



# IC Newsletter SPRING 2016





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# Note from the Editor

I want to thank each and every one who attended the alumni and IC friends reunions this year. It's been wonderful seeing you all.

I have attended ten reunions over a course of four months in North America and each has been special in its own way. I was especially amazed how these reunions have turned into networking arenas. I saw many exchanging business cards and making appointments to meet up later on.

These gatherings are wonderful opportunities to network. It's a chance for new business ventures to be born and job openings to be filled.

But most of all, it is a chance to rekindle friendships and make new ones. I could actually feel the IC spirit in all of you.

I sincerely hope that you keep up these reunions with or without us!

And of course, since we are in the midst of our Partnership for Excellence Campaign, we are continuing with our fundraising efforts. I would like to thank all who have made contributions to the school. These contributions, no matter how small, go a long way in keeping our Scholarship Fund going and help us finance our current and future projects at the school.


Here's another newsletter for you to enjoy. Please read the story about the architect who continues to fight to preserve Lebanon's old heritage, an IC alumni and mother who created an organization to keep children in school and an engineer who shares with us the excitement of working on rockets to Mars.

Our main feature this time is bestselling author, Raymond Khoury. He tells us about his long journey to writing the Last Templar.

And of course, we continue with our much read series, the Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan.

Once again, I want to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support and I hope to see you all in a new round of reunions.

Best regards,



**Moufid Beydoun '64**  
*Vice President*  
*Alumni & Development*

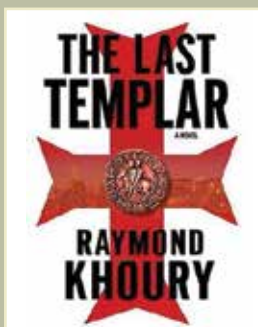


### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Editor-in-chief: Moufid Beydoun  
Editor/Writer: Reem Haddad

Production coordinator: Sana Yamout  
Design: Nazha Merabi

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

# The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:

Alexander MacLachlan



Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on the day they were assassinated by Gavrilo Princip, 28 June 1914

courtesy of rarehistoricalphotos.com

**O**n June 28th 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the nephew of Emperor Franz Josef and heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife, Sophie, traveled to Sarajevo in June 1914 to inspect the imperial armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the way to visit an injured officer, the Archduke's procession took what seemed to be a very wrong turn at a junction and the couple were shot dead when Serbian national Gavrilo Princip stepped forward, drew his pistol, and fired twice into the car, first hitting Ferdinand in the neck, and then Sophie in the abdomen. They both died within an hour. The assassinations set off a rapid chain of events: Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbian government and, on July 28, declared war on Serbia. Within a week, Russia, Belgium, France, Great Britain and Serbia had lined up against Austria-Hungary and Germany. World War I had begun.

The second year at the Paradise campus was about to begin. With a start, Protestant Minister Reverend Alexander MacLachlan realized his student body had shrunk considerably.

Students who usually come from the Greek mainland and the islands in the Aegean simply did not show up. This left

IC faculty in front of Kenarden lodge



Turkish, Greek, Armenian and Jewish students from Asia Minor. But, all too soon, a military call almost depleted all the upper-class men and staff members of military age.

On the opening day, 42 students of the 410 registered last year were present at chapel. Should he shut down the campus or keep it running for a skeleton of students?

Wisdom, however, prevailed. If IC's buildings were not used, Ottoman authorities were sure to requisition them for



# Smyrna

## (Part XII)

military purposes.

Finally, in an effort to bring back students, MacLachlan announced that IC would facilitate the payment of fees in every way possible. By mid-year, about 180 students had been registered.

Everything had happened so fast. MacLachlan had recently returned from a two month cruise aboard the S.S. Alberta Yacht by the invitation of his longtime supporter and donor, Emma Kennedy. The party on board was composed of Kennedy's husband, her sister, her pastor and some members of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Their itinerary included visits to Palestine, Asia Minor, Greece, Austria and Italy with week-ends in the harbors of Beirut, Smyrna, Constantinople, Athens and Venice. MacLachlan escorted the party to IC and proudly showed off the new Paradise campus. In their honor, a



special service was conducted at the college chapel which was attended by over 400 people, largely made up of members of the British communities in Smyrna and its suburbs. Lunch followed soon afterwards at Kenarden Lodge. Little did anyone foresee the troubles on the very near horizon. It was during their last week along the Dalmatian Coast, that they met the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand.



Courtesy of greatwallbum.com (Tim Soper)

Only a few weeks later, Ferdinand was assassinated.

In November 1914, Turkey entered the war on the side of Germany. French, British and US residents – the Levantine inhabitants who were born and raised in Turkey and indeed considered it their homeland – were suddenly and effectively ‘enemies’. The day after Turkey's declaration, British consul Clifford Heathcote-Smith summoned all British citizens to the consulate. MacLachlan, who held a UK passport, joined the crowd and was promptly asked to address the meeting.

He appealed to the youth present to offer their services to their country and called for a show of hands. Eighteen young men volunteered including his own two sons: Bruce, 20, and Alexander Grant, 18.

Two weeks later, hearing that MacLachlan's sons were serving with the British army, the Minister received a long telegram from the US ambassador in Constantinople, Henry Morgenthau “at the request of the secretary of state, the Grand Vizier has generously given permission for you and your family to leave Turkey. Let me at once have the names and ages of those members of your household whom you wish to accompany you.”

MacLachlan was quick to respond. “I do not wish to be delivered from my friends.”

Instead, he volunteered to become a prisoner of war.

“Perhaps in some measure for the love of adventure,” he wrote in his 1937 memoirs, *Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey*, “but also I was carrying responsibilities which I could serve much better by remaining at my post.”

Zoning in on the Levantines, the Turkish government demanded that

Alexander Grant MacLachlan in February 1916.

all national emblems and pictures of allied countries be removed from public places and even private residences. After raiding their offices and warehouses, the military authorities impounded the Levantine's yachts, yawls and steam cruisers.

As it turned out, one of MacLachlan's friends, introduced only as ‘Mr. H’, forgot to take down the large oil portrait of Queen Victoria that hung in his lavish library. When five government commissioners made the round of British homes to see that the order had been carried out, Mr. H – suddenly remembering his blunder – deliberately invited them into the library explaining to the authorities that he had a wonderful surprise for them. And there he brought them before the painting of the British Queen and declared: “Behold gentlemen! The Kaiser's grandmother!”

Impressed, the commissioners apparently sent word about Mr. H's obvious passion for the Central Powers.

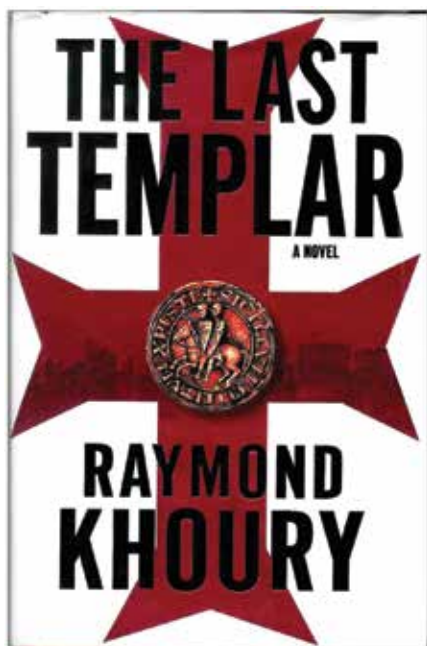
Meanwhile, MacLachlan went about his business. In all reality, his life as a POW didn't change much. “I was in all other respects as much a guest of the government as I was a prisoner of war,” he wrote.

