission) from all over the globe.

It has been, as Tabshouri put it, 'a voyage'.

By pure coincidence, COVID hit when the book was released. Many, searching for much-needed moments of serenity, turned to the book.

Although he achieved a lot in his professional career, for Tabshouri "your humanity is much bigger than any profession that you will ever choose. There are so many beautiful experiences worldwide: art, dance, music, wisdom, stories, poetry, and yes, even physics. But you have to see them. You must choose to see beauty."

Move out of the circle of time and space and horrible events, he added, and move into the circle of beauty, love, and joy. Live the moment. It might be your last. Give the best to the people you are with now; it might be the last time you see them.

"Where you go, what you do, where you live, whether you help others is less of significance," he said. "Only one thing is important: the quality and quantity of the love (and joy) you give to all without discrimination, surely this should be coupled with providing material help, if possible, during these challenging times."



*A Path Called Serenity by Bassam Tabshouri can be purchased at <https://www.kobo.com/ww/en/ebook/a-path-called-serenity>*

# SCIENCE IS FUN AND THE JOY OF LEARNING!

## Science Literacy: Making Informed Choices



It is not about Archimedes, Lavoisier, Curie, Tesla, or Boyle, though, of course, their discoveries and theories are the basis of the scientific world. We know what we know because of them.

But it is about the teenage boy who last year stood in front of a burning tire, grinning from ear to ear as he proudly made his political statement, unknowingly inhaling carbon monoxide and cyanide.

It is about the mother who just overdosed her sick small daughter with paracetamol, inadvertently causing her liver damage.

It is about the politician voting to shut down a landfill but neglecting to open another one, thus producing a trash crisis in the country.

Basically, a lot of us lack what is now known as Science Literacy.

Formally defined, it “is the knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts and processes required for personal decision making, participation in civic and cultural affairs, and economic productivity,” according to the National Science Education Standards.

In other words, it is about making the right decisions in our personal lives and for the good of humanity.

The base of these decisions necessarily comes from scientific knowledge. That is not to say that we all need to be scientists. Indeed, what would the world be without our artists, musicians, and poets? But we need to have enough scientific know-how to make informed choices.

“In science, we aim to understand the complexity of the beautiful world we live in,” said **Bassam Z. Shakhshiri '56**, professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “This complexity is also in society and how people interact with each other.”

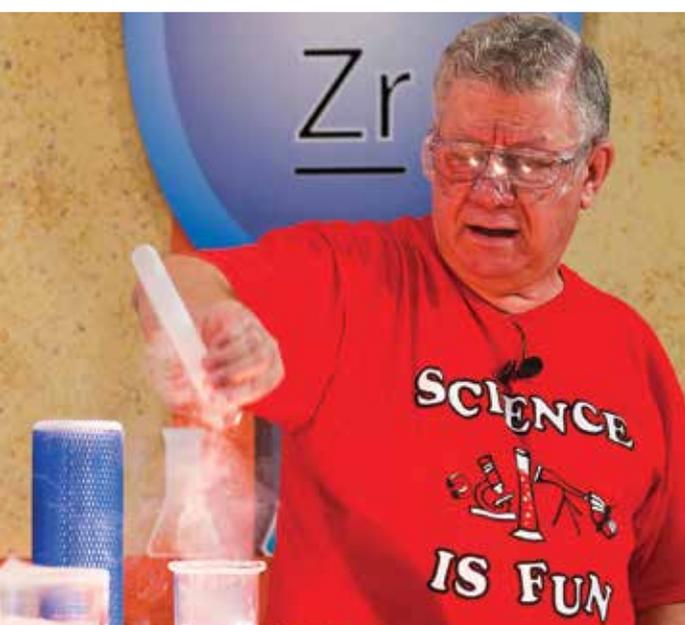
Ergo the importance of having a solid fundamental knowledge of science.

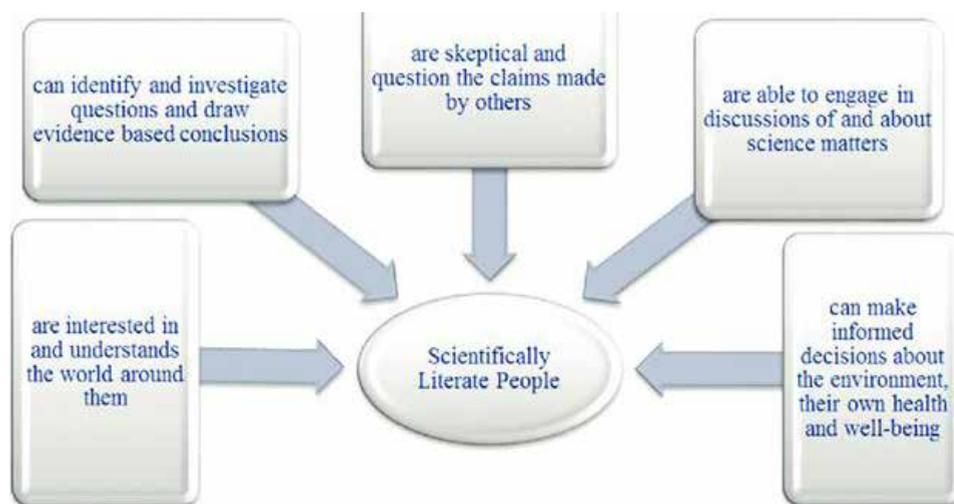
Now, for those who shy away from science - thinking it is but a series of mundane formulas and theorems - Shakhshiri would like to build comfort and familiarity with science.

“Science literacy is an attitude about deep appreciation of science and its role in society,” he explained.

In other words, if you care about your immediate environment

**SCIENCE IS FUN**  
In the Lab of Shakhshiri  
[www.scifun.org](http://www.scifun.org)





and if you want to wash in clean water, breathe in healthy air or have 24 hours of electricity, then welcome to the world of science literacy.

Of course, one has to begin with the basics of science. If taught correctly, it is, explained Shakhshiri, “fun, not the cheap thrill kind of fun, but the intellectually stimulating and emotionally rewarding kind of fun. It’s about communicating useful knowledge about the world and cultivating curiosity so that people will see that science is crucial to societal progress.”

And so, for the past 50 years, Shakhshiri has been giving public lectures with science demonstrations at all levels of educational institutions, fairs, science centers, international conferences, in the halls of the US Congress, and on television across the US and around the world. He is most noted for his “SCIENCE IS FUN!” presentations and has a much-awaited yearly television “Christmas Science Show.”

His audience? “Anyone from 5 to 95 years of age,” he said.

Shakhshiri’s love for science began in early elementary school when his mother presented him with a yellow sweater that she had lovingly knitted. The young Shakhshiri was instantly intrigued: how in the world did this yellow color come about?

He soon became captivated with the world of light, colors, and vision. Why is the sky blue? Why are the caps on the surface of the sea white? Why do the

cedar trees of Lebanon retain their color of green in the winter while other trees do not?

It was little surprise that after he graduated from IC (Prep in those days) in 1956, he enrolled as a chemistry major at AUB. A year later, his family moved to the US, where Shakhshiri continued his studies. In 1960, he received his bachelor’s degree from Boston University. In 1964 and 1968, he received his master’s and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. He taught at the University of Illinois for two years. In 1970 he joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty (where he now holds the William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for the Wisconsin Idea.)

Besides publishing several books on chemistry, he became a strong advocate for public education and programs that inform the public about scientific research creating what he calls “an educated citizenry.” He also founded the Institute for Chemical Education, the Wisconsin Initiative for Science Literacy and has presented more than 1500 lectures to various audiences.

His books and other scholarly publications, television broadcasts, radio appearances, and website have provided source material for science teachers worldwide. Shakhshiri served from 1984 to 1990 as the chief education officer at the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC. In 2012

he was president of the American Chemical Society—the largest scientific organization in the world.

COVID lockdowns have not stopped Shakhshiri from continuing with his campaign. ‘Science is Fun,’ and his science literacy training workshops continue unabated through the zoom platform.

