



# IC Newsletter SUMMER 2016





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# Note from the President

Dear Alumni, Parents and  
Friends,

As I write this brief message, work on IC's new Ain Aar Sports Field is nearing completion while construction of Ras Beirut's new early childhood (preschool) center and middle school buildings has just begun. It is exciting to envision students filling the corridors and outdoor spaces of these new facilities with their energy, laughter and creativity, perfecting their teamwork skills on the all weather sports field, and experiencing the wonder of discovery, exploration and learning that is part of being a student at International College. When completed, these facilities will join IC's Gold LEED Certified Elementary School, opened in 2014, as learning centers for the future.



These important campus improvements are the result of parents, board members, friends and alumni near and far, who are supporting IC's campus improvement campaign through their generous donations. On behalf of all present and future generations of students, I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to IC alumni from London to Los Angeles, from Atlanta to Abu Dhabi, Detroit to Dubai, and Boston to Beirut.

Catch the IC Spirit!

*Don Bergman, President  
International College*

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

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

Production coordinator: Sana Yamout  
Design: Nazha Merabi

Cover photo by Diego Ibarra  
Sanchez

Contributing photographers:  
Dory Khayatt, Nehme Badawi, Reem  
Haddad

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

# The Adventures of Alexander MacLachlan:

Alexander MacLachlan



MacLachlan Hall, Smyrna 1914: the minister had to keep IC open lest it gets occupied by Turkish authorities

**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

Euryalus, the British Destroyer



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 ICs buildings were not used, Ottoman authorities were sure to requisition them for military purposes.

# Smyrna

## (Part XIII)

Finally, in an effort to bring back students, MacLachlan announced that IC would facilitate the payment of fees in every way it possible could. 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



Turkish Troops riding on campus

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 to 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 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 their 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.

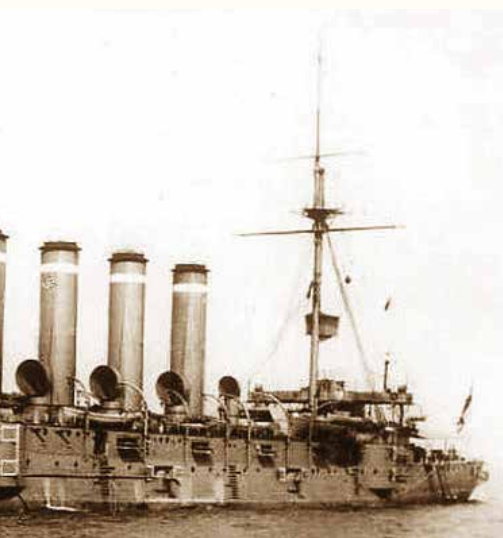
Meanwhile, MacLachlan went about his business. In all reality, his life as a POW didn't change much. “I was in all other respects as much a guest of the government as I was a prisoner of war,” he wrote.

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.*



college chapel which over 400 people attended, 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.

Only a few weeks later, Ferdinand was assassinated.





## REACHING OUT



The fifth graders had hit upon a sensitive issue: Why aren't more Lebanese schools integrating autistic children into their classes?

"People think that they are stupid, they are not," said Janine Brouwer, CM2. "People think that they are violent, they are not. These are all prejudices."

Janine and four of her classmates are part of the PYPX final school project which encompasses all the skills they have been learning since Preschool, including research, inquiry, communication, presentation and writing as well as social and IT skills. Every PYPX project is required to have a service component. Fifth graders are divided into groups – with mentors (a parent and a teacher) assigned to each. The groups chose a topic under the theme of "Who we are".

Janine and her friends chose to investigate the topic of autism. As part of their service component, the

group invited autistic children from the Lebanese Autistic Society (LAS) to spend a few hours playing games with them in the Preschool playground. IC students had prepared athletic, art and craft stations.

Fifth graders seemed quite at ease when the autistic children arrived – all of whom came from the Doha School, which had already established an integration program a few years ago.

"They have one or two autistic students for every 21 'regular' students," said **Nisrine Chamesdine '05**, from LAS and who was accompanying the children. The IC graduate apparently took a special interest in autism when interning as a psychology student, came across a severely autistic man. She found herself inhibited by him. Her own emotions disturbed her so much that she decided to specialize in special education and work with autistic children.

"We have noted that 'regular' children become much more understanding,



helpful and caring through these integrations,” said Chamesdine. “They become the protectors of their autistic classmates.”

According to LAS, autism is a spectrum disorder with symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms vary widely from one child to another but there are some common symptoms that affect mainly social, communication and behavioral skills. A person might have average intelligence, have little interest in other people, use limited verbal language and under- or over- react to certain sounds.

The children who arrived at IC for the PYPX were diagnosed as mild to medium level on the autistic spectrum. Chamesdine reports that their peers at the Doha School have learned to calm and cope with their autistic classmates when needed.

“We are here to tell everyone that autistic children are just like everyone else,” said Adam Serhal, in CM2. “They are misunderstood and it is up to all of us to stop these stereotypes.”







The Harley-Davidson motorcycle was first produced in 1903 by 20-year-old William Harley and his friend, Arthur Davidson. During World War I, the US military purchased over 15,000 motorcycles from them. By 1920, Harley-Davidson was the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world, with 28,189 machines produced, and dealers in 67 countries. Again, during WWII, Harley and Davidson provided more than 90,000 military motorcycles for US allies. Since then, Harley-Davidson became an icon of American culture.

In 2009, the Harley-Davidson shop opened in Hamra and, shortly after, another one opened in Dora.

But perhaps “shop” is a misleading term for what seems to be an entire organization made up of a director, committee, assistant director, treasurer, secretary, safety office, road captain and photographer – all volunteers.

For the HOGs, it is their passion.

“I always liked motorcycles,” said Hasbini. “But my dream was always to own a Harley-Davidson. Then the dealership opened in Hamra and that was it.”

What began as a group of thirty riders bloomed into 400 multinational members ranging from 19 to 79 years old. It is one of the rare clubs where religion and politics are strictly forbidden and where the most extremist rightist is riding alongside the most extremist leftist. “When you are on the bike, you are exactly the same as me and I am exactly the same as you,” said Hasbini.