But the same couldn't be said about the Greek residents in Smyrna who were still recovering from a Greek-Turkish incident in the northern part of the city which had left several Greek residents dead.

Tensions were on the rise again and, in fact, a series of murders gripped the city. It was slowly dawning on all the residents that the charming and glittering city would never be the same again.

*To be continued...*

*Historical information based on: an interview with Dr. Howard Reed (summer 2011); Potpourri of Sidelights and Shadows from Turkey, by Alexander MacLachlan, 1937; Paradise Lost, by Giles Milton; The 12th annual report of the International College at the Paradise campus, July 1st, 1914 to June 30th, 1915.*



## THE LAST TEMPLAR: 10 YEARS IN THE MAKING



**I**t was a six figure offer. In advance. Six. It was, on every level, a dream offer. Six digits. It was one of those ‘pinch me so I can wake up moments’. But no one was around to pinch **Raymond Khoury** ‘78.

“Take the money, Raymond,” said one voice.

“Take the money. Take the money”

“No, don’t”, another voice piped up. “Don’t”

As so it was that Khoury, shut himself in his Manhattan hotel room tortuously pondering and reflecting. Should he or should he not? After all, his wife was pregnant with their first child.

Six digits.

After three excruciatingly long days he finally had his answer: no.

The Last Templar was not for sale. At least, not in the format that the publishers wanted.

The Da Vinci Code had yet to make an appearance and so the Last Templar’s search for a lost Gospel may turn out to be just too controversial for the public.

“Change it to a lost gold treasure,” had said the publishers, “and we have a deal.”

But Khoury couldn’t. Religion is at the base of The Last Templar. You lose that, you lose the story. “And this story spoke to me,” he said.

And so the budding author turned away and bid goodbye to what he thought was his one and only opportunity to make it big.

He put the Last Templar away. Maybe he wasn’t meant to be an author. Maybe he should go back to architecture and investment banking.

Truth be told, architecture was Khoury’s first dream. After finishing his studies at AUB he moved to London. Actually, ‘moved’ is an understatement. Khoury was evacuated from Beirut in 1984 by the Marine Corp’s 22nd Amphibious Unit on board a Chinook helicopter during the Lebanese civil war.

Either way, he found himself in London trying to make it in architecture. But jobs were rare to find. He joined the world of investment





banking instead and basically hated his life for three years.

That is until one day – during a holiday in Spain, he just quit.

And thus began the years of dabbling in this and that. It was during one of these ‘dabbings’ that he travelled to the Bahamas.

As fate would have it, he met a banker who himself dabbled in the film business. On a whim, Khoury – himself a film geek – bounced a movie idea off this new acquaintance. The idea struck a chord and the men hired a scriptwriter. Khoury added his own notes. Shortly later, the phone rang.

“Our man in L.A. isn’t going to write this movie for us,” said his partner. “You are. You’re a writer.”

A writer?

Khoury had finally found himself.

To make a long story short, the partnership didn’t lead anywhere but Khoury had found a new passion.

The problem was that he knew nothing about writing screenplays and had never even seen one. And so he did

the only thing he could do: rewind and forward dozens of movies (VHS days) to note out the exact unfolding and structure of the plots. He also took a three-day intensive screenwriting course.

The next few years saw Khoury writing several screenplays and working as a screenwriter in shows like the BBC series *Spooks*. He got shortlisted for the Fulbright Fellowship in Screenwriting Award.

Still, it wasn’t enough. He knew there was a story out there to be written. A big summer epic kind of story. But what?

He complained to some friends during a visit to France in 1996.

“What about the Templars?” suggested one comrade.

That was exactly it. By the end of that weekend, the author had become an expert on the warrior monk’s rise and fall. His usually wild imagination went even wilder. He had finally found his story.

A year and half later, the 148-page *Last Templar* screenplay was completed.

Khoury set about to find another

producer for his screenplay. He sent it to every potential contact in LA even “to the guy who once parked his car next to Spielberg’s car,” said Khoury, “and to the gardener of the barber of the sister of the cousin of a producer.”

All nos. Too controversial for the mainstream, too expensive to make. Frustrated, Khoury put away the *Last Templar* and threw himself into his usual work.

There the screenplay would have remained had it not been for one book agent who had heard about Khoury’s saga. Turn it into a book, she said. Khoury ignored her. He was not a novelist. But the persistent book agent would call every two months. “Have you started it yet?”

Finally, to get her off his back, Khoury did.

Shortly after, the *Da Vinci Code* was released and managed to steal the thunder of a story line which explored aspects of early Christianity – the same theme of the *Last Templar*. “I was devastated,” recalled Khoury. “I loved it but I was devastated.”

By 2004, *The Last Templar* book version was finished. It was rejected by twelve publishers.

Khoury sighed, and again, put his book away.

But once more, fate intervened.

Khoury ran into an old friend of his, a TV director.

“Let me publish it,” said the friend.

Khoury looked at him rather dubiously. This friend has exactly one published book to his credit. And that book is a novel for children.

At this point, Khoury was out of ideas. “If you can deliver to the bookshelves by the summer, it’s yours,” he said.

Three months later, the friend had delivered on his promise.

At 11pm on a cold January night in 2006, Khoury had just walked out of a football game when his phone rang.

The *Last Templar* had hit the New York Times bestseller list at #10 in its first week alone.

The calls kept coming for three months after that. Every Wednesday night in fact. The *Last Templar* climbed up to to #6, #5, then #4. After a fierce bidding war for the foreign rights, overseas sales placed it firmly as #1.

Khoury had finally found himself: a bestselling author.

*Raymond Khoury has written seven novels since the release of The Last Templar. All have been bestsellers.*



Zeina  
El-Khalil  
'87 with  
Ain Arab  
students

THE  
RIGHT  
TO A  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURE:  
TEACH A  
CHILD

**Z**eina Jaber El-Khalil '87 had expected that all parents would want to give their children an education. She was wrong.

She assumed that there was a law which obliges parents to send their offspring to school. She was wrong.

She supposed that underprivileged Lebanese children can attend public schools for free. She was wrong.

So wrong, in fact, that she gathered a group of women in March of 2011, who have some experience in the field of education, and, together, launched the Teach A Child organization.

The idea behind it is quite simple yet very much needed: keep children in school.

"Every child in Lebanon should be empowered through education," she said.

It has been a shocking journey for El-Khalil. Never had she seen so much poverty, especially in remote areas like Akkar and Hermel. So poor that many parents opt to keep their children at home or, in cost-cutting efforts, choose to send the boys only.

Teach A Child went full steam ahead. At the start, the funds came from their own pockets. But as the need proved to be huge, fundraising efforts were launched, including sponsorship programs, gala dinners and direct soliciting.

Interestingly, El-Khalil's source of inspiration came from a child. As part of the Young President's Organization, she was attending a US convention when she first heard of an NGO started 21 years ago by

a then 12-year-old boy (Craig Kielburger, co-founder and ambassador for Free the Children) as a school project. The NGO was fighting against child labor.

El-Khalil was moved. Surely if a child can lead the way and make a difference, she must follow suit?



Zeina El-Khalil '87 with students at Kfarkouk





**Sitting:** Amal Kombarji, Nadine Irani, Dina Khodr, Soha Hamidi, Zeina El-Khalil, Lina Assaf, Ghada Atallah, Maha Sayegh, Christine Daher. **Standing:** Nayla Bassil, Manal Sabri, Maya Es-siad, Mira Assaf, Hiba Nesr, Maha Makki, Tala Saad, Dalia Kalo, Lama El-Khalil, Karima Azhari (Not all Teach A Child members are present in photo)

Back in Beirut, the mother of three IC Alumni and one Secondary School student, immediately and enthusiastically built a website and started the necessary papers to start the NGO. She aptly chose the name: Teach A Child.