“The vast majority of people are not going to be scientists,” he said. “That’s why we need to have them be literate in science. This will enable them to make informed choices, to be skeptical, and to reject shams, quackery, unproven conjecture, and to avoid being bamboozled into making foolish decisions where matters of science and technology are concerned.”

Shakhshiri also highlights the links between science, the arts, and the humanities, saying that the same creativity and passion that drive science also inspire artistic endeavors.

In short, science literacy is for everyone—scientists, artists, humanists, all professionals, the general public: the young and the old.



## Bkerzay: a More Serene Past

Like so many, **Ramzi Salman '76** built a house with a small garden in the beautiful mountains of Lebanon. It was to be his sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of the city. It was a hard-earned retirement gift to himself after 40 plus years of strenuous work. Finally, he had an escape to the country where he could reflect in solitude.



**Karim Salman '05 and Ramzi Salman '76**

Now, no one knows precisely how and when, but somehow his little isolated sanctuary had become one of the country's top hospitality destinations: Bkerzay.

Named after twin pine cones 'Bkerzein' in the majestic Shouf mountains, "Bkerzay," - explained Salman, "is a concept."

Not a typical resort, although it does have a hotel, two pools, a restaurant, a traditional hammam and spa, a pottery workshop, school and a network of hiking trails. While it has the trimmings of a high-end hideaway - it is more of a place where time stands still. Visitors may be confused. With its old traditional stone houses and artisanal workshops, the site looks like a typical old Lebanese village. And yet it's not.

"It's vernacular architecture," explained Salman proudly. "I have always been fascinated by it ever since I did my thesis at AUB in 1970 about the use of vernacular architecture in Ain Mreisseh."

For those who don't know, vernacular

architecture is a modest construction style specific to a region and period and relies on local materials.

Salman eventually became a mogul in the construction industry. But his AUB thesis and his love for vernacular architecture never left his mind.

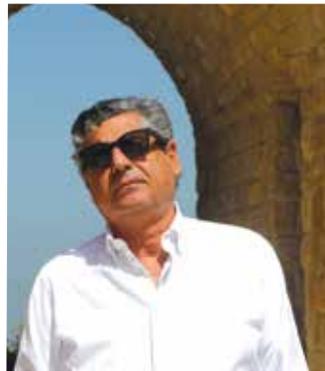
It took the 2015 trash crisis to spur Salman into action.<sup>1</sup> Disgusted by what he saw as the deterioration of the country's historical architecture and the degradation of the environment, he tasked himself with the mission of "generating the previous beauty of Lebanon and the Levant," he said.

It was only a few years earlier that Salman had bought the land and built his dream home and garden in the Shouf area. This land was at the edge of a long stretch of agriculturally unusable woodland. In the beginning, nearby villagers scoffed at the folly of this city man. But it soon occurred to them that maybe this foolish city man would like to buy the surrounding useless land. And so they knocked on Salman's door. Would he like to buy their land?

Salman did. It so happened that there was an abandoned chicken coop structure on the newly purchased land. An artist friend, who was studying the art of traditional pottery in the area, approached Salman. How about letting me turn the chicken coop in this ideal green setting into a pottery studio?

Sure, answered Salman. Soon enough, the artist friend began holding pottery exhibits and running workshops. These turned out to be highly popular among city people.

Meanwhile, Salman found himself hosting villagers who decided to drop in quite frequently to visit him. As he



listened to their discussions of village affairs and their woes about the high unemployment rate in the area, an idea began to grow in his mind.

How about creating a project which would generate employment for these villagers?

The idea stayed dormant, however, until the 2015 trash crisis. With the wails of the disgusted city residents resonating in his ears, Salman contemplated his Shouf land. What if he could bring the 'old days' back? What if he could introduce city people to this serene way of life? What if ancient crafts like pottery, and traditional food, could be kept alive or even rekindled?

Suddenly, he knew what to do. Surveying his 50-acre lush green land, Salman began drawing plans. If things went as he envisioned - and there was no reason they shouldn't - he would build a Lebanese village on 15% of the land and turn the rest into a sanctuary of flora and



<sup>1</sup> Lebanon's waste crisis was sparked when a huge landfill site closed and government authorities failed to implement a contingency plan in time to replace it; dumping and burning waste on the streets became widespread.



fauna with a hiking trail in the midst.

This ‘village,’ he decided, wouldn’t be an ordinary one but a throwback to the past when vernacular architecture was used. “The architecture by the people is the most beautiful of architecture because it is the architecture of necessity,” he said.

Bkerzay, however, had to go a step further. Not only need it be environmentally conservative, but necessarily self-sustainable. The idea was for Salman to borrow money, build his gem, break even and allow the project to keep itself alive.

In 2016, the work began.

As the months passed, Salman’s little

village began to materialize. The results were already breathtaking: a timeless Lebanese village surrounded by lush greenery.

“I didn’t invent, and I didn’t copy the past,” he said. “It may look timeless, but all I did was take the vernacular architectural features from the Ottoman days that relied on the needs of the people.”

True to his word, Bkerzay houses were strictly dictated by nature. Not a single tree was chopped down. Instead, the stone guest houses took the shape of the existing gaps between the trees. To protect the environment, Salman took great care to power Bkerzay with solar

panels while an elaborate purification station allowed the recycling of water, eventually earning Bkerzay the British Green Certification.

The guest houses were furnished with vintage furniture, locally produced linens, and pieces custom-made by local artisans. Employees – up to 120 during the busy summer seasons – were hired strictly from surrounding villages. Artisans, who were to give workshops throughout the years, moved into ateliers.

A few more months, perhaps, and Bkerzay would be completed.

Now came the critical question, thought Salman, who was going to run it?

In New York, **Karim Salman ‘05**, had recently graduated from Columbia University and was working as an IT technologist in CISCO. His father’s phone calls lately seemed to center on a vision or dream of a timeless village.

In 2017, Karim decided to return to Lebanon, and soon after his arrival, was whisked to Bkerzay. Karim stared dumbfounded. True, he had listened half-heartedly to his father during the phone calls, but nothing prepared him for Bkerzay. His father had actually built a small village.

Run Bkerzay for me, asked



his father, beaming. He and Salman's sister, Zeina, would manage the resort.

Karim looked around. He was standing in an empty village. Workers were still putting the finishing touches.

Who did he build this for? he thought hesitantly. His father's Bkerzay – its 'raison d'être' – aims to introduce wealthy city dwellers to the simplistic yet happier lives of the countryside. But what if this venture turned out to be a passing phase?

"I know how these things work," he said. "People go to the new thing then move on to somewhere else."

But his father's exuberance was catching. Karim realized early on that getting the project moving was a 7-day-a-week-twenty-four-hour effort. Bkerzay, proudly handed to him on a silver platter, lacked proper office spaces, a marketing strategy, advertising, "basically everything," he said.

The only marketing gimmick was an Instagram page that was set up for the pottery classes," he said.

And so it was that Karim took over his father's masterpiece and began – well, at the beginning. The opening date was set for September 1, 2018, – six months away. The days ahead showed little mercy as he tirelessly delved into the relatively new worlds of accounting, maintenance, hotel management, pricing, cuisine, personnel, advertising, and marketing.

Finally, opening day – there was no fanfare. Bkerzay just opened, and Karim found himself a Jack-of-all-trades: accountant-receptionist-bellboy-bag carrier-communication officer-IT



developer-manager.

"So basically I was a baggage porter one minute vehemently refusing tips, and the next I was the hotel manager giving out orders," he said, laughing. "I got many odd stares."

Then, there was that time when Karim found himself staring at several booked groups who showed up at once. Every working staff member in Bkerzay was called in as reinforcement. Customer demands were unrelenting. One wanted the exact equal change, so Karim ran to the villages collecting bills. Then another customer demanded an elliptical bicycle in his room. And off went Karim all over the Shouf to procure one.

"It was miserable at first," he recalled, "until I figured out who to hire and where I needed them the most."

His hard work paid off as Bkerzay soon became a popular retreat attracting what his father had always envisioned: a flashback into a simple past where the fresh pots of honey and newly ground thymes were the excitement of the day.