Every Sunday, members meet up and go on a ride – which is the big mesmerizing motorcade seen on the highways.

They could be on a “ride ride” – purely for fun with barely a 15 minute break, a “family ride” – where kids and family follow the riders on a bus for a picnic and activities, a “lunch ride” – in the mountainside or a “beach ride” – for an overnight camping trip.

“You see Lebanon in a totally different way, no cement, open roads, trees and rivers blending, breathtaking views from mountains, it’s beautiful,” he said. “You get to know the real Lebanon that you don’t see otherwise. Because we cruise, it is like flying through Lebanon. I cannot explain it. The only way to understand it, is to try it.”

For more information about the Lebanese HOGs go to: [www.harley-davidson-lebanon.com/harley-owners-group](http://www.harley-davidson-lebanon.com/harley-owners-group)

## The HOGs:

### IC Dads and Moms Fundraise

**Y**ou’ve seen them. Stared at them. Moved aside for them and perhaps even waved at them. Who hasn’t been captivated by the look and sound of over 100 Harley-Davidson motorcycles moving down the Lebanese highways?

They are the Lebanese HOG (Harley Owners Group) chapter. Their motto is simple: Ride safe and have fun.

No, they are not the tattooed, leather jacketed, long haired, tough looking men and women seen in Hollywoodized films.

And least not the Lebanese chapter.

A closer look reveals professionals from all walks of life – yes, many in leather jackets – but just your regular neighbor. In fact, a closer look will reveal many IC dads and even some moms.

“We go out every single Sunday,” said Jamil Hasbini, father of three IC students and a HOG board member. “There is nothing like the feeling of cruising along in a big group. We definitely attract a lot of attention.”

The HOGs are now using this attention to help in fundraising events when NGOs began asking for their help in soliciting funds or raising awareness.

It started when Tamana NGO, which grants wishes to ailing children, asked them to fulfill the wish of a child who wanted to ride with the HOGs. The

riders quickly complied.

Since then, the HOGs have dedicated rides to various NGOs (charging members for the usually free rides), helped in direct soliciting of funds (stopping drivers on the road and asking them to contribute), sold items to international HOG members in an effort to fundraise, showed up at gala dinners as an added attraction (increasing the sales of tickets) and even posed for photoshoots to help raise awareness against child abuse (message: you mess with this kid, you mess with us).

“People like to help when we are around,” he said chuckling. “This year we are really focusing on NGOs or fundraising activities.”





## THE VOICE KIDS: GHADY BECHARA

**W**hen Ghady Bechara first got the call, he was astounded. The producer of the Voice Kids Lebanon, actually wanted him – a 6th grader who had just moved to IC – to participate in the blind auditions of the show.

It all started innocently enough when a commercial flashed on TV asking kids under the age of 16 to audition for the Voice Kids Lebanon – held for the first time in the Arab world.

Ghady stared at the screen. For years, he had been in the choir (of his old school) and loved to sing. Would Voice Kids possibly choose him among thousands of children auditioning?

There was only one way to find out. His mother, Dr. May Saadeh, stared at him incredulously. “Do you understand Ghady, the commitment involved here?” she asked him. “We are talking about hours and hours of practice. We are talking about you giving up many activities. You have to stay until the end. Are you up to this?”

“Yes,” he said emphatically. “Yes, this is what I want to do.”

As requested, Ghady sent off a taped audition of his performance to producers. A few days later, the family receives a call. In the case of Ghady being accepted, they asked, is he able to endure the long hours and repetitive practice required?

“I can take it,” he said. “I know I can.”

That was all his mother needed to hear. “Let’s do it then,” she said. But, she warned Ghady, “we are in it for the experience. You may get in or you may not. And both are fine.”

It was while she was waiting in the car for her family to come out of a sushi restaurant, that she received the call.

“Ghady,” she said unbelievably as her son clambered into the car. “They called! You’re in!”

The coming months could only be described as a whirlwind of practices, vocal coaching, recordings, reportages and auditions.

“It got really tiring sometimes,” said Ghady. “I did whine about it sometimes, but only a little because I really loved doing all this.”

The lengthy process first involved thousands of auditioners. Eventually, 99 children from all over the Arab world were chosen and flown in. Those 99 went through grueling voice training sessions



and performed in what is called “blind auditions.” That number was eventually cut down to 45. Then down to 15. And, finally, down to six. And this is the last phase of the Voice Kids: The finale show. Among those was none other than Ghady.

Millions of Arab viewers reportedly tuned in.

But if Ghady thought that his adventure was over, he was wrong. Very wrong. A contract stipulated that all six winners give several performances throughout the year, in Lebanon and abroad.

Ghady has so far performed in Lebanon and Dubai. The summer will see more performances in Egypt and Bahrain as well as the Batroun and Sidon festivals.

He has also been made the Junior Ambassador of GNK Traffic Academy (NGO aimed at raising road safety awareness in the community) and the goodwill ambassador of SOS Villages in more than 140 countries.

Since the show, the 11-year old has also had to deal with adoring fans, 67,000 Instagram followers and impromptu requests of little girls asking him to sing.

“I am very proud of myself that I was able to this,” said Ghady. “I gave up a lot but it’s worth it for me. This is what I want to do.”



## ENGLISH, ANYONE?



Charbel Mansour proudly boasted that he read four books – in English. True, they were Elementary school level but still. The IC security guard never thought that he would be reading in English. “I love it,” he said. “I will just keep reading until I get to a higher level.”

Mansour is one of 36 students who, for the past six months, have been taking mandatory English lessons along with other guards and physical plant workers from Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campuses.

All have to sit for 40 hours in all – twice a week. These lessons have been scheduled within their working hours and four teachers, two at each campus, have been giving them rudimentary English lessons.

“We are an international school and have many foreign visitors,” said English teacher Connie Hadba who created a special curriculum for her charges. “They are, very often, the first faces people see. What kind of image would we be giving the school when our guards cannot communicate with them?”