Soon after, she gathered seven friends, who were equally interested in education, and told them about the NGO. Were they willing to come on board?

The answer was a resounding “yes!”

At the beginning, the idea was to take the children off the streets and provide them with an education. But this is when the group realized with a start that while technically the Lebanese Law requires all Lebanese children up to the age of 12 to attend school, there are no implementation decrees to impose the Law and therefore parents can keep their children out of school.

“Parents would simply tell us no, we don’t want to send our children to school and there was nothing we could do about it,” said El-Khalil. “It was shocking to find out that the basic right of an education is being denied to many of our children and the government wasn’t doing anything about it.”

But the team did uncover a most urgent situation: many of the Lebanese children they encountered had left public school citing financial difficulties.

At first, El-Khalil couldn’t understand it. Public schools were free, were they not?

The team launched its own investigation. While technically free, it costs parents anywhere from \$200 to \$600 per year to send just one child to a public school. Books, bags, shoes, uniforms, transportation and a symbolic yearly fee. They all add up.

Bottom line: many parents simply couldn’t cope and opted to remove their children from schools.

“Our mission then became very clear,” said El-Khalil. “Help parents keep their children in public schools and help those who want to be schooled but cannot afford it.”

The team branched out all across the country locating public schools and offering their services. They also made their way to government-run social welfare offices. The reactions were instant. School directors and social welfare directors immediately furnished long lists of struggling parents. Teach A Child found itself hiring a social worker to investigate the cases. All too soon, they started receiving calls from village mayors requiring the

organization’s help.

“The need is growing,” said El-Khalil citing at least one call not too long ago from a public school director begging for shoes for three children who were attending class barefoot.”

Today, the NGO is assisting 1,162 Lebanese students and has grown to include 25 members. Each September, the women divide themselves and make their way to the 158 schools all over the country, attended by Teach A Child students. There they pay the symbolic school fee directly, the school bus fee, and supply the students with the needed uniform and school materials. The idea is to stay by their side until they complete their university studies.

As word of their work spread, many companies came forth offering their services. Some offered a supply of school materials, others provided jackets or wardrobes. Teach A Child also found itself improving schools’ infrastructure and providing them with needed material.

During the rest of the year, the team is busy with the most imperative aspect of the organization: fundraising.

“It is all worth it when you see the joy in the eyes of children when they receive their new school bags or the relief in the eyes of the parents when they know that their children’s schooling has been secured,” said El-Khalil. “All the effort we put, all the help we ask for, is worth it when we think that we are providing a better future for the youth of our country.”

*For more information or to donate go to:  
<http://www.teachachild.org/>*



## BACK IN THE FIGHT: PRESERVING BEIRUT'S HERITAGE



Abdel Halim Jabr '80

**A**bdel Halim Jabr '80 is back on the battlefield. The rejuvenated architect will no longer stay quiet. In the 1990s, his name was frequently in the press as a prominent member of young activists who fought tooth and nail to save old Lebanese houses.

For years they fought, armed with a list of historical houses to be saved. They lobbied, they protested, they turned to the media and they appealed in vain to the government.

And then they stood aghast, as one old house after another was demolished.

That was when Jabr felt his spirit getting crushed. Unable to even look at the country anymore, he moved to the US in 2000.

Yet, in 2001, and in the wake of 9/11 and its aftermath, he returned to Lebanon.

He rejoined the workforce but turned a blind eye to his former activist self.

He shied away from heritage issues until that fateful day in 2012 when the phone rang. "The Fouad Boutros highway plan is back on, it's back on!"

The Fouad Boutros highway? It couldn't be. That plan dated back to the 1950s and involved cutting through the Ashrafieh-Hikmeh district, destroying many of the area's historic fabric, including thirty properties dating back to the French mandate and 19th century Ottoman period. Moreover, the village-like atmosphere of Ashrafieh and Mar Mikhael would be ruined as well as seriously impeding the traffic system.

And for what? For whom?

A familiar, irked feeling stirred in Jabr. No. This is one battle that he will fight.

And just like that, he was back...

The fight for preservation began in 1995, when several architects volunteered to study the status of historical houses surrounding downtown Beirut. They were, in their own way, Beirut's post-war, young architectural revolutionaries – fighting to preserve the country's heritage.

The government agreed to the project. Over 1600 houses were inventoried as containing some cultural value. (Today just over 20 are legally classified in accordance with Law 166 of 1936). The Lebanese Minister of Culture subsequently 'froze' hundreds of old houses in the preliminary inventory – forbidding their owners to pull them down – until a solution could be found. The focus was on preserving clusters of homes – groups of old houses.

With only a derelict French mandate law to protect old houses as a tool, the activists were practically laughed off the stage.

There was a lot – a lot – of money to be made. It was the usual game. Politicians turned developers. Developers turned politicians. Businessmen turned both. Beirut's city skyline became filled with construction cranes.

Activists fought. They introduced the concept of Transfer of Development Rights (owners who could legally sell their un-built development right, transferring it to build elsewhere) but to no avail.

Sure enough, they discovered "how cynical and corrupt the political establishment was," recalled Jabr. "At one point, the government-appointed architect who was supposed to protect the clusters was the same one responsible for permitting and building

new projects in the same cluster. It was corruption at its worst."

Despondently, they all watched as politicians quietly removed much of the 'inventoried' houses from the list. Very often, these houses were demolished overnight.

It was a huge blow.

It seemed like the fight was over. Old Beirut was lost. Disillusioned, the activists largely turned away. Their fight was dead. Or so they thought.

But in 2010, a new group emerged. "Save Beirut's Heritage" – made up of a whole new batch of young heritage activists.

Their weapon was much more powerful than their predecessor's ever was: social media.

Word quickly spread. The 20-something generation was bolder and louder. They created furor on Facebook. The issue became a heated topic again.

The Municipality of Beirut decided that all owners seeking demolition permits of old houses had to go through the Ministry of Culture for evaluation. A committee was set up to look into the permits and arbitrate the files (included in the committee was Jabr himself and other veterans: Ousama Kallab, Khaled Rifai, Antoine Fishfish, Fadlallah Dagher – all diehard heritage preservationists.)

It was a tiny coup for the activists – but a coup nevertheless.

Things were beginning to look up.

"This is when I discovered that a new young group of activists had taken over," he said. "I was elated. They had brought it all back."

It was one of those young activists, Antoine Atallah, who called Jabr that



day in 2012 about the Fouad Boutros highway. Atallah was the creator of a very active blog behind the force of saving Ashrafieh, Hikmeh and Mar Mikhael.

Finally, a new law was introduced, requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment for any large project. A study conducted independently declared that not only will the new highway create traffic, demolish heritage and cut through several remaining orchards, it will create a toxic environment for the inhabitants. Another coup for the activists.

As for the old historical houses, Jabr is back in the fight. Gone are many

of the clusters first identified in the 90s and so are numerous Lebanese traditional houses that once dotted Beirut and helped to give it the name of "Paris of the Middle East."

But Jabr is his old, optimistic self once again. "We are identifying new clusters," he said. "Those new clusters can be dated back to the pre-1970 era (when a new building law allowed uncontrolled construction). We are beginning to perceive those as heritage as well."

Jabr smiled widely. Yes, he said, there is still a lot to be saved. But he is realistic.

"Beirut will never look like a beautiful postcard again," he said. "But you will see a hybrid skyline which reflects the Lebanese personality. This will be the new Beirut."

A new law to preserve old buildings has been drafted and is currently waiting to pass through parliament. But that is another fight...

