



# IC Newsletter Summer 2011



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# Note from the Editor

I was visiting a donor, who also happens to be a close friend and IC parent when we started discussing the reason we launched IC's Partnership for Excellence Campaign. The reason is very simple: we will not be generating any extra income from our new buildings once completed. In other words, the student body will not increase. We will remain as we are. The same number of students will continue enjoying a high quality education only this time, with state of the art facilities. Burdening current parents with the cost of the new elementary school was also out of the question. There was only one thing to do: launch a fundraising campaign.

My friend was naturally interested. After an elaborate discussion, he generously pledged \$1m to the campaign. He was obviously intrigued and touched by our efforts and wanted to help out. His only condition was to remain anonymous. He did request, however, that the multipurpose room in the new South Building bear the name of a loved relative, an IC alumnus, whom he recently lost.

Thank you my dear friend for believing in IC's mission and contributing so generously to our – to your – campaign.

We are depending on you: alumni, parents and friends. This is why we have been travelling all over the world to meet with you. We need you.

In this issue, we bring you the tale of how IC finally found a final home. Some of you may remember Meshref and Bshamoun. Do you ever wonder what happened to them? It was a long journey that finally brought us back to where we belong: Ras Beirut. There's no place like home.

And there's no time like the present. With this new generation of 'digital natives' entering our school, the curriculum has been revamped to integrate IT into the classrooms. Our students use the latest array of digital media in their studies. In an ever evolving technological world, our graduates are more than ready to compete in any skilled labor market. Our students, after all, are the leaders of tomorrow.

As for our environmentally conscious readers, do take the time to look over our fauna and flora plan for the campus. I think you will enjoy it.

It was a pleasure meeting up with so many alumni, parents and friends in Lebanon and during our travels. I know that you contributed generously because you understood that our campaign is necessary and that we have no intention of increasing the number of students or passing on the bill to parents.

A special thanks to all who have contributed and made their pledges and who believe in IC.



Moufid Beydoun '64

*Vice President for Alumni & Development*

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For comments or  
suggestions, email  
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## ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be celebrating the:

**50th Graduation Anniversary** for the graduates of **1961** on **Friday, July 15th**  
**25th Graduation Anniversary** for the graduates of **1986** on **Thursday, July 14th**  
**10th Graduation Anniversary** for the graduates of **2001** on **Saturday, July 16th**

All reunions will take place at 8pm at IC Martin House Garden.

For tickets/information contact the office of Alumni & Development at:  
[alumni@ic.edu.lb](mailto:alumni@ic.edu.lb) Tel./fax: 961 1 367433.

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# A Home At Last

*As the sound of bulldozers and construction fill the Ras Beirut campus, a silent sigh echoes with it. It's been a long journey to find a final home for IC. The campus, after all, did not belong to IC but to AUB. Many attempts were made to move and to expand. Each and every one failed. Each and every one was a disappointment. Still, IC Board, administration, staff and teachers would not be deterred. The search for an expanded and final home for IC continued.*

*The journey began in the 1950s and saw the leadership of three IC presidents.....*

Thomas C. Schuller knew he had three main issues to focus on as he was formally inaugurated as the new President of IC in May 1961.

The first was to improve the school's academic standards, second was to establish a separate identity from AUB and third was to locate a large plot of land to build a new campus for IC.

The student body was growing at a steady

rate. Moreover, AUB had grown immensely since the end of WWII and was adding new programs. The university needed its Ras Beirut property back and requested that IC relocate to another campus.

In the 1950's a plot of land in Aramoun was purchased. But when Schuller took over, the search began for a larger plot. Land was still abundant then and a beautiful spot on the hills in Meshref was the perfect spot. The view of the sea and the surrounding greenery was well worth the drive from Beirut.

The soliciting of necessary funds began "in hopes to fulfill great expectations for augmenting the already distinguished record of the College, the Trustees have embarked upon a project to construct a new campus for IC, south of Beirut, where additional facilities and the most modern equipment may be available," announced Schuller in 1960.

The renowned American architectural

firm of Edward Durrell Stone was hired. Stone was making waves in the architectural world with his use of the "International Style" in his designs. He was noted for his designs of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the PepsiCo World Headquarters, the University at Albany campus and Beirut's very own Phoenicia Hotel.

Meanwhile, donations began to come in – mostly notably from USAID, Dodge Foundation, former AUB president Bayard Dodge and Mrs Dewitt Acheson Wallace the co-founder of the Reader's Digest magazine.

On October 21, 1971 the Meshref campus was officially inaugurated.

As hundreds of students testified, they were good days. Unfortunately, they were short lived. Civil war erupted in April 1975 and the road to Meshref was blocked. Still, the administration hoped that by October all would go back to normal. That was not to be.

"It was a big blow," recalled Elie Kurban, IC's former Chief's Financial Officer, who had joined IC in 1966. "Schuller, especially, took it hard."

A skeletal staff made up of teachers Thomas Weaver, Maurice Dumont and Nimr Ibrahim tried to keep an eye on it by reaching it through another road in the mountains. But eventually, even they had to abandon the school as militias moved in, looted the school and occupied the premises.

With a heavy heart, IC administration turned its attention to make place for students in its Ras Beirut campus. Boarding school was cancelled and the rooms used by boarders turned into classrooms. Other classrooms were rented from the neighboring ACS (American Community School). The new lodgings were thought to be temporary until students return to Meshref. "We kept hoping to move back," said Kurban. "Little did we know that the troubles were just only beginning."

**But eventually, even they had to abandon the school as militias moved in, looted the school and occupied the premises.**



The only remnant of the Bchamoun Campus. The area is currently a construction site for a development project.





The Meshref Campus was completely renovated and is now the Hariri Canadian University. The architecture and the landscaping was so well planned that administrators kept the buildings and campus exactly as they were.

Still, IC made another attempt to expand. In the late '70s, IC purchased an abandoned British Community school in Bshamoun. Things were looking up. The campus was vast and there was ample space for children to play. An Olympic size swimming pool was donated by Elie Schnaoui '56. In 1982, on the very day when the pool was to be inaugurated, Israel attacked. The school with its yellow top seemed to be a special attraction to aircraft bombers.

Once again, another campus was abandoned and students brought back to Ras Beirut. "Nothing we did was working out," said Kurban. "It was yet another loss. It was very frustrating."

By then, Alton Reynolds was IC's president and his main job was to keep the school going through a vicious war. Feelings of frustration were running high. "In such turbulent times, we have been so overwhelmed with concern for security, for finances, for providing classrooms when damages have occurred and campuses lost..." Reynolds wrote in 1985 in his annual letter to graduating seniors. That same year, Meshref was sold and the former British embassy at the Corniche acquired (Reynolds Building). Elemen-



Prime Minister Saeb Salam and Thomas Schuller in Meshref in 1969

tary school students were moved there. Damaged beyond repair, the Bshamoun campus was sold in 1990.

It soon became clear that the Reynolds Building had not only become overcrowded but couldn't support IC's revamped state of the art education. IC still needed to find a final home. Instead of moving to another

location would AUB sell the campus? Negotiations with AUB began in 2006 and finally, in 2009, AUB and IC announced the purchase of the Ras Beirut IC campus.

The Campaign for Excellence was launched. Two US architecture firms which specialize in designing schools were commissioned. Flansburgh Associates and Ellenzweig Associates Inc, in a joint venture with Khatib and Alami, began designing a new elementary school for IC. On November 4, 2010 ground was broken and construction began.