The idea was the brainchild of the Physical Plant Department which contacted Hadba earlier in the year to devise such a program. Organized by the Education Resources Center (ERC), a literacy course was launched two years ago when it was discovered that some of the workers were not able to read the basic order forms or labels around the school. That is when the rest of the workers requested other kinds of classes including English lessons.





Except for some occasional scheduling problems or emergency situations, workers and guards show up to class punctually and ready to learn something that they thought was previously impossible.

"Look at this form here," explained Hadba. "It says 'due date'. This is when your work must be completed. Now this, here, says 'asset' – this is the equipment that must be fixed. So something is broken."

"Ah!" cried out suddenly Ahmad Shaito, IC's much loved carpenter, who is usually called in to fix every nook and cranny on campus, "broken! Shaito!"

The class burst out laughing. Despite the jovial mood, the students seem to

be taking the lessons quite seriously.

"I always needed to ask someone all the time to translate the labels or instructions," said Milad Rawal, who works in the cooling/heating system of the school. "Now, at least I can make out most of them myself."

Catalogues were especially frustrating for Moustapha Awad, another technician. "They are always in English," he said. "Now, it feels good that I am beginning to understand them."

Most of the tailored lessons are based on oral conversations and deciphering different sounds. They also learn how to answer the phone and how to deal with certain problems that come up – all in English.

These are crucial skills for guards like Bassem Omeis and Ayoub Wehbi who need to communicate effectively with foreign visitors. "This makes our job much easier," said Omeis, "and it is much more pleasant for our visitors."

Also included are some reading and writing lessons. "Now that they can read the English order forms, one student even pointed out the mistake in them," said Hadba laughing. "I have many success stories among them. It's great. I am so proud of them."

At the end of the course, students received a certificate. But their lessons remain far from over. A new curriculum for higher level English is already being devised for next year.





## LATEST IC PROJECTS

*A Q&A with **Youssef Abi Abdallah**, Director of Facilities, the engineer in charge of overseeing building IC projects.*

**Q: What are the projects currently underway in both Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campuses?**

A: The projects currently underway are the construction of the new Pre-school and new Middle buildings in Ras Beirut, and a new Sports Field in Ain Aar.

**Q: Which stage of construction are we at now in both Ras Beirut and Ain Aar?**

A: We are now in Phase 2 of construction in Ras Beirut and Phase 1 in Ain Aar.

**Q: What is the next phase of construction?**

A: Phase 3 in Ras Beirut will be the complete renovation of the existing Pre-school building, and Phase 2 in Ain Aar will be the construction of a new building comprising of an indoor gymnasium, auditorium and underground parking for buses and cars.

**Q: What is the forecasted deadline for completion of Ras Beirut and Ain Aar projects?**

A: The new Sports Field in Ain Aar is expected to be completed by the end of July or mid-August 2016. The construction of the new Pre-school and new Middle School started on May 23rd 2016 and the project is anticipated to be completed in 18 to 20 months.

**Q: What other projects are in the future pipeline? When will those begin?**

A: The other projects in the pipeline are the complete renovation of the existing buildings in Ras Beirut and the existing buildings in Ain Aar. These projects will begin after completing the current phases under construction.