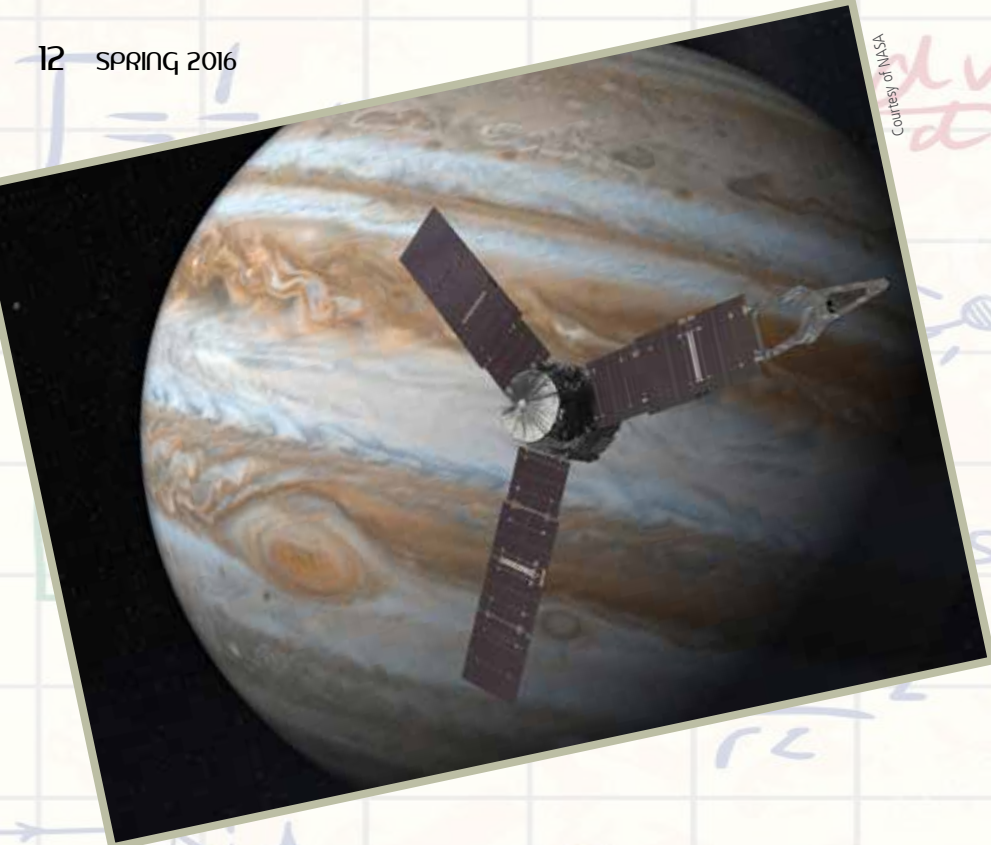
*For more information on the Fouad Boutros Highway or Save Beirut Heritage go to:*

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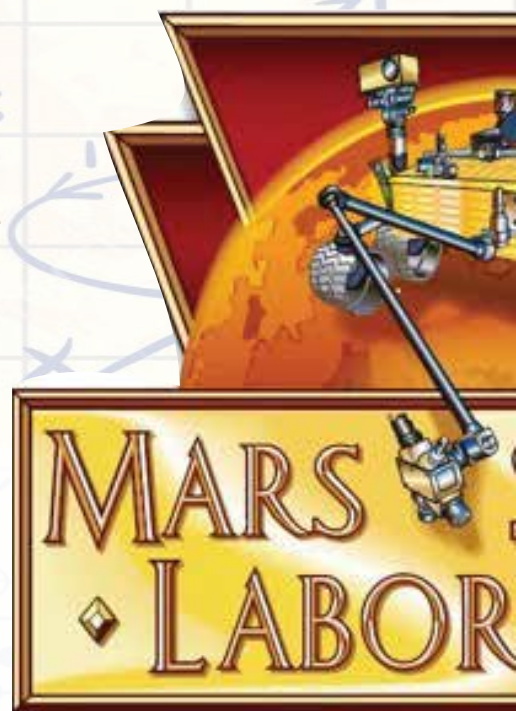
Computerized rendition of the bridge cutting into Ashrafieh By Antoine Attalah





Courtesy of NASA

## BUILDING ROCKETS:



Vatché Vorpérian '72

Maybe it was his aunt's mesmerizing stories about outer space. Or maybe it was this need to dismantle all his mechanical toys as a child. Or maybe it was his boyhood attempts to build rockets in his room (efforts fortunately prevented by his father just in time).

Whatever it was, the path had already been set for **Vatché Vorpérian '72**. While at IC, he found himself captivated by the world of physics and math and indeed credits his teachers for instilling this fascination.

After receiving his PhD from California Institute of Technology, he did a seven year teaching stint at Virginia Tech in the Department of Electrical Engineering, but the world of space continued to call him.

Finally, he heeded its call and worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). It was here that he began fulfilling his boyhood dream: building instruments for a spacecraft that would go on top of a rocket destined for the planets.

This was the real thing.

"This wasn't about emptying the powder from fireworks to create a rocket," said Vorpérian, "These were actual missions going to space."

He would soon learn, however, that the devil was in the details. Not only did every part have to be designed right, but designed with very high

reliability practices as failure was simply not an option.

One wrong malfunction, the mission – and billions of dollars – would be wasted. Every system and subsystem had to be tested thoroughly in near space-like conditions on Earth before blasting into space.

But still it was not a guarantee.

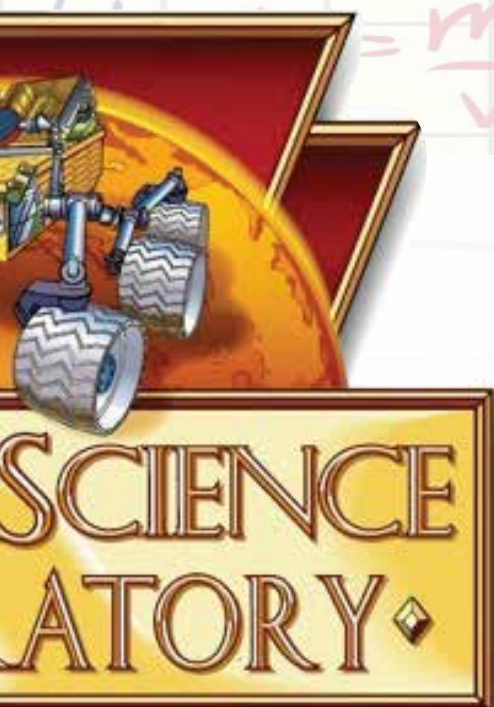
"Every time one of our missions is successful, there is excitement and a feeling of accomplishment and relief amongst us," he said. "Each and every time the spacecraft makes the right maneuvers around the planet, a party mood prevails with high-fives and hugs."

Take the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL), a \$2.5 billion robotic space probe mission to Mars, launched by NASA on November 26, 2011.

Vorpérian's task in this case was to design the switching interface of the large solar array interface which provided power for the main ship's electronics during the cruise stage



# A LIFE-LONG DREAM



between Earth and Mars.

"At times it can be very frustrating," he said. "It takes so many iterations to meet the stringent tolerance and reliability requirements."

Another 800 engineers were working simultaneously on the entire mission. The unmanned Mars Science Laboratory mission is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, an effort to determine the planet's habitability, including the role of water, the study of the climate and its geology.

On August 6, 2012, Curiosity, the car-sized Mars rover, part of MSL's mission, landed safely in Gale Crater on Mars. Vorpérian's part worked just fine and is expected to be duplicated in the next Mars mission.