And of course, there were several humorous incidents between country folks and city dwellers, such as a customer request for a 'lemonade glacée' that



created a frenzy in the kitchen. What in the world is a 'lemonade glacée'?

Hospitality basics workshops immediately went into effect.

"To enjoy it here, you have to understand Bkerzay," said Karim. "This is not your usual escape. This is a place where you float back to a more serene past."

As for Salman, his little home and garden in the Shouf continue to be his sanctuary. "I am not leaving the country," he said adamantly. "This is my way of fighting the crisis here. We are the positive force in Lebanon."

*In 2021, Karim and his family moved to the United States. He has since returned to the field of technology. "History is repeating itself because I had exactly the same path when I founded my family in 1985 I left and stayed for eight years and I came back to stay in Lebanon," said Salman. "In a way it's the Lebanese destiny."*

*Bkerzay is currently run by Zeina Salman and Fayez Assly, the resort's new manager. Bkerzay continues to be popular and employing villagers from surrounding areas.*

*For more information, go to: <https://bkerzay.com/>*



## An Unlikely Friendship that Helped Create the Moderna Vaccine

Courtesy of: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/dolly-parton-s-lebanese-doctor-friend-praises-her-moderna-vaccine-donation-1.1114559>



It was an unlikely friendship: a megastar and a doctor. But a friendship it was and a special bond it became between Dolly Parton and **Dr. Naji Abumrad '63**. The harmony was so strong that last November, and in honor of Abumrad, Parton donated \$1m to the coronavirus research efforts. The donation partially funded the biotechnology firm Moderna's vaccine, still in the experimentation phase at the time.

"Her work made it possible to expedite the science behind the testing," Abumrad, 76, said in an interview with the Washington Post in November.<sup>1</sup> "Without a doubt in my mind, her funding made the research toward the vaccine go ten times faster than it would have without it."

Their story began in 2013 when Parton had an unfortunate car accident that led her to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. There she met Abumrad. The IC graduate had been living in the US since 1971 after receiving his medical degree from AUB. He then moved to Syracuse to complete a residency in surgery at the State University of New York. In 1979, he joined the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and, in 2014, was elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In the country diva singer, Abumrad

found a kindred soul. For one thing, they were both reared in mountain villages and came from financially struggling families, albeit being on two different continents. While Abumrad found success in the medical field, Parton became an iconic country music star composing over 3,000 songs and releasing several top albums. In 1999, she was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and earned many awards, including a Golden Globe nomination for Best actress.

Their professional worlds could not have been further apart, yet destiny dictated that they meet and form an unlikely friendship.

Curious about the coronavirus research at Vanderbilt, Parton began questioning her friend about it. Abumrad told her about some promising developments made by a research team at the university led by Mark Denison, a physician and professor of pathology, microbiology, and immunology.

A short while later, on April 1, Parton announced her \$1m gift for coronavirus research donated in honor of Abumrad — "My longtime friend."

In March 2021, Parton proudly received a dose of the Moderna Vaccine. Giving it to her was no other than Abumrad. The 75-year-old singer erupted into a rewritten version of her hit song, 'Jolene.'

"Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, I'm begging of you, please don't hesitate," she sang in the video posted on her social media account.

"I just want to say to all of you cowards out there, don't be such a chicken squat. Get out there and get your shot," she added.

Her Instagram caption read: "Dolly gets a dose of her own medicine."

<sup>1</sup> Bella, T. (2020, November 18). Dolly Parton helped fund Moderna's vaccine. It began with a car crash and an unlikely friendship. Washington Post.

## I'll be back, Gemayzeh! The Hidden Gem Walking Tour



Upon hearing of the August 4 explosion, **Claudia Matta Ramly** '05, immediately scanned through the photos in her home in Wisconsin. She stopped short at her Gemayzeh photos— taken only a year earlier. No, it couldn't be. This couldn't be Gemayzeh. Like all Lebanese in the diaspora, she stared in shock at the images of shell-shocked and bloodied residents emerging into the streets.

Only a year ago, she was giving guided walking tours of the quarter, thrilling her 'tourists' with historical discoveries. She had once sworn never to leave the country. But she did. She had met the man of her dreams. He lived in Wisconsin, and well, here she was now, married and studying for her Ph.D.

Still, her thoughts often reverted to Gemayzeh – though it was not her neighborhood, really. She wasn't born or reared there, but still, she loved it. It was this love that spurred her to start the 'Hidden Gem Walking Tour' of Gemayzeh and Surssock quarters a few years ago. The tour had quickly become very popular, taking her by surprise.

In the beginning, it was just her own 'discovery' walks, as she called them. Friends began joining her. Soon enough, strangers began asking to join them. Now, it so happened that one of Matta's other love was storytelling, and she thus found herself giving narrative tours of the area. Hence the birth of the Hidden Gems Walking Tours.

Legend has it that Beirut, once known as the "Paris of the Middle East," would mesmerize visitors as they stood aboard the deck of their ships approaching the red-tile roof stone houses that made up the city. While much of this is now gone, pockets like Gemayzeh still hold the charm of the past.

Both Gemayzeh and the adjacent neighborhood of Surssock and Mar Mikhael, mostly made of Ottoman-era buildings, are considered rare and unique: they contain clusters of old houses preserving the French, Ottoman, and Lebanese architectural heritage.

In 1995, the battle to save the city's old traditional houses began. Activists





fought relentlessly against a postwar tide of the haphazard construction boom that targeted traditional historic buildings at the end of the civil war. With a lack of government laws or even incentives to keep old clusters intact, activist cries fell on deaf ears.

As a result, many of Beirut's clusters of traditional homes were pulled down. Less than a handful currently remain; the most prominent are in Gemayzeh and Mar Mikhael.

In the early 2000s, Gemayzeh's restaurant and pub night scene became 'the' place to be – earning it many accolades in international magazines. Mar Mikhael followed soon after.

It was into this lively party scene that Matta was first introduced to Gemayzeh. Then one day, she decided to explore the area. As a training and education specialist for medical devices, Matta was returning home one day when hoping to outwait a traffic gridlock, she parked her car near Gemayzeh and went for a stroll in the neighborhood. As one charming alley led to another, she became mesmerized. The traffic had long thinned away, but she continued uncovering the many nooks and crannies in the area and marveling at its unique architecture.

"My generation never really saw it for what it was, a rich part of our history," she said. "I knew there were stories here and wanted to bring them out."

She threw herself into research and talked to locals. She was soon putting together the timeless tales of Gemayzeh.

To begin, why the name 'Gemayzeh'?

"Simply because it was full of Sycamore (Gemayzeh) trees," she explained. "Today,

there is only one Gemayzeh tree left. Do you know where?"

Look at the long Mar Nicholas staircase in the middle of Gouraud street. "It's there," she chuckled. "It was always the last stop in my tour."

Legend has it that one of the Gemayzeh trees used to serve as a daily meeting point for the local men to talk about ways to overthrow the Ottoman Empire. Some of the men were later hung from that very same tree.

"But still, people continued to meet under that Gemayzeh tree and bring coffee with them," she continued.

At some point, someone put up a tent. The tent eventually gave way to a glassed-up coffee shop, 'kahwet al kozaz', where older men came to enjoy a good argument, play backgammon or cards.

In 2010, Kahwet Leila took over, and the area's older men retired to their homes.

Another of Matta's stops was at Maroun Naccache's house. His musical plays from the mid-1800s are considered the birth of modern Arab theatre. His first play took place in his Gemayzeh residence.

"But my favorite story," said Matta, "is the statue story."

The current statue in Martyr Square, designed by Italian artist Marino Mazzacurati, is not the original one. It seems that in 1930, local artist Youssef Hoyek had sculpted a Muslim woman and Christian woman holding hands over their children's martyred coffin, "Les Pleureuses" (weeping women). But the Lebanese at the time found it too gloomy. It was removed and the spot remained empty until Mazzacurati's sculpture made its appearance in 1960.

The fate of Les Pleureuses remained largely forgotten until it was found, after the civil war, in someone's garage covered with oil and soot. It eventually found a new home outside the Sursock Museum – one of the main stops of the Hidden Gem Tours.