### IC Ain Aar New Sports Field







Daniella Asfour at age 6

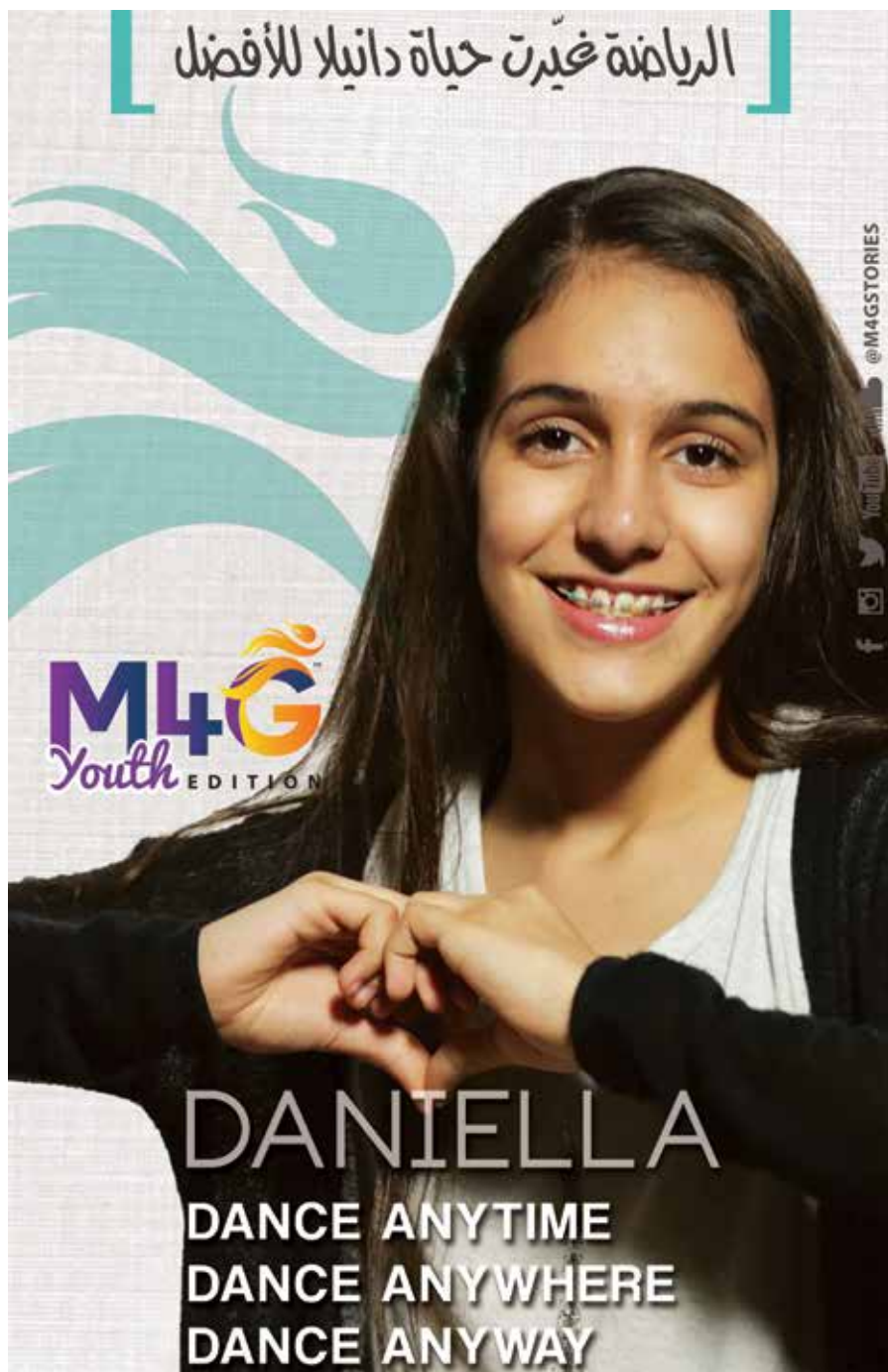
## Dance Any Way

IC's miracle child, Daniella Asfour, now aged 12, was chosen to be one of ten young speakers to share her inspirational story as part of the Move For Good Youth program televised just a week before the Bankmed Youth Race 2016 held in April.

On February 7th 2009, then six-year-old Daniella was diagnosed with cancer. It was every parent's nightmare. St. Jude Cancer Center soon became another home for Daniella who took the disease in her stride. Her bravery prompted Andree Sahyoun Maaraoui, a family friend, to write a memorable book, "Daniella and the Dolphins." Until this day, the most poignant IC Preschool graduation was when Daniella walked on stage to take her diploma with a scarf wrapped tightly around her head. All the other girls in her class followed suit with similar scarves wrapped around their own heads.

Her story captivated the IC community and, through several televised appearances, much of Lebanon.

*"I love to dance. It is my passion and it has been so since I learned to walk. I feel like I never want to stop. Dancing helped me a lot when I went through my treatment. I was only six years at the time and dancing took me to a place where hospitals and treatments didn't exist. Nothing ever was wrong in my special place. I still remember*



*that I was in the hospital getting treatment on the day of my dance recital. I couldn't imagine missing it. I didn't care about the treatment. I didn't care about anything. I just wanted to perform. I begged and begged the doctors and my mother to let me perform. And they did!*

*I will never forget that.*

*So what did I learn in those six years?*

*First, it is ok to have cancer. It will make you a stronger person.*

*Second, always believe in yourself. You can achieve anything if you put your mind to it.*

*Third, never ever give up.*

*Fourth, keep your body strong and it*

*will not fail you.*

*Five, if you can use your story to do good in the world, then do. When my mom's friend found out that I had cancer, she wrote a book about me. All the money that was raised was given to the Children's Cancer Center.*

*I have been blessed in so many ways. Yes, I had cancer. And that is ok. It has made me into who I am. It has given me strength and confidence."*

**Daniella Asfour, age 12**

*Speech delivered at Move For Good Youth televised program*



## Memorial Games

In memory of **Khairy Kaake '94** and **Malek Turk '93**, the 1990-1994 IC Football Varsity Team members organized four fundraising football matches.

Proceeds were donated to IC to support the tuition of a needy IC student who is also an outstanding athlete.

## IC Student Wins the National Merit Scholarship

He speaks fluent Arabic, French, and English – like most Lebanese students at the school – but the difference is that he is not Lebanese.

American national, Farouq Grimsson, 17, chose to continue in the Lebanese program while many of his Lebanese friends holding dual citizenship joined the foreign track.

Now an IBII student, Farouq, sat for the Brevet and Lebanese Baccalaureate I exam – which requires a heavy emphasis on Arabic including during history, geography and civics classes.

He was the only non-Arab student in the program and earned honors for many of his classes.

“I could have enrolled in CPP (foreign program),” he said “but I wanted the challenge.”

This ‘challenge’ has now earned him the highly prestigious National Merit Scholarship – where about 7,000 top scorers on the PSAT are selected out of about 1.5 million US entrants.

The highest-achieving students in the National Merit Scholarship Program are designated as National Merit Scholars – a prestigious title which goes a long way in opening career doors. Winners are the ones who have the strongest combination of academic



IC President Dr. Don Bergman, Farouq Grimsson, Secondary School Director Paula Mufarrij

achievements and extracurricular accomplishments.

Other than his involvement in IC extracurricular activities, Farouq and his two sisters launched their own initiative to assist Syrian refugees in Lebanon. They held blanket and food drives (or for any necessary items refugees requested) and launched fundraising

efforts.

Somehow he managed to juggle activities and obtain high scores – earning the prestigious award.

“I wasn’t expecting to get it,” he said. “It’s very exciting.”

Farouq has been accepted to the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech University next Fall.

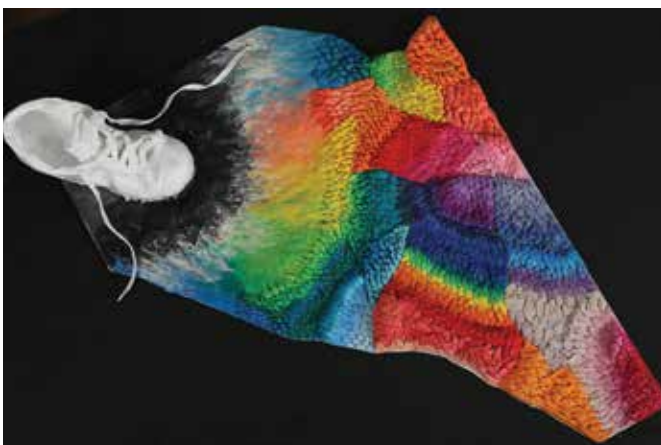




## IB ART EXHIBIT

Aya Fathallah  
Maya Zebian  
Tarek Mroueh  
Ghida Dalloul  
Nathalie Chahrour

Nadia Ramadan  
Sarah Najjar



Elementary  
School Choir



Junior  
Performing  
Arts

Senior Performing Arts





# Labor Day Carnival

IC invited all workers and their families to a fun family day on May 21st.