"Sometimes the best solution to a problem is right where the search first began," said IC's current president, John Johnson. "For security reasons, the Board decided that it would be much better to stay in Ras Beirut. Our new buildings will have the same facilities that we had planned had we gone elsewhere. And since most of our students live in Beirut and many are within walking distance from IC, it is an ideal set up." Yes, he agreed, IC has finally found a home at last.

*With historical information provided by Howard A. Reed in his "A Brief History of The International College."*



Mourani talking to students about the different type of trees on campus.

## A Green Concern

The six fifth graders were concerned. Very concerned. Yes, they agreed that IC needs a new elementary school. But - after much research - they concluded that Beirut is an over built city with very few trees and gardens. So how is it that IC - THEIR school - uprooted some trees during the construction of the new building? Something had to be done about this.

And so they set up a meeting with the school's Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani, "IC has destroyed some trees," began Nay Hachem, 10. "And we are here to see if we can replant them."

For her part, Mourani listened very attentively to their worries. It's true, she replied. Some trees were indeed uprooted but "those trees were not rare ones," she explained. "They were Ficus trees and grow rather quickly."

Moreover, IC will not only plant new trees once the construction is finished, but will be adding new kinds of plants.

The students seemed relieved. Upon

Mourani's advice, they decided to seek out Youssef Abi Abdullah, the Director of Facilities. He had a list of the plants.

The six marched off to Abi Abdullah's office. "Oh yes," he said. "I have the list. Let me show it to you."

The students crowded around as Abi Abdullah showed them the blueprints of the new school and provided them with the very important fauna and flora list.

"I feel better," said Omar Dandan, 11, in a meeting with his group afterwards. Like all Lebanese children, Omar has nowhere to play after school. Even the empty plot - where he used to play - near his mountain home has been turned into a construction area.

"There are hardly any trees left," agreed Rawad Lakkis, 10. "We're surrounded with buildings."

These were the concerns which spurred the group to adopt "buildings replacing trees" as their topic for the Primary Years Program exhibition (PYPX) in June.

The exhibition marks the last PYP project before fifth graders graduate to middle



school. Their final project encompasses all the skills they have been learning since preschool which include research, inquiry, communication, presentation, social, writing and IT skills. Every PYPX project is required to have a service component. Fifth graders are divided into groups – with a mentor (teacher or parent) assigned to each. Under the theme of “who we are”, the groups chose a topic.

“My group was interested in the environment,” explained Assil Hachem, the team mentor. “So we went around the city with cameras and took pictures.”

For the first time in their eleven years of life, the students really looked at their city. And they saw it as it is: a concrete jungle with little greenery.

“We google earthed Paris,” said Noor El Zein, 11. “Their streets were organized. It was so different than Beirut.”

It was then that the group turned their attention to IC and made their plan: they were going to set the example by planting potted trees on campus and then replanting them near the new elementary school when finished.

Their next search was for an environmental

NGO willing to donate tree shoots. Parents got involved and Noor’s mother located one. The children smiled at the news. Their plan was working.

“Maybe everyone will do what we’re doing here,” said Omar Anouti, 11.

Aboudi Kalo, 10, couldn’t agree more.

“We will be the inspiration for the people of Beirut,” he said proudly.

“There are hardly any trees left, we’re surrounded with buildings.”  
“We google earthed Paris, their streets were organized. It was so different than Beirut.”



Abi Abdullah showing students the IC Elementary School Planting sheet (see below).

## The School as a Teaching Tool

Providing plants that attract wildlife and give students an opportunity to learn about biodiversity and ecosystem

### Shrubs



5- Lavender  
Highly scented Shrub  
Medicinal Plant



6- Mint  
Scented Shrub  
Medicinal Plant



7- Fountain Grass  
Grass Shrub



8- Laurustinus  
Winter Flowering Plant

### Trees



1- Cupressus  
Narrow and High



2- Jacaranda  
Shade and Flowering Tree



3- Olive  
Harvest olives



3- Almond  
Fruit Tree

### Key Plan



### Ground Cover



9- Pink Ice Plant  
Flowering Ground Cover

### Mulch To Retain Water





## 21st Century Skills: Media Literate Students

My eight year old daughter came home the other day and with much excitement asked to be on Facebook. It's apparently 'cool' because it's the latest talk among her little IC classmates. Like many parents brought up in the 80's, I shelve her request among the others for i-pads, ipods, iphones, nanos, blackberries, kindle, PlayStations, DS, and every kind of pad out there. I give my usual firm response of "When you're 18".

My daughter grumbles something about 18 being incredibly old and walks away. I sigh. For I know very well, that the digital

media paraphernalia is almost sure to invade my home, filled with old fashioned board games and dollhouses, way before she is 18. I'd be lucky if we make it until 12.

"There's no escaping," said Mahmud Shihab, IC's Educational Technology Program Administrator. "Preschoolers are coming to school already knowing how to use touch screen devices which are top notch technology. Not only that. But they are very demanding when it comes to wanting to use IT."

Many students in secondary school don't



bother with taking notes and simply take pictures of board notes with their blackberries and 'bbm' (send) them to each other.

They are what are known as "digital natives" – a term coined by Marc Prensky, an educational technology professional – for babies born in the 90's when Google was first launched. These children have never heard of a world without internet.

Quick to recognize these digital natives entering schools, education administrators across the globe are rushing to incorporate IT into their curriculums. IC is no exception.

Last year marks a milestone in the integration of IT into the middle and secondary schools (IT was already integrated in the preschool and elementary school's PYP program since the late 90's). No longer is IT taught as a standalone subject but is used as part of the class subjects. IC students have become digital media literate – defined as the ability to access, understand and participate or create content using digital media.

Blogs, wikis, podcasts, Google documents, Office Live, and twitter are only a small part of the long array of web tools at IC which promise to make any 70's and 80's generation parents shy away.

"We had to reach out to our students," said Shihab. "Using IT makes sense to them. We cannot change them but we had to find a way to change ourselves. We had to incorporate digital media into our curriculum".

The first challenge was training hundreds of technologically "old" teachers in both Ras Beirut and Ain Aar ("old" defined as anyone born in the pre-internet era or in other words over the age of 20) to use the latest web tools. Workshops and intensive training sessions (on going) were launched on campus. Some teachers were sent to workshops and conferences locally and abroad run by the IB, French Embassy, NESAI, ECIS, and many others.

Before long, teachers began using the web tools in their classrooms. Over the past three years, they launched their own wikis and blogs posting assignments, comments and suggested links. They expected PowerPoint presentations, reports, posters, excel sheets, websites, videos, blogs, podcasts, from their students. Some began 'tweeting' their students on latest topic issues. Many reading requirements were emailed instead of printed out. (During the swine

flu epidemic in 2009 when some classes were shut down, teachers depended on blogs to keep their lessons going). In the classroom, teachers relied heavily on active boards for their lessons. Students responded.

"Teachers saw the response in their students and began teaching each other as well," added Shihab.

The second challenge was integrating IT in the Lebanese curriculum. The school was effectively on its own. Last updated by the government in the early 1990's, the Lebanese Curriculum calls for minor computer skills and issued a drastically outdated IT book.

Fortunately, the IB and the French Baccalaureate programs at IC require a heavy IT application in its curriculum. Teachers in these programs are required to integrate technology quite heavily into their studies. IC took most of these requirements and applied them to the Lebanese program as well.

"We are preparing our students for the skills of the 21st century," said Shihab.

"This is what they need to compete in the Lebanese and international career markets. Most jobs today require media literate employees. And these are the jobs that are highly paid. Our students can fit in anywhere and compete."

