



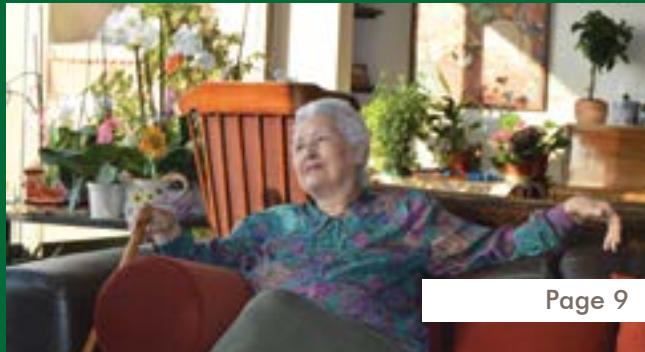
ISSUE NO. 23 November 2016



130
th
Anniversary

Alumni newsletter

Table of CONTENTS

Letter from the President	3		Page 5
Alumni Events	4		
Class of 2006 Reunion	4		
Back to School Dinner	4		
Call for Action	5		
ISC-Choueifat Alumni Association Board Elections	6		
Class of 2008, 2009, and 2010 Reunion	6		
Fundraising Movie Premiere	6		
School News	7		Page 6
ISC-Choueifat Celebrates its 130 th Graduation Ceremony	7		
School Activities and Events	7		
SABIS® Teams Up with Clooney Foundation to Educate Refugee Children in Lebanon	8		
One of Our Own	9		
Those Memories: An Interview with Emily Nasrallah	9		Page 7
Alumni News	10		
Dr. Ahmed Al Wahishi, Class of 1970	10		
Iyad Naja, Class of 1996	10		
Nabil Natafji, Class of 2006	10		
Farah Abou Harb, Class of 2013	10		
Congratulations	11		
In Focus	12		Page 9
What Should We Do with Our Trash?	12		
A Walk down Memory Lane	13		
In Memoriam	14		
Bashir Kobti, 1929-2016	14		
Nabil Sukhun, 1934-2016	14		
George Maziji, 1938-2016	15		
Dr. Clovis Maksoud, 1926-2016	15		

Letter from the **PRESIDENT**



As our country is going through a period of hardship, we've all been mulling over the state of the world we're living in, and leaving for our children. We have been contemplating the notion of changing that world for the better, and wondering how we could be that change. It's maybe simple: PAY IT FORWARD! When the

beneficiary of a good deed repays it to others instead of to the original benefactor, it helps to start a ripple effect of kindness through our school, our society, and our world.

As alumni of the International School of Choueifat, you have been given a resonant advantage, paving the way to your future successes. During times of strife, as students and as alumni, your colleagues and classmates have undoubtedly been there for you, to provide guidance, advice, and support. Year after year, new students walk the hallways of Choueifat, sit in the same seats you sat in, asking the same questions you asked, and making the same memories you made. But success is laced with struggles, and a helping hand goes a long way, especially during the turbulent years of teenage. You've all been given a supportive push in the right direction, and as alumni, I urge you to pay it forward, and provide your own supportive push to the current students of your school. Nobody can feel the value of support more than the people who have felt hardships in the past and who were able to get support from family and other individuals.

You, as individual graduates have gone to all parts of the world, faced challenges and overcame hardships and became renowned members of the larger community. You each come with a wealth of experience and knowledge - bring it back to your school. Through the alumni association, you could empower current students through mentorship, guidance, financial aid, internships, and shadowing opportunities.

"Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream, which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation"
John F. Kennedy

As such it is imperative to remember that when you pay it forward to the students of the school as well as your fellow alumni, you are paying it forward to a nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hana Abou Khadra Salem".

Hana Abou Khadra Salem
ISCAA President

CLASS OF 2006 REUNION

The ISC-Choueifat Class of 2006 organized a 10th Anniversary Reunion on the school campus. Old classmates currently living abroad surprised their friends with a special message through a video that was compiled specially for this event.

On a sad note, the alumni didn't forget their dear friend Namir whom they lost after graduation in a car accident. A memoriam board signed by his classmates will be delivered soon to his parents.

We wish the Class of 2016 a Happy 10th Anniversary!



BACK TO SCHOOL DINNER

To celebrate the 130th anniversary of ISC-Choueifat, the newly elected ISCAA Board hosted a "Back to School" fundraising dinner at the Le-Maillon restaurant at Sofil Center on the April 20, 2016. Interest in the event was unprecedented and tickets were sold out fast! Over an exquisite three-course meal, complemented by wonderful music, school peers from different generations gathered to catch up with old friends and, in accordance with the dinner's theme, reminisced about their school years. As they did so, the alumni were also introduced to the members of the new ISCAA Board. To add to the festive

and positive atmosphere of the event, the alumni were then invited to participate in a draw in order to raise funds which, along with gifts from several generous donors, will be used to bolster the first Scholarship Program which will become active in September.