# Labor Day Dinner

IC held a Labor Day Dinner for all Physical Plant personnel, security guards, drivers and other employees, on May 6th at the Crowne Plaza.



Top: Shukri Habib, Siham Maallam,  
Dr. Don Bergman, Talal Jundi '89

Top Right: Dr. Don Bergman, Rita Jadam,  
Khalil Naim, Talal Jundi '89, Shukri Habib



Right: Raymond Al Jerr, Jack Bou Issa,  
Sami Bou Rjeili, Imad Bustani,  
Youssef Nassar, Selim Kaidi, Joseph Kayayanian





## MAYFAIR

Dear Parents,

I can't let this past Saturday's Mayfair Carnival pass without acknowledging and thanking the IC parent committee and parent volunteers for the exemplary planning, organization, and supervision of the carnival. Many parents spent the entire day and evening at IC ensuring that the event was a success. Nearly 2,000 students and parents attended the carnival, which hosted







separate activities for the pre-school and elementary in the morning while the evening program for middle school students included a stage show with music, dance, a DJ, games on the sports field, and a variety of food outlets. It was a FUN day for all, thanks to IC's MOMPOWER!

Thank You,

*Don Bergman, President  
International College*







"IC invited on to panel for sustainability, social entrepreneurship and responsible business report launch at AUB, 26th May, 2016"

## Trust for Sustainable Living (TSL) International Essay Writing and Debate Competition

Four students, Yara Kharrat, Sabine Khaled and Jana Karnib and Jana Mukaddam represented IC at an international essay and debate competition in Dubai in April.

Seventeen different countries were participating in what has become a significant global educational initiative focused on sustainability. Yara won 4th place in the Primary school essay writing contest. Sabine was chosen as one of the best debaters. Jana K's team won best debating team and Jana M's essay placed in the final of the Secondary school competition. IC was also pleased to receive the runner-up award for best sustainable schools YouTube video entry, principally developed by Yara's sister, Kristin Kharrat.

Following the two days of competition, the team were invited to a variety of sustainable sites in the UAE, taking in Masdar City in Abu Dhabi (where Sabine highlighted her debating skills to a panel of top judges) and to the Sustainable City in Dubai.



Teachers: Elizabeth Snavelly, Richard Bampfylde, Robert Ledford.  
Students: L to R Yara Kharrat (1, Sabine Khaled, Jana Karnib



## Former Student and Teacher Honored

Former student and teacher, **Gebran Massoud '48**, was honored on May 11th for his many contributions in the field of education over the years. In collaboration with Hachette Antoine, Massoud announced his latest release, "Poetry Through Centuries", during a ceremony held at Martin House.

Massoud, a recipient of the Order of Cedars award, is the author of many Arabic literature books and publications including the first English-Arabic

dictionary. Many of the literature books written by the former IC teacher of Arabic literature and Social Studies have been used at IC.

As he accepted his award from IC, Massoud let his audience in on a little secret: his birth name was Gabriel

Massoud. But recognizing his zest in writing Arabic literature, his then Arabic teacher, Fouad Sleiman, advised him to change his name to a more Arab sounding, "Gebran". And "Gebran Massoud" he remained until this very day.



Dr. Don Bergman, Moufid Beydoun '64.  
Gebran Massoud '48, Sami Naufal '65



## Wellness Week

Middle and Secondary School students spent their recesses over two days participating in all kinds of "Wellness" activities.

The message:  
**KEEP FIT.**







INTERNATIONAL DAY









## Dinners and Events



Nadine Akkaoui, Erhan Yergulalp, Patrick Satamian, Samar Satamian, Jennifer Yergulalp, Alya Mayassi, Sana Al Habal '83



Dr. Don Bergman, Elias Hanna '61, Moufid Beydoun '64



## Dubai

In celebration of IC 125th anniversary, an IC dinner for alumni and friends was held on April 23rd in Dubai and was attended by more than 220 people.

The highlights of the event were the honoring of both, **Patrick Chalhoub '75** and **Elias Hanna '61**, for their strong and continuous support to IC.

During the event, the newly elected IC Dubai Alumni Chapter were presented to all attendees, namely: **Amer Chebaro '95**, **Nadi Fakhoury '83**, **Lina Chehab El Alaili '79**, **Karim Ghandour '89**, **Serge Kotovsky '60**; **Rawan Oueidat '05** and **Houssam Rinno '83**.



Sitting: Irina Hanna, Karim Hanna, Abir Hanna  
Standing: Elias Hanna '61, Souad Hanna



Sana Yamout, Hiba Chamout, Nadine Akkaoui, Moufid Beydoun '64, Dr. Don Bergman, Lina Farra '79, Serge Kotovsky '60, Lina El Alaili '70, Houssam Rinno '83, Nadi Fakhoury '83, Karim Ghandour '89, Nada Amine





## A SPECIAL MABROUK

Congrats to all newly elected chapter members!

### Newly elected IC Dubai Alumni Chapter:

Amer Chebaro '95, Nadi Fakhoury '83, Lina Chehab El Alaili '79, Karim Ghandour '89, Serge Kotovsky '60; Rawan Oueidat '05 and Houssam Rinno '83.

### Newly elected IC Washington DC Alumni Chapter:

Dr. Sana El Hajj '86  
Dr. Moustapha El Amine '86  
Danny Mattar '05

## Geneva

In celebration of IC's 125th anniversary, an IC dinner for alumni and friends was held in Geneva at the *Club Nautique de Geneve* on May 3rd and was attended by over 50 IC alumni and friends. Present were board members John McCarthy and Jonathan Conner.