The mission was hailed as the most successfully carried out Martian landing of any known spacecraft.

Building on its success, NASA approved the work for yet another mission to Mars, to be launched in

2020. This time, Vorpérian's task is to design the electronics to drive a laser on the rover which would send pulses of light to Martian rocks to study and analyze their composition.

"The challenge I am facing here is to fit the electronics in a small volume, make it efficient and be able to withstand the wide temperature range of Mars (-55 C to 133 C) and its low atmospheric pressure which is ideal for electrical breakdown."

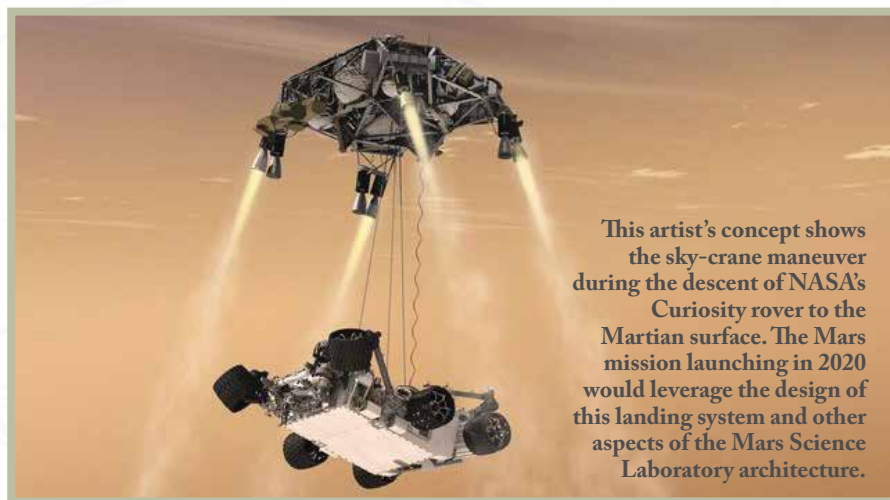
The mission is to address key questions about the potential for life on Mars and eventually pave the way for a manned mission to the red planet.

Meanwhile, Vorpérian is waiting to see how the 2011 Juno probe mission he worked on will do once it reaches its target, Jupiter, on July 4th of this year. Once it reaches Jupiter, Juno will orbit the planet a total of 33 times, coming as close as 3,100 feet above its cloud tops. NASA hopes the mission will help

scientists learn more about Jupiter's origins, structure, atmosphere and magnetosphere.

"Every once in a while I think about it," he said. "I wonder is it going to get into orbit successfully? Will the two instruments that I worked on work properly? There is always this sinking feeling about things not just going right."

There is always the moment of truth in every mission. It is that moment where everyone has their fingers crossed. But when all goes well, "the feeling is unbelievable," said Vorpérian. "It's a real celebration. It's a little like what you see in the movies. We jump, pat each other on the back, high-five each other and of course sometimes miss and get another colleague in the face! Oh well!"



This artist's concept shows the sky-crane maneuver during the descent of NASA's Curiosity rover to the Martian surface. The Mars mission launching in 2020 would leverage the design of this landing system and other aspects of the Mars Science Laboratory architecture.

Courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech

Courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech

## Ain Aar Cafeteria: The Q-Platinum Award (QPA)



The Ain Aar cafeteria has received a Q-Platinum Award (QPA), food safety certificate. The food safety certification follows a complete renovation of the kitchen and serving areas and, thanks to the generous contribution of the Ain Aar Parents' Committee, a colorful, attractive renovation of the seating area. The kitchen renovation complies with strict requirements imposed by Boecker, a professional food safety consultancy.

The certification and food safety procedures strict safety and hygiene requirements such as arm length gloves to replace traditional hand gloves; Plexiglas® protected shells for overhead lighting, glass bottles replaced with shatter proof materials, knives with wooden handles replaced (in case of splinters), and refrigerators fitted with calibrators and strictly delegated to different types of food.

Most important, an extra room was built next to the kitchen to serve as a receiving area for all dry goods, meats, poultry and produce. Staff immediately store the meat and poultry in the

calibrated refrigerators and wash and sanitize the produce before taking it to the kitchen. A special sink was delegated to washing produce only (see box for further details).

Cafeterias in both campuses go through daily IC inspections and frequent evaluation visits by Boecker consultants.

Following the renovation and inspection, the Ain Aar cafeteria was awarded the Q-Platinum Award (QPA), an internationally recognized new food safety standard launched by Boecker Public Health) in partnership with DQS-UL (one of the leading certification bodies for management systems worldwide).

"It is important for all kitchens to receive such a certificate to ensure food safety," said **Talal Jundi '86**, IC's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. "Everyone is concerned about food safety these days and we want to reassure parents that IC has taken the necessary measures to protect children from any kind of food hazard."







**Meat and poultry:** samples sent every three months to laboratories for testing.

**Dairy products:** ISO certified

**Vegetables:** disinfected and tested with disposable strips to assure the absence of bacteria. Washed with potable water.

**Water:** Potable, microbiological tests every three months and chemical tests every year.

**Food handlers:** hand swabbing tests, tuberculosis checks and stools tested every three months. Training workshops throughout the year.

**Refrigerators:** calibrated every week.

**Master Probe thermometer:** calibrated annually  
Utensils and equipment sterilized daily.

**All food:** wrapped, labelled and dated.

**Suppliers:** ISO certified or approved by Ministry of Health.

Dry supplies stored in temperature and humidity controlled room.

Color coded cutting boards for different food products.

Air curtain installed to prevent air borne articles in food.

Replacement of all wood, glass, aluminum pots and utensils with stainless steel (to prevent erosion and physical hazards).

Fried foods eliminated and replaced with grilled ones.



Talal Jundi '86 and Tima Mrad inspecting the AA cafeteria.



## Ain Aar's Auction

Following last year's success with the 'Giving Christmas Tree', Ain Aar students outdid themselves in December when they auctioned items they had made out of inedible garbage around the school.

The auction was very successful earning the students a considerable sum which went towards buying needed supplies to underprivileged children and needy elderly.

