



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 22 October 2015

The International School of Choueifat  
Alumni Association

linking Generations



## Alumni Events

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Class of 2005

The Class of 2005 celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> graduation anniversary from the International School of Choueifat – Choueifat in Lebanon with a BBQ at the school. The graduates enjoyed a lovely evening of reminiscing with their friends and teachers about their time at school and caught up with the latest news. There was delicious food grilling on the BBQ and in the background the sounds of the Blue Band played. The band consisted of other SABIS® alumni, Wael Haidar, Class of 1997, on vocals and lead guitar, and Samer Mousharrafieh, Class of 2004, on bass.



The event was full of laughter and people chatting throughout the night with everyone feeling nostalgic for their time at ISC-Choueifat. The teachers were very happy to reconnect with their former students, and were proud of the success these students have achieved academically and professionally. As for the alumni, coming back to school after



so many years made them miss their school days.

Class of 2005 will reunite again in May 2020 to open their time capsule that was closed on Founder's Day 2004.

### Informal Reunion, Class of 2000

A group of graduates from the Class of 2000 spontaneously organized an unofficial reunion in Hamra on August 17, 2015. The ISC-Choueifat alumni gathered at Main St. and it was great. The attendees took the opportunity to catch-up on



what they had missed and recalled many stories of their time at school.

We encourage all alumni to organize reunions and the alumni club house is always available for such gatherings.



## Alumni News



### Juheina Fakhreddine Yakzan, Class of 1970

I graduated from The International School of Choueifat (known as the Charles Saad School back then) in 1970. I started teaching at an early age, just after finishing my secondary schooling. Later, I pursued my Bachelors of Arts and Teaching Degree

in English Language and Literature at the Lebanese University, where I graduated in 1974. Thirty years later, I earned my Masters Degree in Education (TESOL) from the Lebanese American University of Beirut (LAU). I am married to Anwar Yakzan, I have a son and two daughters, and I am a grandmother of five. Professional growth has been my goal. I participated in a number of workshops and training sessions in Lebanon and abroad, and I taught and coordinated English language programs at several secondary schools in the country before becoming a part-time instructor at LAU and later on joined the American University of Beirut (AUB), where I am currently a full time lecturer. I collaborated with the National Center for Educational Resource Development (NCERD), as well as co-authored the English language

textbooks for Cycle I, and the assessment guides for Basic Education as the new national curriculum was on its way to be launched. I was also a teacher-trainer for elementary school and later on secondary school teachers of the public sector. Moreover, I am the co-author of a number of English language textbooks, published by Heritage House in Lebanon. As an avid learner who is immersed in her career, I worked on action research and presented several papers on teaching methods, assessment, and critical and creative thinking in many conferences in Lebanon and abroad. This year, I co-authored a chapter in an edited book titled, "Cook and Grow" through Reflective Writing: A study on first year university students at AUB" published by MacroWorld (2015); two more co-authored chapters have been accepted by different international publishers and are now under final review. The first is "The Dance of Voices: A study on L2 advanced academic writing at the American University of Beirut (AUB)"; the second is "Arabic as a Resource in an English Writing Class: Employing Basic Translation Strategies in a First Year Writing Course". I owe my success to my role model, Mrs. Leila Saad, and to all those who taught me at school; they have been an inspiration for me to excel in life.



### **Sonia Hayek Farran, Class of 1981**

My name is Sonia Hayek Farran, and I am a mother of two boys aged nineteen and twenty-five. I graduated from ISC-Choueifat in 1981. I studied Sociology and Anthropology at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

Since then, I have been teaching English, Social Studies, History and Sociology. Currently, I am teaching at Eastwood College. I like to participate in charity activities and I motivate my students to do the same. We recently had a dance to raise funds for SESOBEL.



### **Hana Fayyad, Class of 1972**

Professionally, I have a persevering passion for pediatric practice and university lecturing. I give lectures at the School of Public Health of The Lebanese University (5<sup>th</sup> branch) in Sidon. Personally, I am a mother of four, three daughters and a son. My eldest daughter, Rana, is a judge at the ministry and an active participant in governmental socio-legal matters. My other daughter, Judge Rola, has recently blessed us with a grandson. My youngest daughter, Rima, has received an acceptance to the judicial institute. Finally, my son, Mohammed, recently got engaged. It is my pleasure to connect with you again!

### **Khadijeh Hassoneh, Class of 1987**

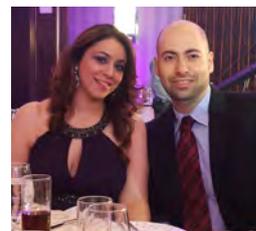
I graduated from the International School of Choueifat – Choueifat in 1987. I then proceeded to do my Bachelor’s Degree in Nutrition at The American University of Beirut (AUB), and graduated in 1993. Currently, I am a member of the CEC program at AUB, preparing for the HR certificate. I am married and have 3 boys.