Suzanne Anderson, Chris Greenwood, Adwoa Bagalini, John McCarthy, Mary McCarthy, Jon Conner, Marwan Naja '86



Zina Moukarzel '85, Sana Al Habal '83, Rima Hamiyeh, Walid Moukarzel, Karim Youssef '06, Fouad Hamiyeh '85, Mazen El Zein '70, Zina Sanyoura '97



Sitting: Lili Spiridon '00, Moufid Beydoun '64, Patricia Matzdorf, Nadim Jawad. Standing: Nadine Akkaoui, Dr. Don Bergman, Zakaria Siblini, Ali Aziz





Mishka Mourani, Marianne Fattouh, Billy Ayoub Eidi '73

## Paris

In celebration of IC's 125th anniversary, an IC dinner was held in Paris at Noura Restaurant, on May 19th, attended by more than 30 IC alumni and friends.



L to R: (front row): Dr. Don Bergman, Rafic Abou Fadel '93, Moufid Beydoun '64, Elsa Rahal '10, Mishka Mourani, L to R: (back row): Charles Simon Thomas '75, Manal Issa El Khoury '01, Nour Abou Jaoude '01, Karim Bekdache '08, Lynn Farah '02



Younna Zogheib '05, Fadi Fattouh '93, Ronald Badaro '75, Joe Chaiban '75, Charles Simon Thomas '75, Gino Molinari '74, Rana Mugharbil, Majid Mugharbil '81, George Owashkek '70



Jocelyn Mermoux '70, Mona El Khoury '90, Ismat Rabbat '70, Dr. Don Bergman, Safia Rabbat, Ghady El Khoury, Rafic Abou Fadel '93





## IC's 125th Anniversary

The Alumni & Development office celebrated IC's 125th Anniversary at the Dome, Beirut Waterfront, on May 24th. More than 600 alumni, parents and friends showed up for the occasion and spent the evening being entertained by an Arabic singer and dancer and a special guest appearance by renowned Lebanese singer. Sami Clark.

The party was originally planned to be held on IC grounds but a sudden rain forecast threw the alumni team in a frenzy as, within 48 hours, they had to find a new location and create a new program more suitable for an indoor arena. But everyone came through. So many came forward to offer their help. A special mention must go to **Ezzat Kraytem '84** who, as soon as he heard of their dilemma, offered the giant inflatable dome (said to be the largest in the Middle East), which was especially put up for the Beirut Cultural Festival, to IC for free.

"IC is my school, my father's school and the school of my three children," said Kraytem, "and it is where I met the love of my life, **Karma Khatib '84**. I want to help IC as much as I can."







Dr. Don Bergman, Lara Khoury, Maria Kassabian, Moufid Beydoun '64, Cynthia Ghattas, Rosita Jabbour, Raghid Abou Habib

Another alumni, photographer **Chafic Ariss '83**, was on hand to take all the pictures - on the house.

It was an event to remember but, moreover, it was a show of solidarity for a beloved alma mater.



Imad El-Khalil '81, Lena Dandan, Jamal Dandan '79, Sahar Alami, Rula Chehab, Zeina El-Khalil '87, Mohamad Chehab



Mona Turk, Samir Turk, Zeina Kadamani Fakih, Michael Fakih



Oussama and Lina Chucair



*Special thanks go to the following sponsors:*

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**SILVER**  
Audi Bank, Averda, BLOM Bank, Moustache, Mutaal Family, RYMCO, Saifi Suite.

**BRONZE**  
Boeker.

*Thanks also to:*  
Buttler's Bottle, DJ Caline Chidiac, Meat the Fish, Moodz, Nexty, Sarmad Salibi, Selfies Box, Scouts (Beirut 1 & 4), Wedding 4 Life (Raya Zahlan), Ali Ballan '01, Karim Farsoun '92, Zeina Samara '88.

**VOLUNTEERS**  
Abir Chbaro '89, Lamees Miknas, Lara Salman '91, Lynn Beshara '94, Maya Kaaki, Nayla Moukarem, Rania Sakr, Rawia Baalbaki '94, Sally Khalaf, Zeina Samara '88, Mounzer Abdel Samad '87, Lara Khoury, Dania Chahine '93, Ali Ballan '01, Amal Dbouk, Nadine Itani '87



Maher Mikati '98, Dr. Don Bergman, Dana Mikati '99, Amal Ibrahim, Nayla Youssef '99



Mishka Mourani, Ghada Maalouf '84, Paula Mufarrij, Diana Abou Lebdeh, Julia Kozak, Lina Mouchantaf





## IC Reunion: Class '76

The 40 year IC Alumni reunion dinner was at Tsu restaurant last month and included 35 of us, most of whom had never seen each other for 40 years. The reunion was amazing and the guys requested a fake bill that came at \$4,800, which of course everyone was saying exactly what we used to say 40 years ago. "We have no money, but we can wash dishes or pay bil tekssit like everyone does!!" ...all the waiters in the restaurant forgot their clients and came out to the Garden where we were all dining and had a fit. Two teen age girls about 19 years old heard all the laughter and commotion outside and came out saying that they are also IC students, and hanged around and had a drink with us, and found out that our children are also IC alumni...a very funny evening indeed , and what was amazing was that we all were so friendly and told each other storie , no glove , a very close knit bunch which is what the IC spirit is all about....like we've never left the school !!!

*Rony Sabri '76*



Hassan Kronfol '76 lighting the \$4,800 restaurant bill with his cigar anyway here



R to L. Cyril Bustros, Khalil Habib, Kamel Bekdache, Roni Sabri , Kamal Mabsout, Ramzi Salman, Jimmy Alih



R to L. Jimmy Alih, Hassan Kronfol, Hammad Atassi, Nadim Hakim, Adib Ladki, Jamal Bekdache, Toufik Kerbage



R to L. Roni Sabri , Cyril Bustros , Paul Gebeily ,Kamel Bekdache , Khalil Habib , Khaled Nahas Nadim Hakim, Michel Knessevitch



# Letters to the editor

Many excellent memories come to mind when thinking of IC in the late 1950s.

First, as many probably don't remember, girls were not admitted to IC until 1958. As I was in the last year in the French Section of IC in the class of Mathematiques, we had one courageous girl who joined the boys in the Sciences department. Here is the photo. And yes, the teacher on the photo is none other than my father Albert Anavy...which brings another funny story. Imagine having your dad teaching you! One thing I could be sure of: Anytime I had not done my homework at home, or gone out late partying with friends...I could be sure that he was going to quiz me the next day to catch me! And if I answered correctly, which I usually did, everyone would joke with me saying that your dad told



you he was going to question you, that is why you have good grades!