A special thanks to the dedicated social committee that made this event a great success and to our generous donors: Saad Tours, Khodor Jewelry (Alumnus), Nsouli Jewelry, Or La Loi, Afif Keshli and Sons (Alumnus), Utopia (Alumnus), Merhi Trading company, Tinol (Alumnus), Lush, Beit Ward (Alumnus), Le Maillon, Bristol, Magzoub Optics, Gebran Mall (Alumnus), Nsouli (Alumnus),

Alumni EVENTS

Sacotel (Alumnus), Garabed Ayanian & Sons, Kudu, Joyce's, Dessange, Diet Center, Villa Badaro (Alumnus), Les Trois Fleurs (Alumnus), Sarafand Blown Glass Factory, 360 Fitness (Alumnus), Tricot Sibai (Alumnus), Tamaste,



Centimeal diet center, Mona's Clinic for Diet & Shaping (Alumnus), Ramzderm (Alumnus), Simply Nails (Alumnus), Kazar Marble and Granite (Alumnus), Cleopatra, La Sirene, and Boutique Wafa.



CALL FOR ACTION

The newly elected board invited all alumni for an open meeting to discuss ideas and activate a plan for the coming year. The "Call for Action" brought together an enthusiastic group of alumni who participated in a wonderful, collaborative, and fruitful meeting at the Alumni Association Clubhouse on March 19. Participants formed three committees and embarked immediately on preparing their agenda for the coming year.

The committees are open to volunteers.

Social Activities Committee

The Social Events Committee is responsible for making sure that diverse and effective programs, activities, and events are developed to strengthen ISCAA alumni affiliation, and to meet the needs of ISC-Choueifat graduates.

Membership and Publication Committee

This Committee is charged with establishing and improving communications, outreach, and marketing strategies for the engagement of ISC-Choueifat alumni in ISCAA, using diverse tools such as social media, publications, etc.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is charged with developing and providing valuable opportunities and resources for ISC-Choueifat students and the community, to interact with ISC-Choueifat alumni for mentoring, career guidance or networking, and social opportunities.

For more information about the committees, please visit our website iscalumni.com.



Alumni EVENTS

ISC-CHOUEIFAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTIONS

On February 13, 2016, members of the International School of Choueifat Alumni Association (ISCAA) gathered at the ISC-Choueifat campus to choose, out of ten possible candidates, the seven new members of the ISCAA board. The elections, completed in only one round, were conducted in a spirit of camaraderie as the alumni used the opportunity to catch up with old school friends and exchange news. The seven board members — Mrs. Hana Abu Khadra Salem, Class of '74; Mr. Victor Saad, Class of '86; Mr. Hassan Keshli, Class of '98; Dr. Toufic Eid, Class of '76; Mrs. Olfat El Sabeh, Class of '75; Ms. Rima Saab, Class of '79; and Mr. Mark Daou, Class of '97 — are a group of talented and experienced alumni. The different generations of alumni represented at the event were a welcome reminder of ISC-Choueifat's rich legacy over the years. Under the Presidency of Mrs. Hana Abu Khadra Salem, the newly elected ISCAA board immediately began working to preserve this legacy, serve the ISCAA, and strengthen the alumni community while furthering its vision and mission.



CLASS OF 2008, 2009, & 2010 REUNION



As part of its continuous efforts to encourage ISC-Choueifat alumni to revisit their "second home" and reconnect with old school friends, the Alumni Office organized a reunion for the classes of 2008, 2009, and 2010 on December 18, 2015. The date was chosen to accommodate the alumni currently residing abroad who were home in Lebanon for the holidays and able to attend a reunion they otherwise would have had to miss. This made the event much more successful as several people were able to catch up with peers they had not seen since graduation, all while enjoying a tasty buffet at the school library. Several school teachers were also present at the event, so alumni had the additional pleasure of greeting their old mentors and updating them on their latest news. The Christmas spirit of the occasion made the homecoming event more festive, warm, and enjoyable.