## IC Gymnastics Team goes to Dubai





## Junior Varsity Girls' Team in Jordan



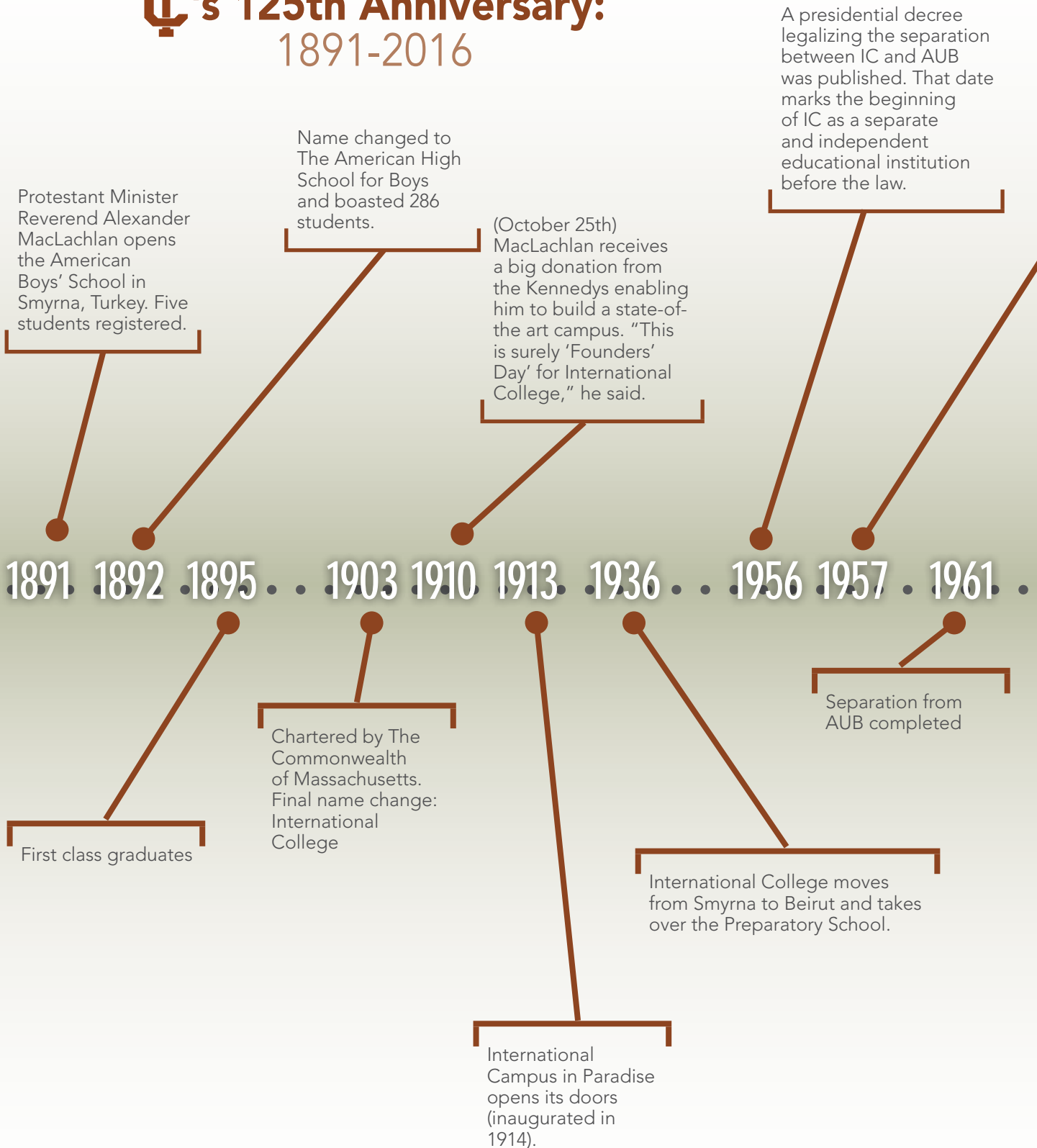
## IC Rugby Team in London

IC vs Torquay Grammar School, Rosslyn Park Sevens, London, 15<sup>th</sup> March.

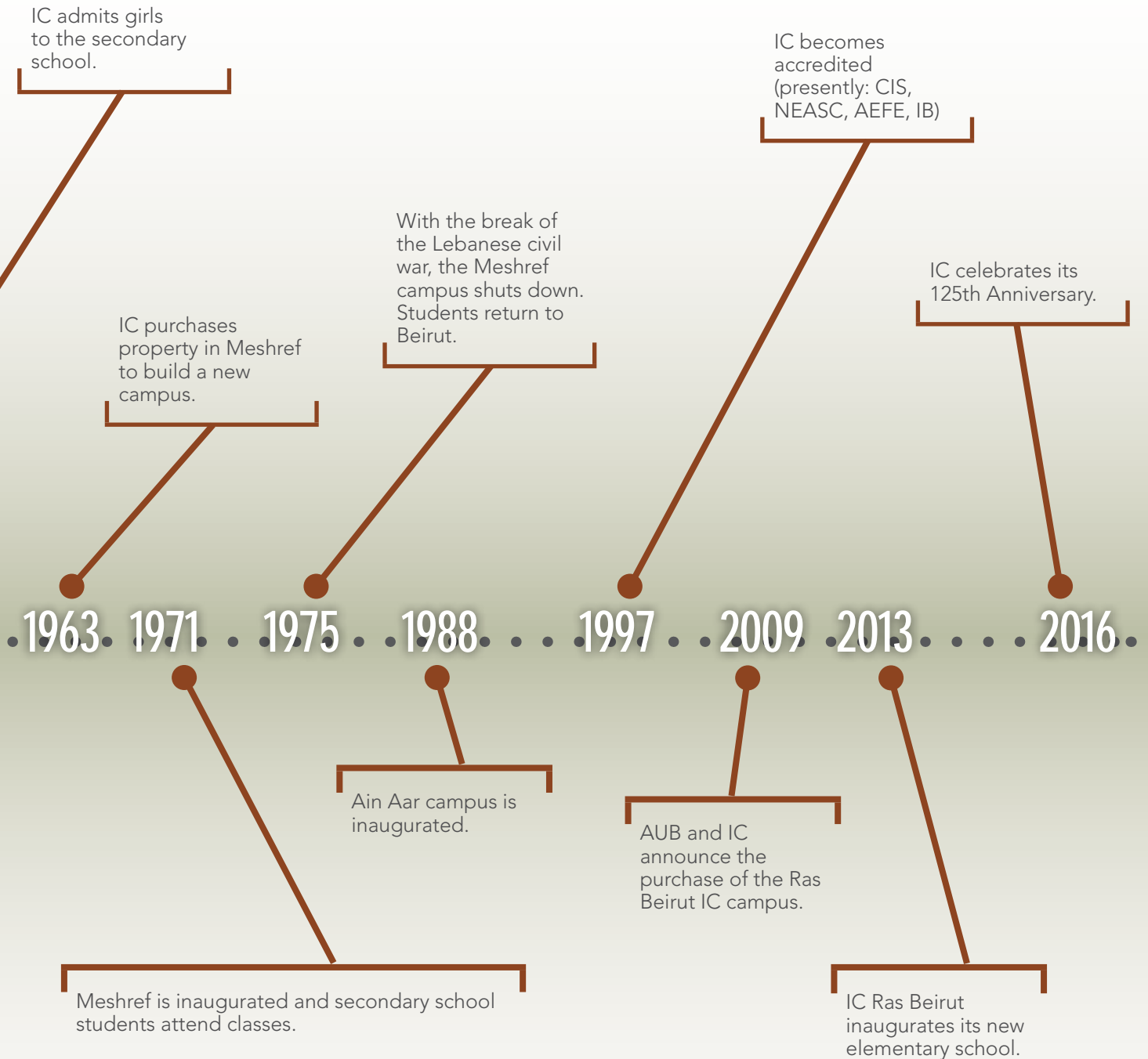


## [ TIMELINE ]

# IC's 125th Anniversary: 1891-2016









Ain Aar Middle School Choir, conductor: Arlette Akl



Ras Beirut Middle School Choir, conductor: Randa Sabbah



Senior Choir, conductor: Randa Sabbah



Christmas  
2015





## SAVE THE DATES

**125th** Anniversary Celebrations  
**April 23rd – DUBAI**  
 Annual Dinner and Dance (80's music)  
 Venue: Gemayze-Sofitel Dubai Downtown

**May 3rd – GENEVA**  
 Annual Dinner at Club Privé la Nautique at 8pm.

**May 24th – BEIRUT**  
**125th** Anniversary celebration. Musical play (Bar Farouk)  
 followed by dinner party with food stations and DJ.

**July 8th – BEIRUT**  
**50th** Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of 1966  
 at 8pm at Ras Beirut campus.