Here is the class photo of the class of 1958, Section Mathematiques, French Section

Can you recognize some of the classmates? Hint: Adel Hamyeh is on it.

*Ralph Anavy IC '58*

I hope all is well. It always feels great to receive the IC newsletter and update on the recent news and activities of our Alma mater IC! We thought of taking a picture and sharing it with the rest of the IC community through the IC newsletter or any social media service that you would prefer. 12 out of the 88 graduating students from AUBMC had graduated from IC

in '09! (More details in the caption below).

Kindly find the picture attached and the caption below.

*Mohamad Raad, IC '09*



**Christopher Khoury - Reem Akel - Charbel Boustany - Ziad Al Adas - Karam Hamed - Tara Bardawil - Ahmad Hamad - Mohamad Raad - Katerina Zakka - Zeyad Sahli - Rana El Jarrah - Nassib Abou Haidar.**

IC Class of 2009 are the AUBMC MD Class of 2016! Graduating with Distinctions, Penrose Award, and Naji Sahyoun Endowed Memorial Fund Award, and accepted to AUBMC and major institutions in the USA including Johns Hopkins University, Emory University School of Medicine, Henry Ford, and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center to continue their journey in medicine.



# Updates

'64

**Muhammad A. Abu-Zaki** became an accredited Expert and Arbitrator and provides Technical support and training Civil Engineers and Quantity Surveyors. Since his graduation from AUB in 1968, he has been working in many countries mainly in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Oman in the construction, design, construction supervision, maintenance and rehabilitation of roads and bridges. He has done post graduate study at Melbourne University - Australia and taught civil engineering students in the same university and at the Caledonian Engineering College in Oman.

"I still remember my teachers like M/S Nadi Nader (Mathematics), Sadiq Omar (Chemistry), Yaqub Haddad (Physics) and a number of my classmates and the nice time we spent together in Beirut," he writes. "I was happy when my daughter, Dana, told me that Mr. Nadi Nader also taught her Mathematics in Qayser Haddad School after 30 years of teaching me!"



'67

**Samir Moujaes**, Ph.D., P.E. is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering Department University of Nevada Las Vegas samir.moujaes@unlv.edu [http://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_files/27/Samir-Moujaes-CV.pdf](http://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/Samir-Moujaes-CV.pdf)

'71

**Vrej Kolandjian** received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor on May 7, 2016. The award is presented every year to a select group of individuals whose accomplishments in their field are cause for celebration. Vrej Kolandjian is the



retired president of Uncle Ben's Inc. in Houston, TX. And is currently a partner at Yellowstone Capital and part owner of Chung's Gourmet Foods. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, he is the recipient of a Certificate of Merit as outstanding student in Marketing by the American Marketing Association in 1976.

'75

**Hassan H. Ramadan** MD, MSc, FACS is in the US since 1989 and is currently Chair of Otolaryngology at West Virginia University. He is married to Rola who received a BS from AUB in 1985 and has two children: Jad, born in 1988 and Rayya, born in 1993.

**Robert R Rouda** BSc MSc PhD is a Senior Policy Officer & Home Base Manager in Western Australia and wrote a novel about his time in Lebanon between 1971 and 1984. His years at IC 1971 and 1975 are covered in the book. Below is the link.

<http://www.amazon.com.au/Shake-Rattle-Roll-Lebanon-1971-1984-ebook/dp/B005BFXLB4>

'81

**Talal El-Khalil** moved to Dubai, UAE earlier this year and is now leading the PepsiCo Inc. franchised businesses, strategy and execution agendas for the Middle East and North Africa countries. Talal can be reached at [talal.el-khalil@pepsico.com](mailto:talal.el-khalil@pepsico.com)

**Hani Riman** graduated from AUB and received two degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration in 1985 and Ingenieur Agricole in 1989. He has been working at Najjar Company since then and married into the Najjar family from Beit Mery. He has two children.

'83

**Toufic Noueiry** is a Lawyer since 1989, his wife Lina Arayssi is a teacher in IC (Nursery), and two of his three children are IC students Omar and Ali. In November 2015, Toufic finished his two consecutive terms as member of the Beirut Bar Association Board (every term was for three years), and also his six years as the General Secretary of this Bar (BBA). He was also elected last may 2015 in Agadir/Morocco as Assistant General Secretary of the Arab Lawyers Union for a term of four years which will end in 30/5/2019 (the Union headquarters is in Cairo).

'84

**Faysal H Badran** is the Chief Investment Officer of The Savola Group, Saudi Arabia



# Updates

'85

**Bassam Jadayel** sent in the following picture. Varsity IC basketball team '84. He is the second player standing from the right.



'86

**Ahmad Saad** lives in San Diego, California. He is married to Veronica and has two children Sofia and Lionel. He is a Plastic Surgeon, and teaches at the University of California in San Diego. He also has a private practice as well.

"I truly miss IC, classmates, teachers, staff, the paintings on the wall facing Rockefeller, the cafeteria, Shawki, Marroun, Abu Zale's "wa7ad Rosto"" he writes. "Funny story: I did not graduate from IC, I mean, I did my final year at IC but I was not allowed to attend the commencement because I had both academic and disciplinary probations. It was a surprise to everyone that I went to med school at AUB. I once saw Mrs Amal Sharara in the elevators at AUH. I was a 3rd year medical student then. We hug and talk, then she asks me "what are you doing here?"; I told her I am a medical student. Her answer was "Ahmad, seriously, what are you doing here?". That says it all."