FUNDRAISING MOVIE PREMIERE

On November 4, 2015, ISC-Choueifat alumni and their companions met at the Dunes Theatre in Verdun to attend a special movie screening event organized to raise funds for the Lebanese Red Cross. In order to make the event as enjoyable as possible for all participants, the Alumni Office managed to secure the premiere of one of the most anticipated blockbuster movies of the year, the latest James Bond installment, Spectre. ISC-Choueifat alumni from different graduating classes gathered early to chat with old friends while sampling tasty snacks and drinks at the reception. The screening itself took place in two different theatres, which were both packed to capacity. The enjoyable evening served not only as part of ISC-Choueifat's attempt to strengthen bonds among its alumni but also as part of the school's continued commitment towards community service.



ISC-CHOUEIFAT CELEBRATES ITS 130TH GRADUATION CEREMONY



In the presence of dignitaries, parents, and representative from the social, educational, and security sectors, ISC-Choueifat proudly celebrated its 130th anniversary and graduation ceremony.

The first speaker was the school principal, Mr. Ghassan Abdel Baki who advised the graduating class to benefit from all that ISC-Choueifat had taught them over the years and to aim for the best and to keep their minds open to learning.

This year's guest speaker was Mr. Wael William Diab

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

We are very excited to share our school's latest achievements as it continues to shine as a source of pride and inspiration. On March 16, ISC-Choueifat was awarded the "Green Schools Silver certificate" (2nd place) during its participation, along with 120 other schools, in the Annual Sustainability Solutions Conference implemented by "e-EcoSolutions" under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and the support of the Ministry of Environment.

ISC-Choueifat's athletes gave the school plenty to cheer for, winning the Football Lebanese Championship for Schools, the Girls' Junior Lebanese Basketball Championship, the Lebanese Championship for "Kids Athletics", the Senior Street Ball Lebanese Championship, and coming in second place in the Junior Street Ball Lebanese Championship and in the Girls Senior Lebanese Basketball Championship for Schools. Individual athletes also collected an astounding 18 medals in the Lebanese Track Field and Gymnastics Championships. Meanwhile, Mohammad Abou Harb and Houda Atassi, along with only 4 other students from all Lebanon, received Secretary General Awards for their laudable participation in the World Model Arab League Conference at Georgetown, Washington.

ISC-Choueifat's musicians qualified for the final round of the Zaki Nassif Schools Choirs Competition at AUB, receiving

(ISC-Abu Dhabi graduate), a prolific inventor named to over 800 U.S. patents and applications in the internet and communication industry. He encouraged students to use the skills and knowledge acquired at ISC-Choueifat to make an impact in their community and surroundings. Mrs. Leila Saad, in her speech, welcomed all those present and pointed out the significance of the occasion which celebrates the graduating class of 2016 but also marks the 130th anniversary of the school. Mrs. Saad commended the amazing work and effort put in by the founders and those who followed in their footsteps, hoping that the graduates will benefit from the high quality of education they received at ISC-Choueifat to keep improving as individuals and make a difference in their community.

Mr. Victor Saad thanked Mrs. Leila Saad for the honor and trust in handing him the presidency of the Mother School and expressed his gratitude in carrying on the work done by his predecessors who transformed the simple village school into an organization with an active presence in 20 countries on 5 continents and educates over 70,000 students. Mr. Saad went on to tell the graduates what technological challenges await them, and how the job market will change from what we know today.

particular praise from the committee. Not to be outdone, ISC-Choueifat's artists put on a staggering display of talent at the annual Art Fair. ISC-Choueifat's students won first place in Photography and Junior Science and second in Public Speaking, Advertising, Arabic Poetry, and Senior Science at the SABIS® STARS competition, meaning our school won the highest number of awards among participating schools. The Arabic Poetry Night was held on Friday, February 5, and was filled with mind-blowing poetry recitation by students in grades 7-12 along with the well-anticipated honorary guest, Mr. George Khabbaz. To top it all off, ISC-Choueifat triumphed over 34 other schools and won 1st place in the chemistry competition at the LAU Arts and Sciences Fair on April 22.



Students hosted a live talk show called "ISC Doctors: Health Talks" in the presence of more than 200 guests. Different topics such as drug and alcohol abuse, fitness and nutrition, living with illness, asthma, and first aid tips were discussed.

On Saturday, June 30, 2016, ISC-Choueifat held its annual Oriental Choir concert along with the amazing and outstanding performance of students in grades 1 – 7. Our alumni Omar Abi Farraj, Class of 2015 and Dina Abi Farraj, Class of 2011, participated in singing songs for the famous Lebanese icon Zaki Nassif.

A folk dance show was held at the UNESCO Palace on April 1, 2016, by ISC-Choueifat students. Parents, guest, and alumni from outside Lebanon attended this year's spectacular show.