Usually, Matta refused to give private tours. Except once: A young Lebanese man was visiting from Wisconsin. It was fate. The couple married soon after, and Matta moved to the US. But Gemayzeh never left her thoughts. She had intended to continue her tours in that fateful summer.

Instead, she found herself staring at the television images of crumbling historical houses, holes in old stone structures, balconies plunged to the ground, ceilings collapsed, and millions of archaic windows exploded into fragments.

Matta spent hours putting together before and after photos of Gemayzeh. "I want people to know what it was," she said.

Word soon reached her of the rebuilding efforts of her beloved neighborhood. She was overjoyed.

"On my first post-covid trip back to Lebanon," she vowed, "I will be giving a Hidden Gem Walking Tour!"



# Back to Hybrid!













## 50th Anniversary – Class of 1971

In celebration of the **50th Graduation Anniversary** of the **Class of 1971**, in collaboration with the Office of Alumni & Advancement, Dr. Usama Hamdan hosted an iftar at Gefinor Rotana (Beirut) on Friday, April 16th, 2021.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the number of attendees was limited. The necessary safety measures were taken. All attendees showed proof of vaccine or negative PCR result.



L To R: Sana Yamout, Moufid Beydoun '64, Mounir Doueidy, Amin Nasr, May Khatib, Hamid al Jabiri, Usama Hamdan, Mahmoud Shreih, Kamal Abul Hisn, Muhamed Bulbul



**At the time we were only having fun  
Homework blues, then run in the sun**

**Every smile, every wink  
Teachers telling us to think**

**We were young, we were free  
Our very best years here, at IC**

**Years have passed  
Treasures amassed**

**Yet none is so precious  
No lesson more gracious**

**Then the memories we were making  
Blissfully studying and laughing**

**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Class of 1971!**



L To R: Hamid al Jabiri, Moufid Beydoun '64, Usama Hamdan, Amin Nasr, May Makhzoumi, Mounir Doueidy, Fouad Makhzoumi, Mahmoud Shreih, May Khatib



The ICAA board June 2018  
to June 2021



**INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

جمعية متخرجي الإنترناشونال كوليدج

Beirut, May 10, 2021

Dear fellow alumni and members of the wider IC community,

The term of our board will come to an end this June and it's time for us, in true IC spirit, to hand the "Torch" to the next generation of IC alumni leaders. We are confident the next board will continue the endeavor of "Empowering the IC spirit" for positive social impact. The next elections will be held end June/early July 2021 and we are counting on you all to participate and remain engaged with IC and the ICAA.

When our current ICAA board was elected in spring 2018 we promised ourselves to work diligently towards one main high-level objective: "Empower the IC spirit so that Lebanon may remain home". This was a tall order indeed. In retrospect, we were probably naïve to have believed that this was possible given how the country was being managed and who was managing it. Ironically, two and half years later many of us (myself included) have been forced to leave the country. To the despair of those who despise the Lebanon we dream of, the roots IC planted for us in Lebanon remain deep and strong. And while some of us may not be able to live in Lebanon for the foreseeable future, Lebanon will always remain home.

Naïve or not, we are somewhat comforted by the many successful initiatives we engaged in during the past two and a half years:

- the ICAA scholarship program which currently supports the university tuition of 10 exceptional IC alumni and provides them with mentorship and career planning support
- the brain bites sessions we organized to keep IC alumni informed, engaged and impactful members of society
- the contribution to the IC board of trustees and to putting scholarships center stage in the school's strategic plan again
- the ICAA connect platform we invested in to help keep alumni digitally connected and accessible
- as well as the many social events and sports events we organized

Our board's term will come to an end in June 2021 but our commitment to IC, its values and its legacy remain eternal. May IC and the IC community always continue to give us hope in better days to come.

*Sincerely,*  
**Karim Baalbaki '94**  
**ICAA President 2018-2021**

*The ICAA was established in 1980 by a group of prominent IC alumni as an independent non partisan; apolitical civil society association. It was Registered with the ministry of interior under No. 61 on May 9th, 1980. The founders included among others: Mr. Alton Reynolds, Mr. Ghazi Kraytem, Mrs. Najwa Sayed, Mr. Nabih Rasheed, Dr. Shawki Ghaziri, Mr. Amin Tayyara*

*ICAA Previous Presidents:*

*Mr. Ghazi Kraytem 1980-1992*

*Mr. Adnan Arakji 1992-1994*

*Mr. Maher Ghandour 1994-1996*

*Mr. Ahmad Sabra 1996-2000*

*Mr. Moufid Beydoun 2000-2002*

*Mr. Ezzat Kraytem 2002-2004*

*Mr. Yusuf Kan'an 2004-2012*

*Mr. Farid Fakhreddin 2012-2017*

*Mr. Imad El Kbalil 2017-2018*

*Mr. Karim Baalbaki 2018-2021*



ICAA/Olayan School of Business Entrepreneurship Summit February 2019



ICAA reception April 2018 in honor of previous ICAA presidents and founders.



ICAA networking reception held at MIM Museum December 2018



Brain Bites session on Electricity January 2019



In the year 1980, the ICAA was established by a group of visionary Alumni along with the former IC President Mr. Alton Reynolds. The ICAA was established as a non-profit, non-political, non-religious and independent organization duly registered at the Ministry of Interior on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1980 under number 81.

**LEGAL ENTITY**

ICAA is a fully independent legal entity completely separate from IC the school. The ICAA is different from the IC Alumni and Development Office which is part of the IC administration. *The ICAA has an independent vision, mission, objectives, and bylaws.*

**MISSION**

ICAA aims to connect and empower the IC community at large including alumni, faculty, and staff and support IC's original mission of building a better society.

**VISION**

ICAA aspires for a community that values the collective and lives up to the IC ideals.

**VALUES**

Mindfulness, Moderation, Open Mindedness, Diversity and Tolerance.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The eligibility for membership falls under two categories:

- 1- Every student who graduated from IC and who has paid his/her membership fees as per the ICAA terms and conditions.
- 2- Any IC student who studied at IC for at least one (1) academic year, who embodies the IC values, and who has paid his/her membership fee as per the ICAA terms and conditions.



**SUBSCRIPTION TO ICAA**

It simple and easy to subscribe and be part of the Team!  
Please visit our site to register.  
[www.icaalebanon.com](http://www.icaalebanon.com)

**COUNCIL**

ICAA Council consists of fifteen (15) members, fourteen (14) of whom are elected by the ICAA general assembly; in addition to one (1) member appointed by the IC President.

**CHARTER**

ICAA is governed by the ICAA Charter. This charter is the ICAA bylaws that defines the appropriate rights, roles, and responsibilities of the general assembly, the council, its executive committee, its committees and subcommittees. This charter protects and preserves the rights of the ICAA and its members all over the globe.

**ELECTIONS**

The ICAA council election process is governed by Lebanese Laws. The elections are conducted every three years, based on democratic principles; whereby all ICAA registered members are given the chance to vote for council members, as well as to submit for candidacy as council members.

**ICAA Council 2018 - 2021:**

- Mr. Karim Baalbaki
- Mrs. Sherine Bayoud
- Mr. Samer Doughtan
- Mrs. Nada Ghazal
- Mr. Tarek Hourd
- Mr. Ramez Haddad
- Ms. Lina Itani
- Mr. Ahmad Ismael
- Mr. Rami Labban
- Mr. Tarek Moussally
- Ms. Dina Sue Musallam
- Mr. Walid Nakfour
- Mr. Karim Noueihed
- Mr. Wael Sanyoura
- Mr. Wassim Sinno



*Keep the IC Spirit!*

+961 71 68 67 72  
[info@icaalebanon.com](mailto:info@icaalebanon.com)



English-French Big Game during ICAA sports day May 2019

# Updates

## '59

**Waddah Chehadeh** earned his Bachelor's degree in Engineering at AUB, followed by a Master's degree in Highway Engineering at the University of Surrey in England. He then returned to Syria and practiced general civil engineering for 17 years. He then moved to Kuwait, where he was an engineering adviser to the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development for 31 years. During this period, he visited 93 countries, followed up 110 development projects, and received the Order of National Merit of Burkina Faso. Currently, he is retired in Northern California, where he has written a book entitled "Astounding Memories in Developing Countries." I have attended a couple of IC reunions in California.