<http://www.facesplus.com/doctor/dr-ahmad-saad/>

'89

**Ayad Itani** earned his BE in Mechanical Engineering from the American University of Beirut in 1993 with high honors. While continuing his higher studies at AUB, he started his first job at Khatib and Alami. He earned his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1998. Towards the end that same year, he wished to further expand his knowledge in engineering, so he moved to work for Uneco in the field of construction. Four years later, he felt it was time to venture into his own business, so he partnered with his fellow AUB classmate Ahmad Al Hajj; they founded EM Tech in August 2001. The young start-up company, specialized in electromechanical construction, began with small jobs, but soon enough with hard work and professional ethics it established a good name in the market. In 2009 EM

Tech signed its first multi-million dollar project. In 2011 EM Tech signed the construction of the New Elementary School project at IC with MAN Enterprise. It was a great privilege for Ayad to have the opportunity to give back to his Alma Matter. In 2012, EM Tech expanded offshore, and is currently undertaking projects in Senegal, Nigeria and Erbil, and currently manages a workforce in excess of 600 employees. In May of 2013, Ayad was awarded the AUB FEA Distinguished Alumnus Award in recognition of his outstanding career in the engineering and contracting industry. Ayad got married to Lama Tamim in 2007 (AUB graduate) and has three children Ahmad, Ghaydaa and Noura. "Living in a Country and time where the main constant factors are instability, change and emerging challenges, you need to have sturdy tools to make it through," he writes. "Loving family, true friends, high sense of values, pro-activeness, perseverance, hard work and strong commitment. Focus on your blessings, be grateful, and give back! If you wish to distinguish yourself, don't be afraid of taking the risk others won't! Trust in yourself, have faith in God, and dream big; for who dreams big and intends to make a positive difference in the world will surely find the way."



'94

**Emile Tabanji** took over the management responsibility at Impact BBDO in Beirut. He has spent the last 16 years with IMPACT BBDO Group joining the Beirut client servicing team in 2000 before heading to Dubai where he spent six years successfully leading blue chip clients across the MENA region. He was previously the managing director in Egypt.

'96

**Nouhal Yamout Shatila** has been working at the Lebanese banking control commission since 2002 and is currently head of the regulation, macro-prudential and consumer protection department since July 2015, responsible for drafting regulations for banks and financial institutions, performing macro-prudential analysis of the financial sector and following on consumer protection guidelines implementation. After Nouhal got a BS in Biology from AUB, MBA from LAU, License in English literature from the Lebanese university and holds an FRM certificate.

"On the personal level I'm married to **Mohamad Shatila** '99 and have been blessed with four wonderful kids Aya (12 years) Aboudi (9 years) Ahmad (4 years) and Lea (1 year)," she writes, "my kids are of course IC students, which is giving



# Updates

me the opportunity to revisit frequently my school and refresh my memories.”

**Najib Sahyoun** is in Montreal pursuing a PhD program in Accounting and have a three year old son old (Joseph). “Twenty years have already passed since graduation! The years at IC were very memorable and had a profound effect on who we are. While education was the primary objective, equally important were the lifetime friendships. The below photo was taken when Maher Berro, Mahmoud Bizri, and I were attending Miss Torch 1996 on IC campus.”



## An avid athlete

**Khalil Elias '59** never fails to show up for IC's Athletic awards every year. An avid athlete during his IC days, Elias travels from Saudi Arabia at least once a year laden with trophies to bestow on the best male and female athletic students. In fact, one of the Athletic Awards is in his name. Elias, who still keeps in touch with IC classmates and visits them during his stay in Lebanon, continues to stress the importance of athletics in a school and urged the students to continue training. Elias submitted the following picture from their days at IC:



VP Alumni & Development,  
Moufid Beydoun '64  
and Elias Khalil '59 at  
the Alumni Office



Khalil Elias '59, Muhammad Sulayman '59, Abdur Rahman Isa '59, Sulayman Salih '60, Fahd Sulayman '60, Adonis Tohmé '59, Farouk Mahtasib '58

# Updates

'03

**Maher Abdel-Sattar**, PharmD, MS, moved to California following his graduation from IC. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) then earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Upon graduation, Dr. Abdel-Sattar moved to Tampa, Florida, where he completed a 2-year training fellowship at Xcenda/AmerisourceBergen, a Fortune 15 company that provides high quality consulting services to the pharmaceutical industry. Concurrently,

Dr. Abdel-Sattar earned a Masters of Science degree from the University of Florida (UF) in Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy, with an emphasis in Applied Pharmacoeconomics. He was recently promoted to a Manager role in Global Health Economics & Outcomes Research (GHEOR) at Xcenda/AmerisourceBergen.

'08

**Nora Chokr** graduated from AUB with a Doctor of Medicine degree in May 2015 and is currently doing clinical research in diabetes at University of California San Francisco. In June 2016, I am moving to Connecticut for residency training

at Yale School of Medicine (Yale-Waterbury Internal Medicine Program). "IC days were among the happiest days of my life," she writes, "great memories!"

'10

**Maya Fawaz** is currently working at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), to promote openness and accountability in government by supporting political and civic organizations, safeguarding elections, and promoting citizen participation. "On another note," she writes, "there is one thing I learned: there are no friends like IC friends!"

# In Memoriam

Mr. Bashir Copti

August 11, 1929 – March 20, 2016

Bashir Copti, a name that will live forever in our minds, hearts and everyday life. Not only he was a devoted teacher, but he was an outstanding educator and unique mentor. While he taught Philosophy & History of Arab Sciences to senior students, he carved stronger personalities preparing them to face unexpected challenges.

He taught 21 years at I.C. preceded by 16 years at SABIS-Shoueifat. He was loved and respected by his students, colleagues and friends due to his pleasant presence, distinctive charisma, sharp character and vast knowledge. He dedicated most of his life

to education because to him teaching was a divine message rather than a profession. He saw in each and every student a son or a daughter and treated them accordingly.

He was fond of the Arabic language and mastered it so well that he published several books of different topics and composed numerous poems some of which haven't been published yet. His efforts culminated in the Dictionary of Arabic Grammar that bestowed his exceptional knowledge to several generations to come.

As a great father, loving husband and unique mentor, he touched the lives of many who knew him.



Rest in eternal peace Mr. Copti, you will never be forgotten. To your memory we pray.





# Have a great Summer!

## 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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