SABIS® TEAMS UP WITH CLOONEY FOUNDATION TO EDUCATE REFUGEE CHILDREN IN LEBANON



The Clooney Foundation for Justice has launched a private sector initiative designed to educate all out-of-school children in Lebanon, including Syrian refugees. Google.Org, Virgin Unite, the Radcliffe Foundation, and the SABIS® Foundation are among the founding partners who, along with the Clooney Foundation, are contributing funding and resources to the initiative. The private sector initiative comes amid growing estimates of the number of out-of-school Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It comes in answer to an UNHCR call "for governments, donors, humanitarian agencies, and development partners as well as private-sector partners to strengthen their commitment to ensuring that every child receives a quality education." Of the half-million Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, 200,000 of them are not enrolled in school, even with a significant increase in refugee enrollment thanks to initiatives undertaken by the Lebanese government. George and Amal Clooney, both staunch supporters of human rights, made the official announcement of the project and showed a video in a UN General Assembly session calling the private sector to action. "We want to get every single out-of-school child in Lebanon an education,"

An inspiring "Brain Candy" workshop was this year's opening activity for the SLO®. On September 24, the SLO® held an interesting workshop for seniors done by alumni and SLO® perfets. The workshop, which was organized with interpersonal and professional skills, included instructions on how to create a CV, acquire dynamic life skills, and steps on how to react positively in stressful situations and in addition on how to use SLO® as a stepping stone towards your future career. It was indeed a helpful and inspiring workshop for all participants.

On another note, the students participated in the successful "Green Apple Day" school event as part of the Sustainability Movement initiative!

remarked Amal Clooney. "Let's not lose an entire generation of people because they happened to be born in the wrong place at the wrong time," George added. The Clooney Foundation for Justice will be working with SABIS®, a global education management company, to roll out a phased plan to open schools starting in September 2017. In the first year of the plan, the schools will enroll between 5,000 and 10,000 refugee children as well as Lebanese children who are not enrolled in school. In subsequent years, additional schools will be added to increase capacity by up to 50,000 students per year. The schools, which will be located in areas of Lebanon most heavily populated by Syrian refugees, will implement the SABIS® Educational System™, a proven educational program that is backed by 130 years of success in the region and currently used to provide over 70,000 students enrolled in SABIS® Network schools around the world with a high-quality education. As with all SABIS® Network schools, the schools serving the refugee children will leverage technology to drive and monitor the learning process, using digital resources that are highly interactive and capture valuable data on individual student progress to facilitate learning.

"The SABIS® Network is proud to be a part of this project," said SABIS® president Carl Bistany. "SABIS® has worked over the past 130 years to build a reputation for excellence in education and to make a difference in the lives of the students in our schools. This project allows us to mobilize our experience and resources to give Syrian refugee children access to education so that they have a solid foundation they can continue to build on wherever they may find themselves in the future."

Start-up funding totaling \$7 million USD is being provided by the project's founding members. Additional funding is being sourced from the private sector on an ongoing basis. To learn more about how to join the coalition, contact info@cfj.org.

One OF OUR OWN

THOSE MEMORIES: AN INTERVIEW WITH EMILY NASRALLAH

Interviewed by Ibtissam Saadawi and Razan Yehya
Edited by Yahia H. Hamade, Class of 2006

The first thing you notice while entering Emily Nasrallah's house is the abundance of pens and paper. What may seem as plain white to us is a canvas waiting to be filled with eloquent Arabic by Emily. "The pen has been my friend for over fifty years," Emily smiles as she sits surrounded by orchids of many colors and sizes. "All my novels were written by hand on paper, very much like the ones you see." She admits that she is not a fan of technology and refuses to use anything electronic to write. And with that confession, Emily takes us back in a journey across time.

"I was very different than my peers when I first joined the International School of Choueifat," Emily admits. "I did not know any English, but my knowledge of Arabic was well above my grade level." Throughout her stay at ISC-Choueifat, Emily's constant companions were books and not classmates. "I was the odd one out," she laughs. "Thanks in part to my green shoes and a blue dress."

"Nassim Nasr, my Arabic teacher, noticed my talent in Arabic and always encouraged me to partake in Arabic language competitions," she reminisces. "Despite Mr. Nasr's constant encouragement, his red pen did not take mercy on my writing," Emily jokes. At the same time, Emily had joined Al-Zahra, the school publication, and kept busy writing.

In her spare time, Emily would return to the village where she came from. "I worked the fields every season, picking olives from trees," she says with a gleam. "These beautiful experiences have enriched my life in every way possible."