**July 9th – BEIRUT**  
**25th** Graduation Anniversary for the graduates of 1991  
 at 8pm at Ras Beirut campus.

For tickets/information,  
 contact the Alumni and Development Office at:  
 alumni@ic.edu.lb Tel: 961 1 367433



## Teachers' Day Dinner

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 – Phoenicia Hotel

### Retirees

Mrs. Alissar Abi Haidar – Ain Aar Upper Elementary  
 Ms. Mona Bachir – Preschool  
 Mrs. Hana Bekdache – Elementary School  
 Ms. Genevieve Boutros – Secondary School  
 Mrs. Najwa Haddad Amin – Elementary School  
 Mr. Hassan Joumaa – Middle School

### 35 Years of Service

Mrs. Salwa Ashkar – Elementary School  
 Mrs. Lina Bitar – Secondary School  
 Mrs. Juliette Bikhazi – Middle School  
 Mrs. Najwa Haddad Amin – Elementary School  
 Miss May Zaitoon – Bookstore

### 25 Years of Service

Miss Sawsan Abdel Malak – Middle School  
 Mr. Elias Aswad – Ain Aar Middle School  
 Mrs. Nawal Haddad – Ain Aar Middle School  
 Mr. André Al Hashem – Ain Aar Upper Elementary & Middle  
 Mrs. Patricia Isaac – Preschool  
 Ms. Rita Jabbour – Preschool  
 Miss Lina Mouchantaf – Ain Aar Preschool & Lower Elementary  
 Mr. Tarek Moussally – All College  
 Mrs. Rita Nakhle – Ain Aar Lower Elementary  
 Mrs. Youssra Salhab – Business Office  
 Mrs. Samar Tohme – Ain Aar Middle School  
 Mrs. Maya Zouein – Ain Aar Preschool

### AWARDS

Edmond Tohme Outstanding Educator Award – Allisar Abi Haidar  
 Randa Khoury Innovation in Teaching Award – Carole Katrib  
 George O. Debbas Staff Awards – Rola Sarrou, Vivianne Toubia  
 Albert Abela Distinguished Teacher Awards – Lamia Sinno, Mireille Tavitian, Ghada Madhoun, Hana Bekdache, Marina Baltikian, Tarek Moussaly, Samar Salem, Samar Tohmé, Zeina Dana, Rita Osta



Cutting the Cake - IC president, Dr. Don Bergman, Senior Vice President, Mishka Mourani and President of the Teachers' Association Elie Hayek







## Dinners and Events



Nadim El Hassan '15, Talal Akkaoui '15, Tima El Basa, Calina Ammach, Tamara Osman '13, Mazen Assaf '15, Tala Darwish '15

## Toronto 2015

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, alumni and friends gathered at the Jerusalem restaurant to attend an IC alumni dinner. Many attended including young alumni students at Toronto University, some families who had recently arrived to the area and many older alumni.



Left Row: Lana Osman '90, Nadine Ammach, Saad Dahdouh '72, Elise Karam, George Karam '69

Right row: Joseph Damiani '83, Giselle Damiani, Bashar Darghawth '69



# Montréal

An opportunity to network and reminisce at the Solémar restaurant on November 27th, organized by **Khaled Hajjar '84**.

Left row: Ola Majdalani '81, Mazen Slim '89, Rana Haddad, Ramzi Haddad '88

Right row: Nadia Kronfol, Fouad Kronfol '52, Moufid Beydoun '64, Khaled Hajjar '84, Hoda Sahyoun, Walid Sahyoun '92



Left row: Rima Awad '79, Carol Soueida, Joseph Akl '13, Gianni Boghos '13

Right row: Maya Ramadan '12, Dima Ramadan '00, Rana Ramadan '12





Salah Izzedin '65,  
Moufid Beydoun '64

## Miami

IC alumni reunite at the Texas  
de Brazil on Dec 3rd – hosted by  
Salah Izzeddin '65.



Left row: Salma Bazzi, Tarek Bazzi '64, Dr. Marwan Tabbara '76, Adubo Ash, Toufic Zakharia '96, Randa Zacharia  
Right row: Randa El Khatib, Dr. Ziad Khatib '80, Catriona MacKenie, Salah Izzedin '65, Moufid Beydoun '64, Dr. Alex Zacharia '54, Sam Ash





Anthony Jones, Moufid Beydoun '64, Dr. Raif Jeha '51

## Boston 2016

IC President, Dr. Don Bergman, Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani and Vice President for Alumni and Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64** hosted, with the help of **Ramzi Naja '08** (from the Arab student group at the GSD), a dinner for IC alumni in Boston on Friday, January 29th at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



Omar Fawaz, Ramzi Naja '08, Yasmine Hilal, Ahmad Zamili '56



Moufid Beydoun '64, Lea El-Koussa '03, Dr. Don Bergman, Maria El-Koussa '08





Wissam Yafi '87, Moufid Beydoun '64 and Ambassador Salem al Sabah '74



Wissam Yafi '87, Dr. Don Bergman, Moufid Beydoun '64, Hana Zoghby '09, Mishka Mourani, Rabi Shatila '63

Dr. Don Bergman, Danny Mattar '05, Dr. Samar El Hajj '86, Dr. Moustafa El Amine '86, Moufid Beydoun '64, Mishka Mourani



Dr. John Bitar '56 and family, Mishka Mourani, Moufid Beydoun '64



## DC Metro Area

IC President, Dr. Don Bergman, Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani and Vice President for Alumni and Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64** attended an IC dinner hosted by **Salah Izzeddin '65** and organized by **Wissam Yafi '87** in Washington DC at Texas De Brazil restaurant on February 2nd.

This marked the official elections of the DC Metro Area Chapter.

During the dinner, Dr. **John Bitar '52** was honored and decorated with the Achievement Award for his work in treating and healing children for more than five decades in Lebanon and the US while **David Ramadan '87** was also honored for his public services in the Virginia Assembly.







## Dallas

A great opportunity to reunite – thanks to an alumni and IC friends dinner at the Texas de Brazil hosted by **Salah Izzedin '65** on Feb. 6.



Moufid Beydoun '64, Dr. Marwan Tamim '64, Hisham Musallam '86, Marwan Sakr '76, Hernica Sakr



Left row: Dr. Maroun Haddad '64, Marwan Sakr '76, Amin Soufan  
Right row: Terie Khoury, Gilbert Khoury '76, Henrica Sakr, Noura Soufan





Front row: Hana Zoghby '09, Nour Awad '09, Raya Awad '07  
Middle Row: Wael Bayazi '70, Hani Beyhum '76, Dr. Nawaf Salam '71, Moufid Beydoun '64, Mishka Mourani  
Back row: Abdullah Salam '04, Sahar Salam, Hadi Tabbal '01, Marie Joe



Don Selinger, Adib Kassis '81, William Turner, Dr. Mazin Irani '64, Moufid Beydoun '64



Dr. Nicolas Tabbal '65, Reem Acra '79, John McCarthy, Mona Houssami, Moufid Beydoun '64, Dr. Mazin Irani '64, Amb. Ford Fraker

## New York

IC Board and Alumni dinner in NY  
at the Al Bustan restaurant –  
hosted by Trustee **Marwan Marshi '79** –  
on February 8th, attended by over 80 alumni  
and Board members.



Amb. Nawaf Salam '71, Mishka Mourani, Matt Reynolds, Talal Jundi '86, Sofia Crawford, Neal Maglaque





## Atlanta

IC alumni get together at the Brio  
Tuscan Grille on February 12th.

Haitham Haddad '78, Dr. Mustafa Saadi '92,  
Dr. Fouad Fakhreddine '65, Samia Hazim  
'77, Abdullah Jubran '74, Doris Jubran



Dr. Bergman talking about IC's current and future projects



## San Mateo

A wonderful time – at Tannourine Restaurant  
on February 12th.