"The attached picture was taken in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia," he writes. "The eagle I am holding is a Mongolian "Golden Eagle" famous for its remarkable flying speed, magnificent eyesight, and powerful feet with sharp talons (nails). It is a skillful hunter. Its diet is mainly foxes and rabbits. Its average life span is 15-20 years. Its average weight is 4 Kg and its wingspan extends 2 m."



## '60

**Nicolas Khairallah** sent in the following photos:



1st row: Sami Nasr, Nicolas Khairallah, Maroun Azar.  
2nd line: Najib Begdache



Classes of 1960 till 1969 in a reunion at IC



Classes of 1960 and 1963 with our dear professor Jibrán Massoud

## '61

**Dr. Tony Anid** lives in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and has retired from the field of ob-gyn some time ago. He is a consultant to the state board and the insurance companies. You can contact him at [taneed@yahoo.com](mailto:taneed@yahoo.com) or Facebook.

## '65

**Marwan Stambuli** sent in the following message. "Our Ic1965.com website is growing beautifully with events and updates. Please visit it and let us have your news if you have not joined the group yet. My Contact : Marwan Stambuli [www.marwanstambuli.com](http://www.marwanstambuli.com)  
God Bless You All



# Updates



**Said Dabbous** studied at the University of California and graduated in 1970 with honors. He taught at UC as an assistant professor and worked in the French dept as an assistant prof in French phonetics. His university years were financed by a scholarship offered by a California family. “Among my teachers, I remember Mr. Monroe, English teacher, Mr. David Hirst English prof, Mr. Ribet French prof Mr. Tabbal science prof,” he writes. “My schoolmates were Abbas and Khalil Flaifil, Nabil Chartouni, Ghassan Guraiyyeb.”

## ‘67

**Nabil Selbak** sent in this picture of his graduating class of 1967.



## ‘81

**Hala A. Madi-Shalhoub** reports that “2020 was a challenging year for many. Even though the world was locking down during the COVID-19 pandemic, my husband, Hadi Shalhoub D.O., son Jad Shalhoub, IE, and myself, went into partnership to open Advanced Vascular Solutions (AVS practice). I’m proud to say that we were able to service the community through these hard times and are now expanding into an OBL, and additional facility under AVS, as well as a diabetic clinic to service our community for their wound care, veins, and diabetic needs.”

## ‘82

**Dr. Imad B. Baalbaki**, AUB vice president for advancement and business development, has received the 2020 CASE Asia-Pacific Distinguished Service Award. This prestigious award “honours individuals whose professional accomplishments have made a significant and lasting impact on institutional advancement, and whose life and character have earned the respect and admiration of fellow colleagues.”



The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) is a global nonprofit association of more than 3,600 universities and schools in 82 countries. This award is a testament to “the superlative efforts that the AUB advancement team and AUB senior leadership have exerted

# Updates

and what they have accomplished in recent years despite all the challenges,” said Baalbaki.

Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri (IC '81), AUB president, said, “Since Imad’s appointment as vice president, our advancement team has achieved enormous success. The fundraising successes of the advancement team in recent years have been extraordinary.”

Baalbaki has been a member of AUB’s advancement team since 2001 when he became director of the Office of Development and External Affairs; he has led the team, in Beirut and North America, since July 2016. Since 2017, Baalbaki has spearheaded BOLDLY AUB, a \$650 million fundraising campaign which will end in January 2022. More than 98 percent of the target have been raised.

A proud IC alumnus (IC '82) and AUB alumnus (BA '85, MBA '87), Baalbaki has a PhD in marketing from Georgia Institute of Technology. A faculty member at AUB’s Suliman S. Olayan School of Business since 1993, and a former director of the School of Business (1997-2000), he is also the author of numerous publications in marketing and co-author of two leading English-language marketing textbooks for the Arab world.

## ‘85

**Dr. Bassem Safadi** moved back to Lebanon from the United States in 2005 and contributed immensely to clinical care, education and research at AUB and lately at LAU. He has now relocated to Qatar and is heading the Surgical Services at Aman Hospital in Doha. Aman Hospital is the state-of-the-art newest hospital in Doha where Quality meets Luxury.

## ‘87

**Wissam S. Yafi** recently published a book titled Fina. It’s a story about Lebanon but projected into the future. This would be his third published book, but his first work of science fiction.

( <https://www.amazon.com/Fina-2003-Wissam-S-Yafi/dp/B08NZTND52>).

“As ex-pats, it hurts to see our homeland hurting so much,” he writes. “All we could do is pitch and keep the spirits of our families and compatriots



up. But we are always hopeful that things will get better and are working hard to make sure it does. So hang in there IC. Lebanon needs you !!!”



## ‘88

**Sam Khodr** is the General Manager Middle East Office of Ulster Carpets. He reports that in a move that will promote further growth, “we have strengthened our position in the Middle East by opening a new company in Dubai (Al Ghetaa Trading LLC) at the heart of the important Business Bay and Design District in Downtown Dubai. We are currently working on a number of exciting projects in the Middle East (One and Only Hotels , Atlantis, The Address Mecca )

## ‘92

**Ruba Moussa** is a realtor. She obtained a real estate license at AUB after completing her BA. In 1995, she moved to Canada and became a Canadian citizen. She worked in different jobs until she found her passion which is selling and renting properties. She has been in this business for the past 12 years.

## ‘12

**Jessy Abdel Nour** studied Civil Engineering at AUB and pursued her graduate studies at Columbia University in New York with a Master’s Degree in Construction Management.

Since graduation, Jessy has been working as Project Manager at a real estate development firm in Manhattan where she has been handling luxurious renovations of apartments and townhouses, from concept design through key handover. In her free time, Jessy enjoys biking and strolling around the streets of NYC, where



# Updates

she currently resides. She cannot wait to be able to travel again to visit her family in Lebanon and her childhood friends in Europe. For the time being, Jessie is enjoying the simple pleasures of being in the “big city”. Jessie is thankful she attended IC, the first stepping stone that taught her how to think outside the box and provided her with the exposure needed for her to cherish the polyvalence of being surrounded by people from different cultures and backgrounds.”

**Omar Kheir** joined the IC family in the fall of 2009 after being one of the scholarship program recipients. “IC was definitely a life-changing experience, paving the way for all of the successful steps that followed,” he writes. He later graduating from the American University of Beirut with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and pursued an Industrial Engineering master’s program at the University of Michigan with a full scholarship. Omar currently works at EPCOM in El Paso, Texas where he focuses on the implementation of innovative and creative solutions in the field of inventory management, forecasting, and process improvement to the company’s intra and inter-departmental processes and structure. Omar’s groundbreaking approach completely altered the fate of the company, moving it back to a safe shore, saving more than 30 American jobs by preventing the closure of its Miami branch. Omar is now focusing on expansion strategies and increasing operational efficiencies. He is looking forward to visiting the IC Ras Beirut Campus during his next trip to Lebanon.

Omar sent in the following pics:



‘13

**Hala Mansour** is in her first PhD year at Institut Pasteur de Lille, with a doctoral contract at Université de Lille. She is working on malaria: to study the functions of GEXP15, a PP1 regulatory protein, in the intraerythrocytic development cycle of *Plasmodium falciparum*, in the field of parasitology and molecular biology.

‘20

**Rindala El Ahdab** is finishing up a minor in art history at Université de Montreal in Canada and looking forward to starting a bachelor’s in industrial design at the same university.