Emily graduated from the International School of Choueifat in 1951 and was the class valedictorian. Tragedy struck after Emily's fiancé passed away from leukemia. At that point, Emily felt out of place in her village and decided to return to the Mother School, where Charles Saad and his family welcomed her with open arms.

"After two years at ISC-Choueifat I decided to pursue a college education," Emily shares. "It was impossible for a girl to live in Beirut alone back then, so I arranged to live with my parents while studying at the Beirut University College, or the Lebanese American University as it is known today."

"I transferred to the American University of Beirut to major in education after receiving a fifty percent scholarship," she says. "At AUB, I also began my venture in journalism by writing for Al-Sayyad in order to pay off the rest of my tuition."

Emily's current project is a historical novel that documents customs and traditions of the pre-World War I society. "Schools back then were foreign missions," she explains. "I aim to bring to light the heroes of old through my novel, which I have completed six chapters of thus far."

When asked about her writing process, Emily's eyes smile. "The way I feel while writing is inexpressible," she sighs. "I sequester myself and write all day, and my husband is very supportive of my writing activities."

Writing is sacred for Emily, and she hopes the written word regains its high status once more. "I am appalled by the current path literature is taking," Emily confides. "It is quite commercial now and no longer about *adab*, the Arabic word for literature." Emily explains that if *adab* is lost then writing is as well.

"We must revitalize the use of Arabic in our daily lives," Emily states. "We must communicate with our children in Arabic at school and home. There should be constant incentives to use Arabic all the time."

Despite her disdain for technology, Emily admits it is a useful medium to spread awareness of Arabic. "I am recording audiobooks in order to appeal for this new generation," Emily says. "We must embrace our language and always promote its use."

Emily reminisces over her days at ISC-Choueifat and says she will never forget the impact the school had on her during the formative years of her life.

"You can achieve anything you put your mind to with hard work," Emily affirms as she tends to the orchids around her house. "Practice and be serious about what you want."



DR. AHMED AL WAHISHI, CLASS OF 1970



What I noticed from my experience at ISC-Choueifat is the atmosphere of coexistence and tolerance between students who come from different backgrounds, countries, and religions. Students receive a good education in addition to learning to accept others and build friendships with students from different cultures and background. The role ISC-Choueifat plays is important in light of the political turmoil happening around us, therefore teaching students about tolerance will create a future generation with a solid foundation that can face any obstacle in its community and country.

**Ambassador Ahmed Salem Alwahishi, Ph.D.
Director of Yemen International Affairs' Center**

IYAD NAJA, CLASS OF 1992



Young Lebanese multi-disciplinary artist and designer Iyad Naja embodies the marriage of avant-garde with heritage. Iyad graduated from Ashwicke Hall School in Bath, U.K., in 1992 and received his BS degree in Graphic Design from LAU in Beirut in 2000.

He began his career in advertising before delving into design and Arabic calligraphy. In 2014, Iyad co-established a design and development firm, which he dedicated to product design and surface art. Working with furniture, including mirrors, cabinets and lights, he aims to become an ambassador of heritage and communicate his message through a plethora of niche mediums. Seeking inspiration from elaborate culture and bustling environments, Iyad conceives rich sensory experiences in his collections and applies expressive concepts to many creative disciplines. Enriching his viewers with a fresh perspective on heritage, he creates pieces of high art from everyday objects, altering the norms of legacy. Weaving his personal experiences to his work, he applies a personal element to art, mirroring his soul-searching methods in the foundation of his unparalleled products. With an explosion of media and technology, we have lost focus on our identity, thus the artist wishes to showcase themes of emotion, individuality and culture, to bring back the focus on transformative tradition. Marrying the avant-garde with heritage, Iyad Naja's passion for design gives birth to a new legacy in Arabic calligraphy. Working with a diverse roster of mediums, the artist seeks to enrich his viewers with history, culture, and tradition. Derived from everyday objects, Iyad Naja's works are perceived as a sensory experience. Whether a table, mirror, lamp, collage, or

even wall calligraphy, his art, fine and intricate, represents a stage and a single experience in the artist's life journey. Both decorative and expressive, his pieces focus on revitalizing his heritage. His national pride and innovative spirit allow him to celebrate the everyday in the form of high art.

Iyad seeks inspiration from elaborate cultures and bustling environments to merge the old with the new. He conceives works that communicate beyond fixed objects to create innovative pieces of high art. Weaving personal and present day experiences with static, decorative objects, the artist becomes an ambassador of heritage and calligraphy.