Dr. Basem Sayigh, Dr. Sonia  
(Nader) Sayigh '75, Dr. Ziad  
Saba '86



Rafic Farra '08, Moufid Beydoun  
'64, Yahya Beydoun '00, Amer  
Diab '90, Rabi Saliba '03, Betsy  
Darby, Cecile Arsan, Roy Arsan



Maha Jabr, Salim Jabr, Yehya  
Beydoun '00, Dr. Ziad Saba '86,  
Basem Sayigh '67, Nada Labban,  
Yahya Beydoun, Maha Mikati,  
Mishka Mourani





## Los Angeles

A grand reunion – hosted by **Mohamed Ahmar '80** and **Hania Ahmar '92** at their residence on February 16th.

Dr. Paul Wakim '64, Moufid Beydoun '64, Dr. Ray Irani '50, Ghada Irani, Hania Ahmar '92, Mohamed Ahmar '80



Sitting: Ian Reed, Moufid Beydoun '64, Mohamed Ahmar '80, Dr. Paul Wakim '64, Dr. Ray Irani '50, Ghada Irani, Hanna Chammas, Najwa Chammas. Standing: Shahrokh Alebooyeh, Dr. Don Bergman



Noha Beydoun, Maha Mikati, Joyce Abi Fadil, Dr. Salim Abi Fadil '62, Aref Mikati, Moufid Beydoun '64, Hania Ahmar '92, Talal Beydoun '73, Marya Nabhani, Hatem Nabhani '01



## RIP Mr. Elie Kurban

In 2009, the International College organized a farewell dinner to its Vice President for Administration, Elie Kurban who was retiring after 42 years of honorable service to the institution. Elie, born in July 1941, joined IC in 1966 where he met his future wife, Elham. They got married in 1970 and had their son Anthony in 1973. Soon after, in 1975 the vicious civil war started and lasted for 15 long, troubled and gory years. Throughout that period, and despite the dangers to his life, Elie was totally committed to his work. He prided himself in the fact that against all odds, the IC monthly payroll was never delayed. He would cross the city East and West to make sure that faculty and staff were able to work and receive their salaries.

He was the champion of the employees, a caring individual with an open door policy to whom anybody could come with their troubles and challenges. Notwithstanding the obstacles, he was instrumental in establishing IC's second branch in Ain Aar thanks to his wise financial management.

As the former Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bill Turner, once noted: "The school would not be in the financial state it is today – not even close – were it not for certain very loyal folks. I always slept well as a treasurer of the Board and later as Chair because Elie Kurban was doing the numbers and doing the numbers right. He has been one of the lynchpins of the school for many years... there is nobody that has been more significant financially than this man for the past 35 years."

In the early 2000s, Elie was promoted to Senior Vice President for Administration responsible for finance, procurement, administration, business accounts, infirmery, human resources, information technology, physical plant, security and drivers affairs.

Between 2001 and 2011, his family grew

as his son married Cybelle and had three children, Axelle, Karl and Alex.

Meanwhile, Elie was diagnosed in 2008 with MDS, a rare type of blood cancer, which developed into AML, an acute leukemia, just a few years later.

In 2009, Elie retired. At his retirement party, Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani quoted in her speech board member Reynolds saying "Everything needs a rock and we have such a rock in Elie Kurban. Everything needs a foundation and we have had such a foundation in Elie Kurban". The Senior Vice President compared Elie to the school's famous Banyan Tree.

During that same retirement party, Elie Kurban addressed his colleagues with much emotion. In his words, he said "As I stand here to bid you farewell, I would like to call on all of you to keep the "IC spirit". This spirit must not wave with the changing times. This spirit of honest hard work, commitment to excellence, responsibility and real care for the resources of the school, this spirit is the only thing that will keep IC a distinguished institution. People come and go and IC is staying forever, staying by your efforts, your devotion, and your love of the institution."

This was to be Elie Kurban's message to the new and future generations. He had cherished and cared for IC more than any. He has given it more than 40 years of his life and continued to care for it after his retirement.

Elie passed away in November 2015 after a long and courageous struggle with his disease. As the Senior Vice President had said "I will always think of Elie every time I will pass by the Banyan tree", every stone in the Institution, every employee he knew and cared for will keep his memory in their heart."



Mrs. Nancy A. Reynolds, the wife of late President Alton L. Reynolds passed away peacefully on February 22 after a brief illness. She was 85. Along with their five children, Nancy and Al moved to IC in September 1972. Nancy opened her heart and Martin House to many in the IC community providing kindness, comfort and hospitality especially during the very challenging and dangerous times of the civil war. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts (BA) and Lesley College (MA) she also spent 60 years as a fondly remembered and much loved elementary school teacher at ACS Beirut and at schools in Massachusetts. Following President Reynolds' unexpected death in Beirut in 1986, Nancy returned to the family home in



Dover, Massachusetts but continued her strong and active involvement with IC for many years serving on the Board of Trustees. Over the years that followed she became an avid gardener, world traveler and supporter of the Dover Library, Church and Council on Aging. She continued to keep in close touch with her many IC friends in Lebanon, the U.S. and around the world and will be missed. She is survived by her five children, Meredith, Michael, Marjory, Matthew (a current IC Trustee), Melissa and eight grandchildren. A memorial celebration will be held in Dover on May 28. In her honor, support may be given in Nancy's name to the Alton L. Reynolds Memorial Scholar Fund at IC.

Who doesn't know **Sari Tamimi '77**, a well-known friend on Facebook to several of his graduating class.

Sadly, Sari passed away on August 22nd 2015 following a long fight with multiple sclerosis (MS) in Marbella, Spain. Despite his disease, he kept his sense of humor posting daily jokes on social media. He was an active member (warrior as he was called) of the MS Association in Spain.



May you rest in peace Sari! To those who had known him, kindly pray for his soul.

*Rola Chbaklo*

Dr. **Sami Nassar '49**, like his father Dr. Ibrahim Nassar before him, was a surgeon who dedicated his life to helping people heal. After completing his secondary education at the International College, he obtained his BS and MD from the American University of Beirut. His passion and immense ambition took him to the United States where he trained in Neurosurgery at Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital and was certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgeons.

Despite many offers to remain in the United States, Dr. Nassar chose to return to Lebanon to serve his country, which he did with selflessness, integrity and

brilliance. His expertise was much needed in Lebanon especially during the long war years. He became a well renowned surgeon and professor at the American University Medical Center where he treated his patients with compassion and a total lack of discrimination.

Throughout his long career, Dr. Nassar was a very much loved and respected colleague, teacher, and mentor. Though he is not with us anymore, his legacy lives on in the many generations of dedicated doctors who trained under him, as well as in his grandchildren, two whom have chosen to follow in his footsteps.



Dr. Nassar is survived by his wife Sumaya Kurani and his three children Alice, Ibrahim and Suzy, and his grandchildren Meera, Elias, Sami, Lea, Karen and Isabelle.

*Maya Tohmé (Nassar)*

We regret to inform you that **Abdo Jeffi '52** passed away in March 2016. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Jeffi family.

We regret to inform you that **Edgardo De Piccioto '47** passed away in March 2016. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the De Piccioto family.



# COME AND CELEBRATE IC's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Date: May 24, 2016 - Time: 8.00 pm Place: IC Ras Beirut campus**  
**Featuring the much acclaimed musical play - Bar Farouk - followed by a**  
**dinner party with food stations, open bar, DJ and other surprises.**  
**All proceeds will go towards the IC Scholarship Fund.**

**Tickets available as of April 11 at the IC Alumni Office, Thomson Hall.**  
**& Ain Aar Upper Elementary office**  
**Dress: casual**

**Tel: 01-367420/33 E-mail: [alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb)**

## 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)

215 Park Avenue South, Suite 1710, New York, NY  
10003, U.S.A.  
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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