As the saying goes, a man's work is from

sun to sun but .... an IT's job technician is never done. The continuously evolving technology means a continuous flow of new web tools and new IT devices (at higher costs!) In the works are multi touch interactive white boards, smart tables, 3D screens and projectors, and many more to come.

IC has to keep up. "Students have high expectations from us," said Shihab.

Apparently, so do my two children at home. Despite my resistance to IT devices invading our abode, my little six year old son challenged me. "How come everybody has Wii, iPads and DS and we have none?" he asked.

My lecture about using our imagination to play with toys and games falls on deaf ears. I suppose it's time to admit the 'digital nativity' of my children, and head to the nearest IT store.

During the swine flu epidemic in 2009 when some classes were shut down, teachers depended on blogs to keep their lessons going.





## AMIS

Eight students travelled to the American International School of the Hague, to participate in the Senior Honor Choir held by AMIS, under the direction of Dr. Andre Thomas. The Association of Music for International Schools (AMIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting music for international students who have a passion for music and want to

perform with only the best musicians.

"It was incredible being part of something this extraordinary," said Dina Achi. "Hearing all the different voices mix together so beautifully, especially in the Persian song ("Naalah") made me tear up."

Hundreds of students from over 40 countries were selected to participate in this year's festival. The aim is not only to leave as better musicians but with new friends. "Everyone speaks a different language, but we all understand music," said Raceel

Labban.

Three days of 9am to 6pm rehearsals left students exhausted but wanting more. This is my 3rd year going to this festival," said Julia Sabra, "and it's been the highlight of my secondary school years. To be surrounded by all these people from all around the world who are just so passionate about music was like a dream. These trips to AMIS made me realize that what I really wanted to do in university was music."



## Sports and Music for a good cause

The Ain Aar Middle School Student Council held an Open House Fundraiser on Saturday, May 7th to raise money for local charities. For a small entrance fee, students played football, softball, volleyball and attended a student band concert at the end of the day.



# IB Art Exhibit

IB II students filled up the Imad Taher Auditorium and Multipurpose Room again this year in a mesmerizing display of art work. For the past year and a half, students – led by Art teacher Samia Boulad – have been preparing for the Art Exhibit – part of the IB program coursework. Students go through a lot of soul searching to produce their work. Subjects represented the correlation between the life cycle of a rose and human condition, entrapment of humans in their taboos and their quest of freedom, the concept of hope to a cancerous boy, to famine in Africa, to child abuse by using symbol of a crane (bird), fashion and faith.

As dictated by the IB program, an IB officer flew in to inspect the students' work. The results will be out in early summer. Artwork by: Carmen Hamadeh, Seima Dandan, Leila Abou Jawdeh, Sarrah Musleh, Haya Sleiman, Leya Hatoum, Lina Fansa, Noor Hamaoui, Farihan Uwaydah, Danya Taha, Grace Messarra, Andrea Comair, Mira Bocti.







## Ain Aar Lunch

Ain Aar Parents Committee held a lunch at the Pinocchio Restaurant in Jel eldib on April 15th.

## Tournent Les Jours

Over 30 students from the (Ras Beirut) elementary school participated in the 'Concours de Chant Francophone' competition held on March 26th at the Lycée Abdel Kader School. Dressed in white with green and yellow scarves and led by music teacher Randa Sabbah, the students performed a breathtaking version of "Tournent Les Jours". It took many hours of rehearsal where students learned how to harmonize listening to each other and how to interpret a song using dynamics.





The Albert Abela Award



The Edmond Tohme Award



The Randa Khoury Award



The George Debbas Award

## Teacher's Day Dinner at Bristol Hotel

### Retirees

Rabab Hage, Science Instructor  
Tanios Hashem, Carpenter – Physical Plant  
Elham Kurban, Administrative Assistant

### 25 Years of Service

Maysoun Al Ali, English Instructor  
Majida Chatila, Arabic Instructor  
Josette Eid, French Instructor  
Connie Hadba, Curriculum Poj. Coord.  
And Acting Head Librarian  
Norma Hmeidani, Instructor Arabic and  
Social Studies  
Yolla el Jamil, Math Instructor  
Jinan Ladki, Assistant Teacher CE1  
Samat Zein El Abidine, Instructor and  
Community Service Advisor

### 35 Years of Service

Mona Bashir, Helper and Bus Supervisor  
Amer Ghawi, Clerk – Middle School  
Collette Matta, Assistant Director and  
Deleguée Auprès de l'IEN

### 45 Year of Service

Elham Kurban, Administrable Assistant

### The Albert Abela Distinguished Teacher Award

Arlette Abi Raad, Classroom Instructor –

### AA PS

Carine Arayssi, Art Instructor – AA CM1  
Rasha Daouk, Assistant to the Director,  
IB DP Coord. and Instructor  
Mahitab Faytrouni, Assistant to the Di-  
rector and Chairperson – Arabic  
Sana Kaedbey, Classroom Instructor KGII  
Samar Kandil, Science Instructor KGII  
Samar Kandil, Science Instructor  
Rula Malouf, Instructor and Chairperson  
– Biology  
Lina Melki, Classroom Instructor – AA  
KGII  
Carla Al Oud, Classroom Instructor – MS

### Recipient of the Edmond Tohme Distinguished Educator's Award

Diana Abou Lebdeh, Director of AA Up-  
per Elementary and Middle School

### Recipient of the Randa A. Khoury Innovation in Teaching Award

Assil Hashem, Classroom Instructor –  
KGII

### Recipient of the George O. Debbas Award

Mira Al Horr, Revenue and Collection  
coordinator  
Bassem Moawad, Head Cashier/Fixed  
Assets Accountant  
Fadi Abi Abdallah, Print shop Ain Aar  
Mona Bashir, Preschool Helper





## Phonathon

IC Alumni office held a phonathon in May in an effort to raise money for the Annual Fund and update alumni records for the school. Eleven students spent many hours calling up alumni members.



## Ain Aar Student Wins Plumier D'or



Ain Aar student, Nadim Nassar, was among 10 Laureates to win the Plumier D'Or, an international competition aimed at French language schools (grades of 4ème) worldwide. The winners, selected from among 10,000 participants, travelled to Paris in May to receive their awards at a reception held at the Hotel de la Marine.





## International Day

The popularity of this year's International Day soared beyond anyone's expectations as over 1500 people came on campus in March to watch elementary and middle school students from Ain Aar and Ras Beirut put on impressive performances representing the countries of Argentina, Syria, Zimbabwe, Romania, Bahamas, Bolivia, Nepal and Sweden. The students, all from Grade 3/CE2 and Grade 6/sixième, have been studying 'their' countries and thanks to teachers and parents (and physical plant personnel who set up a 21m x12 stage!) – the event was a hit. Following the performances held at the IC football field, guests were treated to spectacular displays along the campus which included a variety of the countries' local delectable dishes.