# Letters to the editor

Over the seven years of middle school and high school, students are bound to disagree and bicker and fight, build friendships, and experience challenges. Two milestones or life events shaped our high school class in particular. One of those is the IC story I want to share today. Our Middle School was around 36 people, which is a large class compared to the other classes. We were part of the high school program, so we were in the same section for the entirety of the middle and high school. During our last year in middle school, our classroom was on the top floor of Sage Hall and had several windows that overlooked the stairs and the art room. The IC campus has old limestone and sandstone buildings with old wooden windows that are drafty. We had small AC units that hung in the classrooms, but mostly we relied on opening and closing the windows for temperature control. Trust me; this was a point of contention as not everyone experiences hot and cold the same way especially related to where you are sitting in relation to the windows. It was halfway through the fall semester, and the science fair was coming up. A few of us were interested in planes and aerodynamics, which teenage boys are not amazed by the image of jets and super sonic flight? So a group of us decided to compete in the science fair, and our subject would focus on how the shape of wings affects flight. Our experiment would be different styles to make different paper airplanes. I do not recall everyone who was part of this group, but two people who were definitely part of this group were Samer Bakhazi and Mina Riad, who is now a pilot of Emirates.

As we started working on our science project, we began experimenting with different types of paper planes. All you needed was a scratch piece of paper that you would fold up and throw. Our test site, our runway, so to speak, was right outside our classroom window. We would throw the paper planes out of the window and out into the open space. As kids, we didn't realize how careless this was to litter paper, especially outside the building, and in some cases, these would land on the roof of the art class, which would require someone to climb to the roof to clear away the debris, our paper planes. Our small project became a hobby for the class. Lots of folks joined in and started tossing these planes out the window.

The school administration was not pleased, not at all, and they asked us to stop. We did. For the most part, I guess we had our fill of the experimenting. Until one day during one of the classes, it was in the afternoon, and sometimes if you had too much fun during recess, maybe had too many mna2essh and too many snacks, you could get sleepy and bored in class.

Suddenly, the principal shows up to class with one of the gentlemen from the physical plant. They are furious because they saw a student throw a paper plane out the window. We had been warned, and we still decided to defy the rules, and to make matters worse, it was during class. The principal who had the gentleman with her was the unfortunate person responsible for cleaning up the planes. At first, he pointed to one student and says he saw him throw the plane. The student was troubled, and we were all upset in case he was wrongly accused. So instead, the principal decided to ask all boys wearing glasses to get up and come downstairs to her office. We were all distraught. Myself included as I wear glasses. We go down to her office and get yelled at for not listening.

Afterward, the principal decided to punish us and told us we would not have any classes until we told them who threw the plane. During the next recess break, a few folks in our class were worried about missing exams or not getting through the class material, so they went to the principal and named a few folks, not knowing who it really was. The principal was now furious about the tattle taling on our classmates, and we were punished and were not taught for over a week. Not much of a punishment for teenagers. For a week, we sat there listening to our teachers lecturing us about morals and what is more important in life. You know, stuff like we should spend our pocket money on knowledge and reading books, not throwing litter. The moral was for us to stick together, to be there for each other no matter what. And years after this event, we are all here for one another; although we don't see each other as much as we would like, we are nonetheless a tight-knit group.

*All the best,  
Mohamad Tassabehji '04*

I spent two years 1958 / 1960 at the french section, following in the steps of my father Osman Dabbous.

It was a very interesting and stimulating experience that launched me into the world of business and I would like to take a few minutes to share with you the high points of my life.

When I joined IC in 1958, coming from Lycee Français, I noticed a big difference separating both institutions. While at LF, there was strict discipline; while at IC I could breathe more freely and enjoy the scenic hills of Ras Beirut and the big emphasis on sports activities.

# Letters to the editor

I remember the names of some of my teachers like Dr. Tabbal in science, Mr. Ribet the French teacher Mr. David Hirst, my English teacher, and the correspondent of the Guardian newspaper. In the 60s, IC was a boys' school only. Some of the fellow students I remember Abbas Flaifel, Khalil Fleifel, Nabil Chartouni, Oussama Daouk, and Farouk Traboulsi, Ghassan Ghurayeb, etc.

Unfortunately, my grades in math went down, and soon I was asked to leave the school.

I finished my secondary education in Cairo and had nothing more to do with mathematics.

1964, I landed in Oxford for a course in English language and art, a lonely and boring experience, cold, rainy, and cloudy for a Lebanese boy from Ras Beirut.

In 1965, I landed in Santa Barbara, California, with a private fund to major in political science. The sunshine and the ocean sound offered me an ideal atmosphere for studying and transcending into higher spheres.

*Said Dabbous '65*

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## Celebrating the Spirit of the Torch

It has been a tough year for Lebanon and for the IC community at large. How should we all cope with all the dimness around us? It is not an easy question, considering the endless series of calamities befalling our beloved homeland and the lives of so many dear to us.

In some ways, it harkens one to the equally tragic circumstances we faced during the war years. Growing up in Beirut, war raged around my generation mercilessly; and made life seem purposeless. We did not have a pandemic back then, but we did struggle through other types of invasive threats that interrupted our daily lives, destroyed our surroundings, and took our families' livelihood. Not unlike now, life became merely about eking an existence.

But we did have IC ...

An island haven situated in the midst of raging seas, once we stepped on IC's Ras Beirut campus, it transported us to serene nature, timeless architecture, libraries, science, music, art, sports, and of course the constant humming of a learning community dead bent on carrying on. We may not

have necessarily realized it at the time, but in retrospect, a key lesson was being taught; and it was not in the limestone building classrooms of Sage, Thompson or Rockefeller Halls, the books, school yards, extracurricular clubs, or dusty sand and gravel football fields (no turf back then). Rather, it was a teacherless subtle spiritual lesson of sorts: Never give up on life; rather, when things seem dim, be the one who lights the torch.

It is this Spirit of the Torch that continues to provide enduring hopefulness, that kept us going even in the darkest of times. Hope for knowledge. Hope for peace and humanity. Hope for happiness. Hope for friendship. Hope for love ...

In many ways, this Spirit of the Torch drove me to write my first book *Inevitable Democracy* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2011), arguing for a free, prosperous, and democratic homeland when few were willing to contemplate it. This spirit motivated me to help author the Lebanese Citizen Bill of Rights in 2015, promoting the simple yet fundamental notion that all citizens in Lebanon should enjoy full equality in ascertaining their rights regardless of age, gender, race, class, or creed. And it is the very same spirit that recently encouraged me to imagine a futuristic Lebanon in my latest book, *Fina* (Amazon/KDP, 2019)—a sci-fi love story, which refuses to be bound by what is, preferring to create an alternative reality based on what could be. I have come to realize that *Fina* is but a derivative of the Spirit of the Torch.

Just as a torch lights up most when it is darkest, I remain confident and hopeful that during these most difficult times the Spirit of the Torch will continue to inspire our community to help guide our homeland back to its full promise.

*Wissam Yafi '87 is a  
technologist, author, and  
activist who resides in Reston,  
Virginia.*



## In Loving Memory: Fouad Maalouf



January 30th, 2021, was one of the saddest days of my life. On that day, at 4:00 PM, Fouad Maalouf passed away, and with that, I lost a long-life friend, and IC lost a great supporter.

Fouad was a man larger than life. He excelled in everything he did and would not accept failure. He was revered equally by his friends and his employees.

Our friendship goes back a long time to the days when we were both at MIT. I was a freshman when we met, and he was a junior. By the time he graduated, we were close friends.

Fouad was always a go-getter. I recall the soccer team coach at MIT shouting, 'Fouad, go get them!' and Fouad would go charging in, elbowing out one player after another, smashing the football into the goal. He became the captain of the team and later was voted to the All American Team.

He also had his charm with women. Once, we were sitting in the Horse Shoe Café - Hamra. Fouad would keep eying a beautiful girl in her mysterious black leather dress. "I am going to get this girl!" he said. A couple of weeks later, we see Hanan Al-Shaykh at a party at Issam Shammas' parents. Fouad invited her for a dance. A while later, Fouad left with Hanan leaving his escort behind. That was the end of Fouad, the bachelor.

Fouad left to Saudi Arabia in the early seventies where he built a successful construction and industrial company. We kept in touch and would meet very often in Beirut and the South of France.