NABIL NATAFGI, CLASS OF 2006



Hello fellow Choueifatis! After graduating from ISC-Choueifat, I completed my BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences (2009) and MPH in Health Management and Policy (2011) at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Soon after, I worked as a researcher at AUB for a couple of years before moving to Iowa City, Iowa in 2013. Currently, I am a PhD Candidate in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of Iowa. During my six years of experience in health services research, I have been involved in several projects aimed at improving the quality of care and patient safety in underserved and rural areas. This resulted in my authorship of 16 peer-reviewed articles in prominent health policy journals. To that end, I have recently received the Bonnie J. and Douglas S. Wakefield Award for excellence in health services research. Until we meet again in 2025 to open the time capsule, I would love to hear from ISC-Choueifat classmates and teachers. I can be reached at nabil-natafgi@uiowa.edu.

FARAH ABOU HARB, CLASS OF 2013



Farah is a senior Public Administration student at AUB, minoring in Human Rights and Transitional Justice, International Law and Civil Society, Citizenship and non-profit sector. She has worked and volunteered with several NGOs in Lebanon. Her passions are divided between criminal law and human rights and pursuing her master's degree in International Human Rights Law. Farah delivered an interactive lecture about International Criminal Court to our students in which she says: "It doesn't require much to realize that our world today is in utter dismay. International Criminal Justice is a goal pursued by the international community in hopes of putting prosecutors of mass atrocities behind bars. That is the pillar upon which International Criminal Court is built on... Justice"

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Dr. Samir Alam for his new position as "Chief of Staff" at the American University of Beirut Medical Center. Dr. Alam graduated from ISC-Choueifat in 1965 and was the first Alumni Association President. We wish him best of luck.
- Congratulations to Dr. Makram Bou Nassar on his new position as Executive Director of the Payment Systems Department at the Central Bank of Lebanon. Mr. Bou Nassar graduated from ISC-Choueifat in 1997 and received his Bachelor in Economics from AUB. He also holds a Bachelor in Law from the Lebanese University, in addition to a Master in International Money and Banking and a PhD in Economics from the University of Birmingham in UK. We wish him best of luck.
- Congratulations to our talented Feyrouz Abu Hassan, Class of 2000, on her amazing play "Mind and Soul". The play is about two artists from the same era, a painter and an orchestra conductor, who come together to change society's current values and attitudes from dominance and greed to love and kindness. This is a literary free play which conveys its purpose and emotions through a series of artistic expressions including - but not limited to - painting, dancing, and a live orchestra. Everything in the play is composed to serve the purpose of this play alone, including the music - a classical beat that is being put together by young artists.
- Congratulations to Nathalie Hariz for the opening of ROSEUM Beauty Lounge & Event Planner center. Nathalie graduated from the International School of Choueifat in 2010 then she got her Bachelor degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management from LAU in 2013. She first worked within her family business between Dubai and Malaysia, and her dream came true by opening ROSEUM. We wish Nathalie success!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH OUR TRASH?

By Raghida Haddad*

Translated from Arabic by Dr. Hana Fayyad, pediatrician

If you look into your daily trash bag, you will find that a large portion of it is food waste, some of which is spoilt, while some still edible.

Day after day, the amount of trash we generate increases, and we do not know where to take it, with landfills already full beyond their capacities. Sadly, much of the material that we throw daily can be reused, recycled, or composted to become fertilizers. However, most of it is taken to landfills or dumps, where foul smells fill the air, leachate fluids leak to contaminate soil and groundwater, and disease-transmitting insects are harbored. On the other hand, burning wastes pollutes the air, emits toxic fumes, and often results in forest fires.

The solution is by adopting an integrated waste management system: minimizing the amount of waste produced and maximizing its reuse, sorting it at the source, and reaching a high rate of recycling, in addition to ensuring safer landfills and incinerators so no harm is incurred on health and environment.

Simple practices to reduce wastes in our daily life:

There is no doubt that reducing the amount of wastes generated is a crucial step to curb the escalating waste problem. This requires a national plan that accommodates awareness, incentives, and deterrents. Here are some practical ideas to reduce wastes in our daily life:

- Think about whether you really need what you intend to buy, and buy durable goods rather than disposables
- Choose products that are not heavily wrapped or packaged, with higher content-to-packaging ratio, or packed in recyclable or reusable cardboard or glass. Keep in mind that packaging adds about 15% to your item cost
- Economize on non-degradable plastic bags. Shoppers in western countries put their goods in cardboard boxes or personal shopping bags, and are charged for plastic bags
- Repair items that break or run out of order, instead of buying new ones. Give to relatives, friends, and the needy what you no longer need. This applies to home appliances, toys, books, clothes, shoes, and much more
- Try not to use plastic tableware
- Economize on paper, and make use of the white side of printed sheets for writing or drawing

- If you take sandwiches, fruits, and sweets to your school or workplace, put them in a lunch box instead of plastic or aluminum foil

- Compost vegetable and fruit wastes in your garden to transform into natural organic fertilizer

- Remember that used paper, cardboard, glass, and aluminum can be recycled at specialized factories. There are NGOs and institutions that collect these materials.