## Art Festival

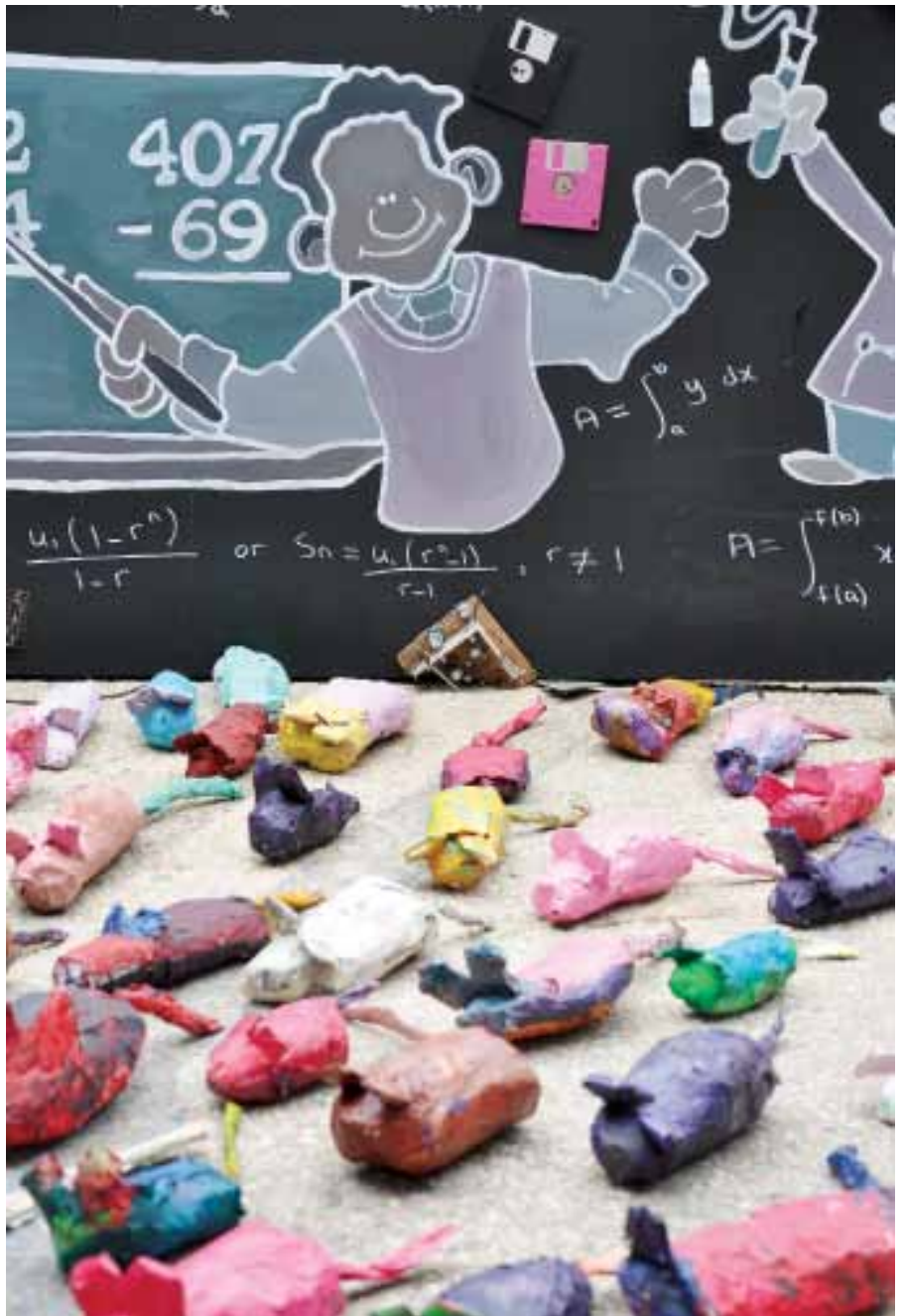
This year's Art Festival is about global issues but seen by women artists – both western and eastern ones. The global issues were divided into two sections: environmental and social.

A new twist awaited art lovers this year as classes from preschool until secondary have been working on ways to translate global issue – either environmental or social – into artwork in the style of women artists.

"It was very difficult," said Samia Boulad, the head of the Art Department. "It was a challenge for both teachers and students." What this basically entailed was choosing a global issue and then searching for women artists whose styles can be imitated in producing the necessary artwork. "We've always wanted to do women artists," said Boulad. "But we needed a link between them. A teacher then suggested global issues as this link."

Students studied the work of over 24 artists and their styles. Topics included environmental ones including pollution, need to recycle, sharing the planet, our responsibilities towards plants, safeguarding flowers and birds. Social topics included self-expression, rights of children, rights of women, different roles of women, uniqueness of a person, motherhood, respect of heritage and the family.









# The Way Things Were

It's been more than 60 years but Agnes Shamaa closes her eyes willing herself to see it again. Everything is so different now. Tall buildings everywhere. Endless cars that block the roads. There was the Dorman house where the Blue Building is today. She used to play there as a child. Her parents also visited many missionaries' villas with beautiful gardens but she could no longer remember their names. Everything was gone now. No houses. No gardens. No vegetable patches.

"It was a beautiful walk to Bliss Street," she says slowly. "We would walk past the gardens in Jeanne D'arc street. It was such a quiet street then. We would reach the cactus and turn to Bliss. There were hardly any cars. Just a few shops, mostly butchers. The rest were small houses and vegetable gardens."

There's a lot to remember in the 87 years since she was born. A lot has happened. There are so many vivid memories. Some in Baghdad, some in Jerusalem, others in Scotland and in Beirut.

"Where do I start?" she asks herself. Her home, the top floor of a three story old

building overlooks AUB and the sparkling Mediterranean sea just beyond. A huge terrace once saw three boys romping around and making their way to IC. Aunts, uncles, cousins once filled it as they sipped tea watching the College Hall clock ticking away. But as children do – they grew up and left home. Aunts and uncles died. Cousins immigrated during the Lebanese civil war. Still sprightly, Agnes goes up and down the long flight of stairs to her home as deftly as ever. "It keeps me in shape," she laughs.

Developers are eyeing the strategic building in a bid to build yet another unsightly building block but Agnes is holding on steadfastly to her traditional home – built almost a century ago. She can pinpoint the exact date : 1914. "It was built at the same time that West Hall (in AUB) was being constructed," she says.

Her father-in-law was in the construction business at the time and tired of riding his donkey from Hazmich to AUB everyday. He thought it was crazy to build a university so far away from everything and on a rocky hill nevertheless. But the American

missionaries were adamant. Seeing that land was so cheap, he decided to simply buy a small of land across the construction site on Bliss Street and build a room there (which eventually became a small building as he moved his family there). If anything, it saved him the donkey trip. It was part of his job to landmine the rocks to build West Hall. On one occasion, one mine didn't explode. But when he went to check the reason, the mine went off severely wounding him. He survived the blast but eventually passed away from his wounds. It was to his building that Agnes came to as a bride.

AUB was the center of the Ras Beirut community life. "We all knew each other," she said. "And we all attended all of AUB's events. Football and concerts. Everything. There wasn't any television or much entertainment at the time. There was AUB."

On her mantelpiece is a picture – dated in 2003 – of a British officer handing her a service medal. "That was to thank me for serving the British Army during WWII," she explains as she pulls out a Soldier Service Pay book and leftover clothes coupon

from WWII. "I became a corporal. But I suppose I should start at the beginning." The beginning was in 1924 in Jerusalem. Agnes was born to a James and Sadeeka Summerville. James was British national who was the District Commissioner in Palestine. He spoke fluent Arabic and had studied at AUB. While at university, he lost his mother and was aghast when his new Arab friend didn't reply to his mother's letters which arrived from Latikia. James took it upon himself to correspond to the mother and update her on her son's life. When the mother later sent her daughters to study in Lebanon, she trusted James to be a good friend. One of the daughters was Sadeeka. It is told that James used to walk for hours to see Sadeeka (who was studying in Broumana) and would walk back in a hurry to make it back to Beirut before the Bab el Idriss doors closed.

"But anyway," continues Agnes. "I was born in Jerusalem and my brother followed soon after."

The family lived in Baghdad for a while before moving back to Palestine. At the age of 12, Agnes was sent to boarding school in the UK – as 'proper' British children are supposed to do.