In 1989, I joined the IC Board of Trustees. A year later, I nominated Fouad to the board. For the next 25 years, he was a pillar of the board and a very active and dynamic trustee. He became Vice-Chairman and headed the first capital campaign, working closely with Gerrit Keator, then president of IC, ensuring its success and raising over \$7,000,000. Fouad contributed generously to the campaign and the annual fund. Over the years, whenever IC held its board meetings in London, Fouad would provide us with meeting rooms and host the board and other alumni to dinner.



Don Selinger and Imad Taher honoring Fouad Malouf on June 12 2017 in recognition of life long achievements as a student at IC and at MIT, as an all-American soccer player, as a prominent engineer and entrepreneur, for his dedicated service as a Board Member for more than 25 years, his leadership as Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, as Chairman of IC's first Capital Campaign, and above all, for his love and tireless dedication to IC and its mission.

He was very involved in the negotiations with AUB for the purchase of the IC campus. Invariably whenever we used to meet, IC would be a main topic of conversation. Fouad was very devoted to IC and would go to great lengths to support it in every possible way.

Fouad Maalouf passed away, but wherever he went in his life, he made a difference. Certainly, he left his mark in IC's history.

Fouad is survived by his wife Hanan, a prominent novelist, by his son Tarek and his daughter Juman."

*Imad Taher  
Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees*



## In Loving Memory: Ghazi Kraytem

In April of this year we lost a great pillar of the IC community and a gentleman of the rarest kind, Mr Ghazi Kraytem '53. A true IC spirit who practiced values based leadership in a way very few Lebanese and Arab leaders have. Whether as a founder and first president of the IC alumni association; Vice President and MD of TMA (which he built into the second largest air-cargo carrier in the world in the 1960s and 70s); member of Makased's board of trustees, Vice President of Ansar Club, or as president of the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture, Mr. Kraytem always stood out as an institution builder, as a gentleman who believed in giving before taking, and as a leader who consciously and actively cultivated and made way for the next generation of leaders..Mr. Kraytem's wisdom and enlightened yet effective leadership will be so dearly missed..

May his soul Rest In Peace

In the fall of 1979, a group of enlightened and effective leaders from the IC community led by Mr. Kraytem and guided by then IC president Reynolds came together because they shared a common pressing concern: 4 years into the Lebanese civil war they sensed that IC was in desperate need of support. IC had its own war to fight. A war to protect and preserve the mission and values of IC's founding fathers under the most daunting of circumstances.

They thus decided to pool their efforts and devote a significant portion of their time, energy and resources to build an association that has 3 Main Objectives:

1. Make sure the IC community remains anchored to its identity and committed to the values of Moderation, Open mindedness, and Tolerance
2. Secure the support of alumni for the school and its scholarship fund so that IC remains the melting pot that dissolves fault lines and remedies the illnesses of a fractured war society
3. Support IC alumni with their university education, as well as with mentorship, internships and career advancement

In the words of Mr. Kraytem, the objective was simply to: Protect IC and the wider community, to the extent possible, from the inevitable negative spillovers of the war. The unfortunate truth is that today looks so much like the day when the ICAA was first conceived. What also remains true is that IC continues to breed enlightened and effective leaders, leaders who understand that true and enduring success is collective success not only individual success. Therefore no matter how dark the days IC and the ICAA will continue to plant seeds of hope in a better tomorrow. We count on all IC alumni to continue the legacy of the ICAA founders, to stay engaged and to remain committed to empowering the IC spirit.



Mr. Kraytem with his wife Randa along with fellow ICAA founders Dr. Ghaziri and Mr. Rashid (and Mrs.) attending the ICAA's reception at Martin Hous



Reception in honor of the ICAA founders April 2018

In Memoriam

## In Loving Memory: Souheil Samaha



We regret to inform you that **Souheil Samaha**, one of IC's beloved Arabic teacher passed away. Mr. Samaha spent 30 years as a teacher at IC. He started in 1956-1957 until the year 1986-1987 when he last years and was the director of Arabic Studies. He also taught translation. His four children were all IC graduates: Denise '72, Claude '74, Mona '75 and Camille '76.

Two of his students, Abdel Kader Ghandour '72 and Amine Klam '74 sent in the following obituaries.

M. SAMAHA nous a quittés.

J'essaye de ne pas l'admettre... en fouillant dans les expressions, la littérature et le savoir qu'il nous a transmis... du moins, il a essayé, fait de son mieux...

Comme pour les centaines de jeunes, craintifs, admiratifs devant « ce pion » (vulgarité linguistique importée de MAI 68), cet « instit » (paresse expressive), ce professeur (déjà plus juste), cet HOMME (là c'est lui !).

Derrière ce « père » rigoureux, parfois austère, imposant par sa stature et son sens de la pédagogie à l'ancienne, se cachaient un cœur, une volonté de donner, un altruisme et une bonté frappante.

Il faisait tout pour mettre plus en avant son côté strict, son obligation froide de guider, ses valeurs « vieille école » d'encadrer. Mais dans ses tentatives, je confirme : il a échoué ! Vainqueurs : sa gentillesse, sa générosité, son désir inébranlable d'apporter, d'enseigner.

Dans cette classe mystérieuse peinte en blanc et bleu, dans l'école de l'au-delà, je le vois, assis derrière son pupitre, marchant sur l'estrade, un œil sur le livre dans sa main, mais l'autre, avec tous ses sens, sur la classe, ses protégés (nous l'étions).

Mes camarades, profitez-en ! Nous ne l'avons pas assez fait, inconscience de jeunesse. J'en pleure et demande à M. SAMAHA de prolonger son cours... Nous en avons toujours besoin.

*Reconnaissance et gratitude.*

*A jamais...*

*Abdel Kader Ghandour '72*

Notre ancien maître, pendant la période bénie du Liban heureux du début des années 70, dans le cher Collège International, notre professeur, M. Souheil SAMAHA, vient de s'en aller...

Son départ réveille en nous toute l'amitié et toute l'affection nées des années lumineuses où il nous a pris, discrètement mais fermement, sous son aile, pour nous transmettre, avec patience et méthode, le meilleur de notre belle culture arabe et de notre patrimoine littéraire libanais.

Il fut pour nous bien plus qu'un un maître bienveillant, l'image d'un père idéal, un être cher qui inspirait le respect et l'amour. Son calme et sa grandeur d'âme, son regard droit, paternel et réfléchi, sa droiture, son assiduité et son courage, sa sagesse et sa pudeur dans l'adversité resteront, pour nous, un modèle et une référence.

Sa présence en classe dans la période de notre adolescence, sa générosité, et son sourire entendu, représentaient, pour nos esprits en devenir, la force et l'équilibre réunis, et comme la certitude de la bonté possible de l'humanité.

Il restera à jamais dans nos mémoires et il accompagnera toujours nos pensées avec émotion et tendresse.

*Amine Klam '74*

# Remembering the Beautiful Life Of Izzet Jarrah (12<sup>th</sup> March 1957-29<sup>th</sup> July 2020)



IC Varsity football team 1975: (Izzet Jarrah – Front Row, third from the right)

It all started in 1968 when a bunch of young boys met at International College (IC). As fate dictated, we soon realised that we had a lot in common, open-mindedness, an ambition to succeed as students, a passion for sports, and a love for life.

IC was the perfect academic institution providing the right environment to thrive as individuals and for a camaraderie to grow and prosper. A great friendship developed that spanned the length of five and half decades. One of the “founders” was Izzet Jarrah, who was rather quiet and shy, but clearly a very thoughtful and meticulous young kid, great at balancing hard work and sports, clarity of purpose and fun loving. Traits that eventually made him a wonderful family man, a loving husband, a caring father to his children (Kerim and Remzi), a great friend, and a very successful businessman.

After graduating from IC, Izzet went on to pursue higher education at AUB, where he met his sweetheart and future wife Rima Adjadj in 1978. After graduation Rima and Izzet got married on the October 17, 1984 and settled in Cyprus where they managed a successful international business, delivering services and solutions to the Automotive Industry across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

From the start our passion was football, which got stronger with the passing of time. As we all scattered and settled in different parts of the world, it was Izzet who took the lead and ensured that we all meet at least once a year (sometimes two or three times) in England to watch his beloved team Manchester United. Even though several of us are not Man. Utd supporters, we all enjoyed the get together, taking a trip down memory lane and reliving our childhood.