A school program for waste separation and recycling:

A school can adopt a program to sort wastes for recycling. It can focus on cardboard, glass, aluminum cans, or all. The process may go as follows:

- Form a team of students interested in the environment and collective work, to coordinate the program and implement tasks

- Make a well-coordinated agreement with an institution that handles sorted wastes, such as a recycling factory or an environmental organization active in recycling

- Spread the word to students, faculty and staff, so they get informed about the waste collection program and participate in it

- Provide containers for waste separation. They might be donated by a specialized organization or by the waste-collecting company. The containers should be distinct, i.e. one for paper, another for glass and a third for aluminum, so people would know where to place what. They might even bring recyclables from their homes

- Address the community at large. It is plausible to open the recycling program for the whole neighborhood or town, in coordination with the municipality. This upholds the school position as a custodian of the environment and public welfare

- Calculate the amount of sorted waste, as well as its financial revenue if sold to recycling plants, and inform the students and faculty about it, so they appreciate their ownership of the program

Illustration: Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia magazine

*Raghida Haddad, Class of 1971 from Lebanon, is the executive editor of Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia (Environment & Development), the leading pan-Arab environment magazine. A biologist and university lecturer on environmental journalism, she is the regional coordinator of the World Federation of Science Journalists' peer-to-peer mentoring program. Raghida Haddad is a founding member of Lebanon Mountain Trail Association and the Lebanese Association of Appropriate Technology (LATA). raghida_haddad@yahoo.com www.afedmag.com

A walk down **MEMORY LANE**



THE OLD SCHOOL



1976



1925



SOCCKET TEAM, 1923

Wisdom is not necessarily born out of experience but it certainly is not born out of rebellion against experience.

Charles Saad, June 1969

In MEMORIAM

In the past few months, the community at ISC-Choueifat lost four remarkable individuals whose legacies and contributions to the school, students, and the community will never be forgotten.

BASHIR KOBTI, 1929-2016



Mr. Bashir Copti – (August 11, 1929 – March 20, 2016), was a devoted teacher, an outstanding educator, and a unique mentor who carved his students with stronger personalities preparing them to face unexpected future challenges.

Born in Jaffa, Palestine on August 11, 1929, in a family of six boys and three girls, his father was an Arabic and mathematics professor at the Jaffa Governmental School, while his mother was a well-educated woman mastering three languages including German.

He studied in Jerusalem until 1948 when the war escalated in Palestine. He immigrated with his family to Amman- Jordan and joined the United Nations. Due to financial and political inconveniences, he immigrated to Beirut in 1961, where he joined the National College of Choueifat known today as International School of Choueifat – Choueifat, Lebanon.

At the school, Mr. Copti taught Arabic, literature, philosophy, and History of Sciences of the Arabs to secondary classes as well as mathematics to Intermediate classes. During that time, he pursued higher education and earned his Diploma in Literature from Saint-Joseph University in 1964.

He got married in 1966 to Violet Jureidini from Majdalouna, Lebanon. He had three daughters, and a son and was a great father and a caring grandfather providing lots of love, knowledge, and advice, and support.

He moved to International College (IC) in 1977 to teach philosophy and History of Science of the Arabs to Baccalauréat classes until he retired in 1998.

According to his students: "Bashir Copti was a great teacher" and "gave meaning and purpose to us all". 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 was fond of the Arabic language and mastered it so well that he published several books of different topics and composed numerous poems. His efforts culminated in the Dictionary of Arabic Grammar that

bestowed his exceptional knowledge to generations to come. He also wrote: Introduction to the History of Palestine before Christ – تمهيد لبحث تاريخ فلسطين قبل المسيح (English/Arabic), as well as a poetry book in the process of publishing.

ديوان شعر –

NABIL SUKHUN, 1934-2016



Nabil Sukhun was born in Nablus, Palestine, on January 11, 1934. His father, Farid, worked at the Arab Bank, and his mother was a successful landlady who earned her income from leasing her houses and orchards. Nabil had fond memories of his early years in Palestine with his siblings. His mother passed away before 1948.

In 1948, the family left their home and moved to Amman then later on to Damascus. He continued his education in the field of Physics at a university in Syria. He started working as a teacher at the age of 16 to support his family financially. In Damascus, he made new friends, among them was the renowned poet Adonis and the actor Dureid Lahham, who were both Syrian.