Unfortunately, WWII broke out that year and Agnes wouldn't see her parents for almost 10 years. In 1944, the British government called on her to serve in the army. "So I was placed in the nursing unit in a hospital in Scotland," she said. "I tended to Italian POWs."

In 1947, her parents – still in Palestine – claimed a "compassionate leave" for their daughter to tend to her 'ailing mother'.

"That's how I was able to leave the army and return to Jerusalem," Agnes chuckled. A year later, however, Israel came into being and Agnes and her parents fled to Beirut. Once here, Mary Dodge (wife of then AUB president) immediately summoned her. "We are looking for a first grade teacher for ACS," she said. "And I think you will do."

And so it was that Agnes found herself in a teaching career. Shortly after, the Tapline came into the scene and American businessmen flooded the capital (this is, according to Agnes, was when building blocks began to appear in Beirut to accommodate these new high paying renters). Secretaries were wanted and girls flocked to secretarial schools. Agnes was one of them. Unfortunately, shorthand



Agnes in the British Army during WWII



Agnes and her brother, Ronald, in Baghdad



Agnes' childhood home on Jeanne D'arc Street. It has since been demolished.

wasn't her forté and in despair her male teacher finally told her: "you're never going to learn this so I might as well marry you." Michel Shamma '34 and Agnes were wedded in 1952. There was no doubt that their three boys (Johnny '72, Nadim '74 and Ramzi Shamma '82) would attend IC.

Today, her grandson is an IC student. Tucked in a corner on a hallway shelf in Agnes' home are a dozen or so old albums neatly fitted with black and white fading photographs. In them are snapshots of James, Sadeeka, Agnes, Michel, aunts, uncles and cousins in Baghdad, Jerusalem, Scotland and Beirut.

Agnes lovingly runs her hands over them. There are still many many stories still untold.

As part of the IC Community Section, the IC Newsletter is looking for interesting stories. If you're an IC alumni, parent or grandparent with an interesting story to tell, we'd love to hear it! You may also submit your story - not to exceed 500 words with a photo. (IC reserves the right to edit submissions at the editor's discretion).

If interested, please contact Reem Haddad at: [rhaddad@ic.edu.lb](mailto:rhaddad@ic.edu.lb)



## Dinners and Events

The Partnership for Excellence Campaign efforts continued this season with dinners and meetings in Jordan, Geneva, London, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Jordan was the first stop where IC president John Johnson and VP Alumni & Development Moufid Beydoun '64, attended an alumni dinner hosted by Mr. Issa Halabi '78.

Mr. Johnson, Mr. Beydoun and Director of Development Peter Gerard took off for Geneva in March where 58 alumni and friends met at a reception organized by Mr. John McCarthy and

sponsored by Bank Audi. The next day, they travelled to London and held separate meetings with Mr. Mazen Masri '78, Dr. Ramzi Dalloul '53 and his son, Mr. Amrou Dalloul '83, Mr. Raed Ziadeh '64, Mr. Fouad Malouf '56, Mr. Nijad Hamman '60, Mr. Karim Karaman '84, Mr. Gilbert Jabre '62 and Mr. Yusef Abu Khadra '65.

In April, Mr. Beydoun travelled to Saudi Arabia and attended a dinner hosted by Mr. Fathi Captan '74 at his home in Al

### Jordan

Said Darwazah '76 and  
Maha Shair

Back row: Issa Halabi '78, John Johnson, Ramzi Kandalaft '78, Fawaz Zu'bi '75, Talal Shair '83, Said Darwazah '76, Maha Shair, Ali Husry '75

Front row: Louisa Halabi, Zeina Kandalaft, Salma Jaouni '91, Moufid Beydoun '64, Joumana Kawar '72, Mariana Darwazah



## Switzerland

Khobar where over 20 alumni and friends gathered. The group brainstormed ways to fundraise for IC – most likely setting up a scholarship fund.

In Riyadh, Mr. Bedyoun met with Dr. **Saud al Shawwaf** '56 and his son, Samer and Mr. **Mohammed Rayess** '67 as well as attended a dinner hosted by Sheikh **Mohamed Al Suleiman** '59.

Another highlight of his stay was a lunch hosted by Mr. **Bassam Badran** '76 and attended by **Oussama Najjar** '76, **Karim Mroueh** '76 and **Ziyad Khuri** '76. They participated in donating to the 1976 Class Fund.

In Jeddah, Mr. Bedyoun met with Mr. **Said Hatalani** '72 and his brother Mr. **Ahmad Hatalani** '69. He also met with Mr. Nafez al Jindi, Mr. **Mohammed Basamah** '65, Mr. **Mohamad Zamali** '81, and Sheikh **Issam Kabbani** '51.

In May, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bedyoun and Mr. Ghandi Fala (Director of the Annual Fund) traveled to Dubai and attended a dinner hosted by Mr. **Naaman Atallah** '83 and his wife, Dania at their home where over 60 alumni and friends had gathered. Mr. Johnson delivered a speech about the Partnership for Excellence Campaign. Then and there, the group – thanks to Mr. **Elias Hanna** '61's suggestion – decided to set up a fund in the name of the Dubai alumni. Many contributed to it right away!

Meetings were also held with Mr. **Hassan Daher** '90, Mr. **Patrick Shalhoub** '75, Mr. **Serge Kotovsky** '60, and Major **Dan Azzi** '83.

In Abu Dhabi, meetings were held with Mr. **Samir Chaghouri** '63, Mr. **Jamil Mroue** '69, Mr. **Elie Salloum** and Mr. **Fawzi Bayyoud**.

John Johnson, Mandana Hajj '88, John McCarthy, Lyn Khalidy '86, Ayman Abou Chakra '83, Peter Gerard, Mary McCarthy, Moufid Bedyoun '64



Alumni reception in Switzerland







John Johnson, Dr Ramzi Dalloul '53, Moufid Beydoun '64, Amrou Dalloul '83



## London

John Johnson,  
Raid Ziadeh  
'64, Moufid  
Beydoun '64



Moufid Beydoun '64 and Yusef Abu  
Khadra '65

# Saudi Arabia

Dr Saud  
Shawwaf  
'56, Moufid  
Beydoun '64,  
Samer Shawaf



Dinner hosted  
by Fathi  
Captan '74



Ousama Najjar '76, Karim Mroueh '76,  
Ziyad Khuri '76, Moufid Beydoun '64  
Bassam Badran '76





## Dubai



Dinner hosted by Naaman Atallah '83 and his wife, Dania



Dania Attalah, John Johnson, Elias Hanna '61, Naaman Atallah '83



Ghandi Fala, John Johnson, Serge Kotovsky '60, Moufid Beydoun '64



Dania Atallah, Dalia Hajj Ali, Nada Jeuz '80

## IC visits Hariri

IC president John Johnson, Senior Vice President Mishka Mourani and Vice President Alumni and Development Moufid Beydoun '64 met with Prime Minister Saad Hariri at his residence in Beit Al-Wasat in April to discuss IC's Partnership for Excellence Campaign.



## The Maher Abdallah Saidi Room

The multipurpose room in the new South Building (of the new elementary school) is now the Maher Abdallah Saidi Multipurpose Room thanks to a generous parent donor who prefers to remain anonymous. Mr Saidi – a late relative of the donor – graduated from IC in 1961 then earned a degree in Architecture at the University of Tennessee. He passed away in 2010.