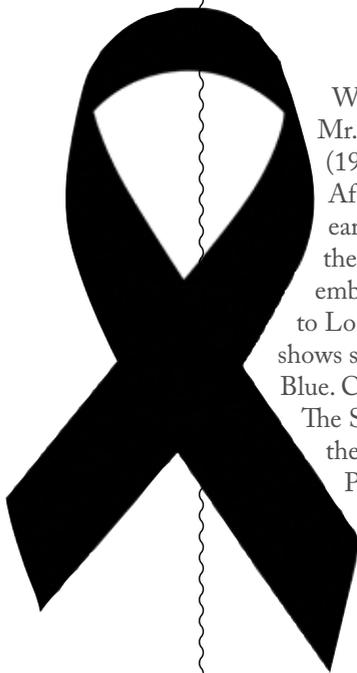
As Izzet’s friends, the annual reunions, will never be the same due to Izzet’s untimely passing-away. He was a pillar of our group, and we will miss him dearly, but for those who were fortunate to have crossed his path, his memory will live in our hearts.

Izzet’s Jarrah’s student sponsorship at IC, is in his memory to give someone a chance to experience their own “beautiful Life”.

*The friends of Izzet Jarrah have donated the amount of one full tuition fee to commemorate his life. IC would like to thank its former students for this heart-warming gift that not only help students in need but also cherishes the memory of a remarkable and loved alumnus.*

# In Memoriam

# In Memoriam



**Youssef Sayegh** died on 21/2/21 in the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh after a short illness.

Youssef was born in Palestine in 1922 and attended the American school in Sidon. He then moved to Beirut where he studied civil engineering at AUB. He joined the teaching staff at IC in 1948 and retired in 1990. He was popular with his students despite being brutally honest with them. He published a book on how to solve mathematic problems that were common questions in the baccalaureate exams.

He spent most of his time after retiring in Louza overlooking Beirut. He used to often visit me in Scotland. He left Lebanon for good eight years ago and settled in Edinburgh close to me in Scotland. He never lost his sense of humour, brutal honesty and his desire to always be well dressed.

He set up the Youssef Sayegh fund at IC which pays the school fees of one student each year.

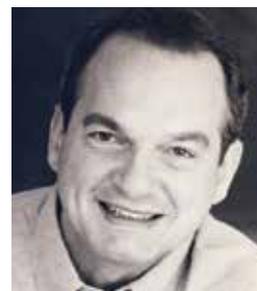
He is survived by his wife Evelyne, myself, my sister Maha, my daughter, and the children of my late sister Rima.



*Samir Sayegh '70*



We regret to inform you that **Charles Layne**. Mr. Layne, who was an IC Teaching Fellow (1964 -1965), passed away in February 2020. After leaving IC, he returned to the US, earned a BFA (Actors Training Program) at the University of Washington in 1972, and embarked on a career as an actor. He moved to Los Angeles, appearing in popular television shows such as Hill Street Blues, Dallas, and NYPD Blue. Charles also performed in films including The Stepfather and Die Hard 2. Eventually, he returned to his first love, the stage, doing numerous shows at South Coast Repertory Theater, Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, and the American Conservatory Theater. He received more than a dozen awards for his stage performances. He is survived by his wife Sara ("Sally"), his sister Carla Payzer, his brother Loren (Melissa), and many nieces and nephews.



It is with great sorrow that I am announcing the passing away, at the age of 92, of Professor **George D. Parnos**, an extraordinary man, known for his great heart, dedication, professionalism and scholarship. He passed away on April 17, 2021.

Professor George D. Parnos taught Math, Physics and Chemistry, in the French Section of IC during the fifties and sixties. He and his family immigrated to the U.S.A, in 1967, where he continued his brilliant career as a beloved educator, teaching Physics until his retirement in 1993.



*Alexandra D. Parnos-Athanassiou '61*

# In Memoriam

We regret to inform you that **Mahmud Abdul Baki '56** passed away in January 2021. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Abdul Baki family.



We regret to inform you that **Ramzi Sanbar '56** passed away in April 2021. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Sanbar family.



We regret to inform you that **Faysal Mukaddem '64** passed away in May 2021. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Mukaddem family.



We regret to inform you that **Patrick Ogden Smith '67**, passed away in February 2021. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Smith family.



We regret to inform you that **Maged Zein '71**, passed away in March 2021. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Zein family.



We regret to inform you that **Samer Yaghi '86** passed away in 2021. IC faculty and staff send their deepest condolences to the family.



May  
Yaghi

We regret to inform you that **Khaled Dandan '89**, passed away in March 2021. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Dandan family.



We regret to inform you that **Patrick Matta '99** passed away in May 2021. IC faculty and staff send their deepest condolences to the Matta family.



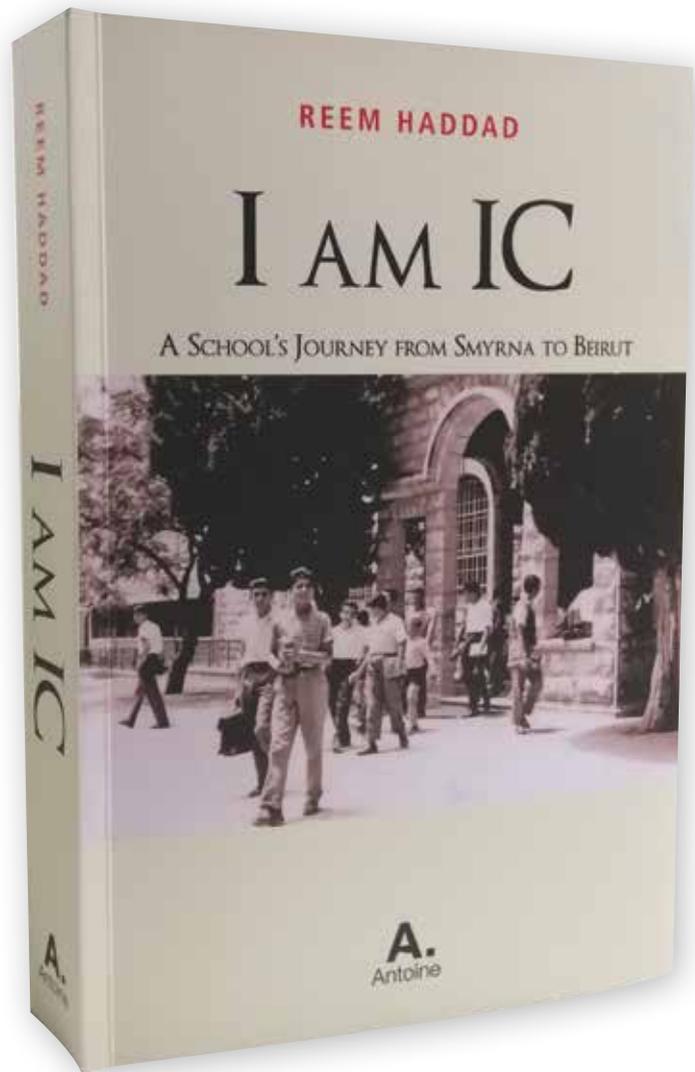
We regret to inform you that **Wafa Jaber**, a long-time colleague in the physical plant department, passed away in April. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Jaber family.



We regret to inform you that **Wadiah Jaber**, a long-time colleague in the physical plant department, passed away in February. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Jaber family.



**“I AM IC” is a touching story of a school looking for a place it could finally call home.**



**Sold at Antoine Bookstores, IC Advancement Office  
and online at: [www.antoineonline.com](http://www.antoineonline.com)**

**All proceeds go towards the IC Scholarship Fund**



International College  
P.O. Box 113-5373, Beirut, Lebanon.  
Tel. 961 1 367420/33, Fax: 961 1 367433. Email: [alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb)  
305 East 47th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10017  
Tel. : 212 529 3005, Fax: 212 529 8525. Email: [icny@intlcollegeny.com](mailto:icny@intlcollegeny.com)  
[www.ic.edu.lb](http://www.ic.edu.lb)



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