After graduating, he taught in Libya, then in Kuwait, and finally in Lebanon. At the National College of Choueifat (NCC), currently known as ISC-Choueifat, he worked as a Physics teacher (1959-1972), and was then appointed as Dean of Students. It was at the school that he met Sharifa Rawi, his student, and future wife.

Later on, he worked at The International College in Beirut and took a master's course at AUB where he obtained an MS in Education.

Sharifa and Nabil got married in 1975, at the onset of the civil war in Lebanon. They had their first child, Zayd, and remained in Beirut until 1984. Later on, they moved to Saudi Arabia and ran a prominent school there together. They also ran other schools in Jordan, Bahrain, and Dubai.

Nabil also worked on a plan to develop a curriculum for Iraqi schools after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, but it was never put into action.

He retired in Amman and suffered from a very rare and weakening neurological condition called Multiple Systems Atrophy for about five years.

Nabil passed away in Amman on April 6, 2016. His wife Sharifa, his son, and two daughters were witnesses to the extraordinary life he lived.

In MEMORIAM

Nabil was a liberal thinker and was known for his kindness. In the 70s, he was interested in the findings of Carl Sagan and Stephen Hawking about the origins of the universe. He loved poetry and politics and was indeed an outstanding person.

Qatrinnada Rawi (Nabil's sister-in-law)

GEORGE MAZIJI, 1938-2016



George Maziji was a mentor, a counselor, and a loving friend who played a significant role at the National College of Choueifat for many generations.

George Maziji was born on the April 14, 1938 to Hanna and Saydeh Maziji, a Syriac Orthodox family. He was the youngest of 4 children; his brother Elias and his sisters Wahida and Elisa. His family left Deir-Bakr in Southern Turkey in 1934 and immigrated to Lebanon where George attended a Syriac School in Khandak Al-Ghameek during his early years of education. Later, he joined International College, at Ras Beirut during middle school. He continued his higher education at AUB and graduated with a degree in Business Administration.

George married Nada Gholl in 1969 and they had two children, Fadi and Rana. His family was very fond of him and loved his fun and active personality as a father and grandfather as well. He joined ISC-Choueifat, previously known as the National College of Choueifat, and worked there for 44 years.

During his employment, he was very popular amongst students and parents alike. He had many talents but was idealized for his phenomenal memory and sharp sense of humor. He had a passion for football and was always an huge supporter. He passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2016. He was an amazing companion, father, grandfather, friend, and advocate in education. May he rest in peace.

Fadi Maziji (George Maziji's son)

DR. CLOVIS MAKSOUD, 1926-2016



It is during an unprecedented surge in democratic and social aspirations that Clovis Maksoud was born in 1926, in Oklahoma, to American Lebanese parents. His mother took him back to Lebanon when he was three years old where she realized that he had weak vision. As a boy, he wanted to become a policeman or an orchestra conductor. He was attracted to their attires and their gestures.

In his book about his life "From the corners of my memory" "من زوايا الذاكرة" he talks about the time his mother and sisters lived in Choueifat and how he enrolled in 1941 at the International School of Choueifat, previously known as the National College, where a group of passionate teachers nurtured his ideals. He graduated in 1944.

It was during that period of time that he started to grasp the meaning of being Arab. He noticed how his uncle was influenced by the soviet leftist movement and heard his mother continuously telling him "We are Arabs" which left an impact on his political views and feelings.

In 1943, while still at the school, and while the country was going through the battle of independence, he went with other students to protest the country's occupation with Mr. Mahmoud Saab who was the school director at that time. He talks about Mr. Mahmoud Saab as the person who had a great impact on creating awareness on the national Arab heritage and the Arab identity.

In his own words, he was later disappointed when he realized that although, there is a common Arab heritage among the Arab nations, there was a political turmoil that took place later and a continuous strife to determine the identity of Lebanon. This, unfortunately, is still happening today.

Mr. Maksoud's life and legacy are known to all and will always stand against the test of time, and it is our pride to realize that this school and the teachers and mentors played such an important role in shaping his political identity and future interests.

Contributors:

Bassel Bashir Copti

Qatrinnada Rawi

Fadi Maziji

Clovis Maksoud: The book: the corners of my memory- من زوايا الذاكرة

Articles compiled and edited by Hana AbuKhadra Salem

Mission of the Alumni Association of the International School of Choueifat

To create and reinforce lifelong intellectual, professional, and personal connections among its members, to serve the community and to strengthen the link between the alumni and their alma mater.

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