## IC's Youngest Donor

Meet IC's youngest donor in the Partnership for Excellence Campaign so far: 7-year-old Zaki Fawwas. He started saving his allowance a month ago when he picked up the IC Newsletter and a donation envelope fell out. His mother explained to him that the envelope was for anyone who would like to donate some money to the school. That's when Zaki decided to he would like to fill up the envelope with his allowance. His surprised parents agreed. "I was pleased," said his father, **Hadi Fawaz '90**, an auditor and financial consultant. "I myself loved studying at IC

and I'm glad that my son loves it here so much that he wants to donate his money."

On May 10th, Zaki and his father showed up at the president's office where Zaki handed in his envelope – with 100,000 LL – in it to John Johnson.

"I usually buy toys with my money," said Zaki. "I've got lots already. This time, I want to give my money to IC because I like my school."





# Updates

**'53**

**Abdur-Rahman Saghir**, Ph.D. participated in the World Congress of Parasitic Plants which was held in Martina Franca, Italy June 7-12, 2011. He will also visit FAO and IFAD Headquarters in Rome after the congress to discuss future consultation missions in weed management for the Middle East.

**Zuhair Mehio '53** retired two years ago after a long service in the UN and for the UN.

**'60**

**Serge Kotovsky** currently lives in Dubai and sends the following picture of a Baccalaureate 1ere partie graduation group picture in 1959 around Mr Robert Courson (maths teacher).

From left to right: Jean Heneine (outside



IC friend of the Group), Serge Doubine (now in France), Serge Kotovsky Robert Courson (maths teacher), Yazbek, Edwin Beylerian (now in the USA), Pierre Tufenkji.

**'64**

**Bassem Naamani** left his work at Internat'l Finance co. Lebanon-SAL and was appointed "Resident Financial Controller" at Dar Al Fatwa, by the committee in charge of Reorganizing Dar Al Fatwa Departments and related institutions/entities, a very sensitive and challenging position I hope to fill successfully.

**'70**

**Sarmad (Sam) Rihani** P.E., F.ASCE has been elected President of the Structural

Engineering Institute (SEI) during the Institute's last Board of Governors meeting held in April. He will assume his new role in October 2011. Rihani is Principal of REI Structural Consultants of Reston, Virginia, a structural engineering consulting firm serving the Eastern United States. During his 33 year professional career, he has specialized in the structural analysis and design of steel framing systems and buildings, and acted as the lead structural engineer on more than 700 projects. He is a licensed professional engineer in several states, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a prestigious honor held by fewer than 4% of ASCE members.



**'71**

**Marwan M. Hajjar** graduated from AUB with a BA in psychology and diploma in education in 1981. He taught for three years at various schools in Lebanon before leaving in 1984 for Saudi Arabia with his wife and first born son to work at Najd National School (NNS), which had just been founded by the late martyr Sheikh Rafic Hariri. He has worked there for 27 years and is still going strong. As for his interests and hobbies, he earned a black belt in taekwondo in 1974, and passed intermediate levels in chi kung and tai chi. In addition, he feels comfortable and euphoric on horseback, jog (obsessively and compulsively), plays the guitar (passable) and the piano (quite impressive), writes English poetry (about to get his first collection published), and last but definitely not least, he is addicted to reading. "I thank you profusely for allowing me this opportunity to get in touch with this 'ivy league' academy to which I will remain grateful for the rest of my life," he writes.

**'75**

**Dr. Nora Bedrossian** continued her studies in AUB, where she obtained a degree

of BS in Biology-Chemistry (1979), then an MS degree in Medical Microbiology (1981), and finally a Ph.D. in Basic Medical Sciences (Medical Microbiology subspecialty Virology) (1986).

She is currently a professor of Medical Microbiology at the medical school at the Lebanese University, the Hadath Campus. She also has ongoing research in her field.

**'84**

**Fouad Osseiran and Mariane Maasri**

**'94** enjoyed the traditional celebrations of Fallas in Valencia with their two children Shireen



and Rayan. During the Fallas, which took place from March 15 - 19, Shireen and Rayan were dressed with the traditional costumes of Falleros!!

**Shirine Maktabi** is now running family business Iwan Maktabi (Ashrafieh, Verdun and Phonicia). Shirine recently added a new section in the business, modern and recycled carpets and it is a hit. She is the mother of three children. Her son, Sherif Maktabi '09 is currently at AUB Mechanical Engineering and he is giving an elective course at IC, Ghida at LAU and Wassim student at IC (4ème).

**Dania Dbaiho Darwish**

After graduating from AUB with a BBA in 1987, Dania worked in Sales and Marketing at Spinneys Lebanon. Her career took a halt due to marriage and shifting residence repeatedly to different countries. Dania, re-enrolled at AUB years later to graduate with a Masters in Psychology in 2007. She was



directly recruited by AUB and has been a psychology instructor since then. Currently, she also runs her own practice as life coach, counselor, hypnotherapist, NLP

practitioner, and a motivational speaker. Most recently, she became the founding president of the Lebanese Coach Association which is among the very few in the MENA region. In addition, she's a council member in WAAAUB and a member of the Lebanese Psychological Association.

**Samar Fouad Ibrahim** is working as Head Of Retail Department at Bank Misr Liban.

## '87

**Jihad Srage** completed his engineering studies in AUB, then went on to do his masters degree at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. "That was the beginning of my transformation meeting with a diverse culture and adapting to that diversity," he writes. He has then taken part of what was a critical achievement in the history of physics where he was part of a team that built the system that discovered the Top Quark in 1994, the smallest particle known to man. He pursued his MBA at the University of Chicago after that, and moved on to the world of business starting in wireless telecom in 1998 and staying in that industry till now. He returned to the Middle East and Dubai specifically after 17 years in the US, taking the role of President of Middle East and Africa region for a US-based blue chip company Qualcomm Inc. He is married with three boys of 9, 6 and 2 who "I will hope would become IC graduates following the family tradition (my brother, 2 cousins, 2 uncles, and others have led the way)."

## '89

**Hilda Harb**, Bsc., MPH received her BSC in Environmental Health at AUB-FHS, and a Master of Public Health-Epidemiology and Biostatistics at AUB-FHS as well. She is currently the Head of Statistics Department at the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon.

## '90

**Zahi Haidar** completed medical school at AUB in '97, and Masters in Business at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. He completed pediatric training at AUB and SUNY, Syracuse, NY in 2004 and Neonatology at Golisano Children Hospital in Rochester, NY in 2007. He is currently residing and practicing neo-

natology at Phoenix Children Hospital with NAL and hold a clinical assistant professor position at the University of Arizona. He is also the medical director of the Neonatal ICU at Phoenix Baptist Hospital in Phoenix, AZ. He recently got married to Rana Sabra (Sept 2010) and currently lives in Phoenix, AZ.

**Walid Tabanji** and his wife, Nesreen, were blessed with a boy, Alexander, born on July 19th in Dubai. They have two other sons: Ramzi and Edward.

## '93

**Nadia Jaroudi (Raad)** graduated from IC in 1993 and went on to study architecture at AUB and graduated in 1999. She is married to Hani Raad and has two wonderful children, who both attend IC. Tamara (born Oct 16, 2000) is now in CM2 and Ziad (born Aug 3, 2005) is in GS, both about to «graduate» this June. She is currently working with her brother Tammam (also IC alumni, 1994) who is a civil engineer in their own office in Beirut, Jaroudi Management Group. "I will never forget my years at IC that gave me happiness, eagerness to learn new things and confidence to try anything, which I now see in my children's eyes every day," she writes.

## '94

**Emile Tabanji** and his wife, Samar were blessed with a girl Siena, born on October 19 in Beirut. They have another daughter: Reya.

## '95

**Ahmad Ghannoum** got married on June 2nd. Her name is Raya Ounsi (Not an IC alumni).

**Fadi G. Mirza**, M.D. relocated to the United States for specialty training after graduating from AUB with a medical degree in 2002. He pursued a four-year residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tufts University in Boston followed by a three-year fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Columbia University in New York City. Upon completion of his training, Fadi joined the faculty at Columbia University Medical Center, where he currently spends his time in patient care, education, and research. Fadi will be moving back to Lebanon this summer along with his wife,

Lama, and son, Jad. He will join the American University of Beirut Medical Center.

**Nadine Maktabi** and husband Hassan, moved to Beirut from Riyadh in 2006 where she worked as a media manager in JWT. The couple just opened in Beirut their Fine Persian rug Boutique, «CYRUS MAK TABI» in Ashrafieh, Independence avenue, specializing in modern and oriental carpets and kilims. Cyrus Maktabi's Core competitive service is designing any tailor made hand woven carpet within our client specification in size color and design, and having it ready within five months period. Their daughter Karen is enjoying IC being in CE1, and their son Abdallah has joined IC last year, and is now in KGII. "It is really beautiful to get first hand quality education in a great institution like IC, our dear alma mater where all the pleasure of learning grows hand by hand with a rich extra curriculum activities, social work, and the support of excellent educators," she writes. After moving from Riyadh in 2006 where she worked, Nadine Maktabi (1995) and husband Hassan Maktabi.

## '96

**Dr. Marwan M. Refaat** is a cardiologist specializing in cardiac electrophysiology. In May 2011, Dr. Refaat was the recipient of the Heart Rhythm Society Kenneth M. Rosen Fellowship Award in Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology. In April 2011, Dr. Refaat was a recipient of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Arab Students' Organization Science and Technology Young Professional Achievement Award. Dr. Refaat graduated from the International College in 1996 with Distinction and was a recipient of the International College Scholar Award and the International College Alumni Association Award. After receiving his MD degree from AUB, Dr. Refaat moved to the United States where he completed an internship and residency program in internal medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. He completed a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2010 and was the recipient of Dr. Galal M. Ziady Memorial Award for Excellence in Care of the Cardiac Patient in June 2010. Dr. Refaat is



currently living in San Francisco, his email is: rifaatmarwan@hotmail.com»

**Mustafa Shaaban** and Diana Barakeh have been blessed with a healthy baby boy, Faysal, on March 9, 2011.

## ‘97

**Riad Mawass** is currently the Pharmacy Channel Leader in IATCO (P&G Distributor). Riad and Nada Ghalayini (1997) are expecting a brother for Lana by mid July 2011.

## ‘98

**Anna-Christina El Mokdessi (Hambar-sounian)** studied Elementary Education at AUB, a graduate year 2002 and then later on moved to New York City (2003-2007) and attended Columbia University, Teachers College where she completed two degrees: MA in Learning Disabilities and an EdM in Early Childhood Special Education. She also worked as a Special Needs preschool teacher for 3 years in Manhattan. She moved to Hamburg, Germany in December 2007 and worked as a freelance English and special needs teacher. She's been working since August 2010 for PHORMS Hamburg as a bilingual school in Hamburg as a preschool teacher. She is married since May 2010 to Garo Hambarsounian '99. He has worked for Fresh Del Monte (between South America and Germany since 2002).

## ‘99

**Sary Richat** a Senior Account Manager working at DDB Qatar.

**Ali Mansour** sent the following photo of 6th B class of 99.



**Garabed Hambarsounian** married **Anna-Christina El Mokdessi '98**. Garabed works for Del Monte Fresh Produce as Operations Manager-Outside Purchases for Germany and Christina is an Early Childhood Special Needs Educator for preschool and is currently the preschool teacher in a

bilingual classroom at Phorms Education-Campus Hamburg. They have been living in Hamburg, Germany for the past four years. They hope to move back to Lebanon in the near future and start a family there.

## ‘02

**Christelle G. Elia** graduated from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 2005. After completing her internship at St. Georges University Hospital in Achrafieh she worked in different health centers across the country. As part of her commitment to inspiring people to live well and in order to gain more expertise and experience, Christelle left for Doha, Qatar and made a significant contribution as a community nutritionist as well as a clinical one. An extensive research study at the Epidemiology and Health Department in AUB led her to come back in 2008 to work as a field researcher and interviewer for this project. This cumulating experience led to the birth of H&W clinic. She is currently the owner of H&W Healthy & Wise health and fitness space in Mtayleb whose vision is to inspire all people to live well whatever their circumstances in order to lead a better and healthier life.

## ‘03

**Maher Abdel-Sattar** moved to California and earned a Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology from UCLA with a minor in Human Complex Systems. He is currently completing his graduate studies at UCSF, the highest ranked school of pharmacy in the United States. For the past year, he worked as a pharmacy intern at McKesson Specialty Care Solutions where he helped design chemotherapy guidelines for oncologists to use. However, he's looking forward to transitioning to a new position with Genentech/Roche Pharmaceuticals as a Managed Care Medical Communication intern starting this June. "I miss my days as an IC student and I am very proud of my sister, Rana Abdel-Sattar, for her numerous accomplishments and for almost being done with her Bac examinations," he writes.

## ‘04

**Aya Jammal** received her BA in 2007, with an emphasis in International Relations, a Minor in American Studies and a year»

worth of experience writing for Outlook Newspaper. Next, she moved to London for one year where she completed her Masters Degree in International Law at the School Of Oriental And African Studies (SOAS). She is currently the Editor-in-Chief of U Magazine (since May 2010). They have released nine issues so far, as well as their annual bridal supplement U Bridal, published last March. "The days spent at IC were some of the most memorable in my life. Luckily, I am still very close to my school friends, three of whom I see on a weekly basis if not more often," she writes. "I will never forget the adventures we shared, from Skip Day to Prom Night; and of course the endless hours cramming for our IBO exams, stressing over university applications... deciding what to do next. We could never have done it without Mrs. Daouk, our IBO advisor and a great mentor to us all. I am greatly looking forward to our 10 year reunion, to find out what everyone has been up to lately. I know that a lot has changed in my life since our IC days together."



## ‘05

**Saad Khatib** is currently residing in Erbil, Kurdistan - Iraq. With his brother Mohamad, they have opened a Lebanese restaurant there recently. <http://www.hotelierrmiddleeast.com/10653-new-restaurant-in-erbil-opens-to-rave-reviews/>

## ‘07

**Rami Dabboucy** graduated from LAU with Distinction Honors in 2010 (GPA 3.6) and is currently an Auditor at Price-WaterhouseCoopers, one of the Big Four audit companies in the world. And yet when "I was an IC student, I used to be very lazy, I was not a hard worker, I used to sit in the back row of my class and I used to hate numbers," he writes.

### CORRECTION

The toddler seen in the photo class of 1941-1942 in the Newsletter Spring 2011 is NOT Ariel Doubine's son as stated in the caption.



We regret to inform you that Salim Hachache '49 passed away on Feb. 23, 2011. He was known for his charismatic character and generosity. The IC family sends their deepest condolences to the Hachache family.

We regret to inform you that Laure Lunt, English teacher from 1954 to 1989, passed away in April 2011. The IC family sends their deepest condolences to the Lunt family.



Those of you who were at IC in the 70s, 80s and into the early 90s will remember Janet Hyde-Clarke, a colleague who was instrumental in the introduction of educational technology to IC, one of the founding members of the ERC, and the first full-fledged Director of Ain Aar.

Janet was tenacious in her love for Lebanon, tumultuous though the years she spent here.

Janet was an amazing woman- a force of nature. She was a great lover of bridge, of crosswords, and of causes-lost and otherwise. She was intelligent, eloquent, unconventional and big-hearted. Janet was also a great lover of literature. May she rest in peace.

*Mishka Mojabber Mourani  
Senior Vice President*

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing away of our very good friend Habib Bridi '69 on May 4th 2011. Hibbo, as we used to call him as in "ana b'hibbo la Hibbo", will be greatly missed. Very few people had as much life in them as Habib did, and it is sad that his life had to end so early....

*Camille Fuleihan '69*



# In memorium



# In memorium

## Thomas Schuller (1917-2011)

*Thomas Schuller was IC president from 1961 until 1976. He passed away on March 3rd 2011. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Schuller family.*

My good brother, Rabi, keeps me informed of things happening in the old country, in the very old country, with the very old problems. He keeps me informed of the things that do not make it to the headlines of the newspaper. That means he keeps informed of the things that count. Who of the friends and family had a

child, who got married,  
who got divorced, who  
he stumbled onto on  
Hamra street, and  
who was hav-  
ing coffee in the



«new qahwitt li-jazz», Starbucks. He also informs me of who has completed the cycle of life in this world and transitioned, leaving us and the people he or she loved wondering where we go when we exit. My brother keeps me updated on the important things. Yes, he does. A couple of weeks ago one more piece of real news from the old country. Thomas Schuller passed away.

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,*

I know the man, I said. I have a diploma hanging in my office with his signature on it. The only diploma I have hanging in my office. As a matter of fact it is in my patient exam room. It certifies that I completed my Elementary Education at the International College. I am sure it is his signature, I know his signature, he was my friend. His along with that other man whose eyebrows were bushier than those of Einstein, Mr. Ataya. One signature in Arabic and the other in English. The diploma, except for the name of the school, is in Arabic. My patients think it is my M.D. If they ask, I explain. I say that that is my Elementary School Diploma. I operated on the man who signed it...I say. If he trusted me, so should you...I say. I fixed his hernia...I say. When he walked into my office at AUMC in 1992, he asked if I could fix it. I asked if he thought his teachers did a good job. He said yes. So I said, then I can. He said go ahead. And that was that.

*I am not there, I do not sleep.*

In 1967, school was suspended on June 5. I was twelve. A war had broken out. Word on the street was that if we all spit across the front lines we will drown the enemy. We are hundreds of millions and they are only one million. Six days later we had no saliva to swallow, we were dehydrated and dry from panting with our mouths fully opened wondering how we could have run back so fast. The school year was considered done. We went to the Martin House to shake the hand of a man who was

nearly double our height, his palm was triple the size of our palms. Smiling face, finely striped trousers, plaid jacket. That was him. The President of the School. His Jaguar was in its regular corner by the entrance to the house. He handed us the Diploma, chocolate cake - the American kind, and some lemonade. Elementary School is over. «Stop for the hours are flying»...

*I am in a thousand winds that blow,*

A few years passed, six of them. A third of my life at that time. Student activism was in vogue. Liberation obviously had to be led by students, that is what we believed then, that is what I believe now. Old farts with jobs and families seek security. Students seek life and want it more abundantly. So we started with the liberation of our campus by occupying Rockefeller Hall. The big man and his teachers came to negotiate. He sat at the head of the table, Rahhal to his right, or maybe to his left. I do not remember now, I guess it is not important. He said he will negotiate in good faith to meet what he can of our demands only if we promise that we do not break into his office. We promised that we will not, but the door to his office had already been knocked down as someone went looking for documents that link him to «The Embassy». We quickly put it back together with glue and nails. We thought we got it by him. But now I realize that we really did not. He just turned the other cheek and blamed it all on the exuberance of youth. He continued to negotiate in good faith. «Short are the college days...»

*I am the softly falling snow.  
I am the gentle showers of rain,  
I am the fields of ripening grain.*

Again years pass. Three of them, one seventh of my life then. He and the woman that sat at his side, opposite Rahhal, negotiating in Sage Hall (when we, the students, occupied Rockefeller Hall) were now man and wife. We then had entered the land of wisdom, The Medical School. No longer were we to call him Mr. Schuller and her Miss Mudawwar,

it was to be Tom and Nuha. They invited Yussuf Hannun, Bassem Dbeibo and me to their apartment on California Street by the Beirut 7, 4 and 1 Dens. Dinner and drinks. Man, are we getting ahead in life. We joined in a song together to our Alma Mater's praise and raised a glass to IC's long life serving the country and the area.

*I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush*

The war rages in Lebanon. Ours, and ours alone. This business about foreigners and outside hands is just Abu Abed talk for local consumption (dood il khal minnoo w fee). This time we did it all alone. We fought on both sides of the front line. And when we got tired we mixed the lines so that those who fought yesterday hugged and kissed today, and those that hugged yesterday killed each other today. Americans were kidnapped and held hostage. Reagan banned all US citizens from flying to the Lebanon. Only Tom did not heed the warnings, did not leave, did not listen to the State Department. He stayed with Nuha on California Street, living his normal day to day life. After all he was on California Street, that is a State, and in Beirut we have it all on a street, «shoo babboor». However, I think he compromised his principles, I think he may have stopped playing golf in that period. But I will not count that against him, the Golf Club became the new front lines when our neighbors, the Israelis, came to visit, and heavy visitors they are!

*I am in the flowers that bloom,  
I am in a quiet room.*

Another 10 years pass, more than a quarter of my life then. I was in my office at AUMC minding my own business when he walked in and asked to make him part of my business. I took a knife to his groin, patched him up, and here he was good to go. This time, Yussuf and Bassem were in his old country, he was in theirs. I was married, so he invited me and my good looking bride to have dinner with him and his good looking bride, again in their apartment on California Street. Again we raised a glass to dear days passing and to the days gone

by. We raised a glass to the future that was then the present, and that now is the past. «Short are the college days»...

*Do not stand at my grave bereft  
I am not there. I have not left.*

Another 15 years pass. That, now is more than a quarter and less than a third of my life. Thomas has taken an exit. He left his outfit behind to try a new one in a different world. He is starting again, somewhere, looking for a «Tallee Mishirfee» to build a school on. Looking for a lady with onyx hair and a disarming smile. Looking for a black Jaguar, a golf course, and for a bunch of students that will knock his office door down and tell him they did not, and he'll tell them he knows that they did not. They will tell him a white lie and he will reciprocate. A few years later he will have a drink with them and invite them for dinner in his new world.

*Sing of the dear days passing...or maybe...  
sing of the dear ones that are passing in  
the days that have passed! What is new...  
nothing is new under the sun. This is life,  
and death is only a part of this cycle.*

Mr. Schuller...I mean Thomas, you did well. You did well by your students. You did well by the country that you adopted and that adopted you. You definitely did better than some of the country's native children have done. Then again there is nothing new in this statement. «The Sun» of IC had said that before. Indeed...there is nothing new under the sun. «Short are the college days»...or should I borrow from that Arab poet and say «short is the trip from the cradle to the grave.»

And to Nuha, our love and condolences. It was a fine trip...with a fine companion...in a fine country. I think the two of you lived happily ever after. Not a bad story for the children of IC. May you live long and tell it again and again to those children. It will bring a smile to their faces, and when they get a little older it may bring a tear.

*Submitted by Dr Akram Talkouk '74  
(Poem by «Do not stand at my grave and weep» by Mary Elizabeth Frye)*





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and they will learn



PARTNERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE

# GIVE



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