### **Tarek Zebian, Class of 2001**

It has been a while since I connected with ISC-Choueifat; actually it has been around 14 years, almost as much time as I spent at the only school I have ever attended. Since then many things have changed and continue to do so.

I graduated with a BA from The American University of Beirut (AUB) in 2005. In 2008, while I was working at the Banque du Liban (Central Bank), I received a merit-based scholarship from the Mohammad Bin Rashed Al Maktoum Foundation which allowed me to take a one-year leave to complete an MSc in Public Management and Governance (with merit) from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE). In 2010, I became more active in local NGOs; particularly co-founding the National Civil Society Parliament Liaison Unit in collaboration with the Lebanese Parliament. Among many of its tasks, this unit was the main lobbying group behind several initiatives of importance to the Lebanese Society. In 2012, in collaboration with the Environment Parliamentary Committee, the unit managed to positively influence a Sustainable National Waste Management Policy and present to the Government prior to the cabinet failure in handling the premeditated closure of the biggest landfill in the country; in addition to raising awareness and lobbying for the ‘Access to Information’ Law. A personal achievement in this capacity was surely the successful lobbying for ratifying the Banning of Public

Smoking Law, which was an uphill battle against big businesses and a culture that has surrendered to the dire economic and health implications of smoking. Today, I am the President of the London School of Economics Lebanon Alumni and the founder of SEP Debate Forum, a Social Economic and Political Debate forum that aims to raise awareness and engage policy makers on issues that matter. On a professional level, I am the Director of Communication and Research at the Capital Markets Authority in Lebanon (CMA) chaired by H.E. Governor Riad Salame. The CMA is an independent autonomous regulator that oversees development of capital markets in Lebanon and protection of investors. Beforehand, I served as the deputy section chief of the Payment Systems Department at the Central Bank (Banque Du Liban), where I worked with a team of International experts on developing the payment system infrastructure for the Banking Sector in Lebanon. In the past couple of years, and together with a group of friends and fellow alumnus, Nedal Ezzedine, I co-founded a holding company that invests and operates International Food & Beverage Franchise developments in Ghana and West Africa. Today, our retail coffee and restaurant outlets in Ghana are a leading household name. Now that I share my story, 14 years actually seem like a long time ago!



### **Adham Fayad, Class of 2001**

After Graduating from Choueifat in 2001, I joined Goldey Beacom College in Wilmington, Delaware, where I received my bachelor degree and then proceeded with my MBA from Lawrence Technological

University in Southfield, Michigan. After the United States, I moved to the Gulf where I worked between K.S.A. and Qatar, and now after years outside Lebanon, I am finally back. I recently joined Dar El Kotob 53 Dots Printing Press, as a Sales Manager. Dots is considered one of the largest Printing Houses in Lebanon. It has been a busy year for me. In December 25, 2014, I got married to Dina Mohamed, who also happens to be a graduate from International School of Choueifat in Al-Ain, U.A.E.

### **Lilian Abou Zeki, Class of 2006**



I finished BFA from The American University of Beirut (AUB) and proceeded with my masters degree from Domus Academy – Milan. With a background in design and experience in the luxury-fashion industry, I took on a more interdisciplinary career move

and went into technical product management from a user-centered perspective. After attaining my Master in Business Design, a field which aims to realize a holistic approach to product development by exploring the intersection of behavioral science, technology and innovative business models, I have been working with entrepreneurs and tech startups. I will be part of this year’s Agile Tour Beirut Event, the Third Lebanese edition of the biggest international Agile event: the Agile Tour. This conference focuses on Agile project management, leadership, creativity, innovation, people-centric approaches, continuous improvement, and fun. My part at the event will be about Start to Ship: The Creative’s Backlog Whether you are a start-up or creative team working on a project/product or any other "deliverable",

there are usually three variables that get measured and obsessed over which are: time, budget and how innovative your end product is. For this we need to understand our team and the process before considering the outcome: I will be talking about how to reduce overwhelming project marathons into manageable creative sprints by starting the project on the right foot via the Cynefin sense making model and designing decisions, leading to a shipped product on budget and on time.



### **Rami Zeidan, Class of 2000**

After 10 years at one of the global leading marketing and media consultancy companies, OMD, Rami leaves his position as Business Unit Director to blend his Computer Science BA, MBA, Media experience

and Music passion to take on a new position in Dubai as Head of Marketing at Anghami, MENA's leading music streaming start up. Rami graduated from The Lebanese American University of Beirut (LAU) with a BS in Computer Science, and continued his MBA at The American University of Dubai (AUD). He is married and has twin girls, Eva and Aya, who are 5 years old.



### **Tarek Ahmadih, Class of 2003**

I finished medical school at The Beirut Arab University and completed a 3-year post-doctoral fellowship and research in cerebrovascular surgery at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. During that time, I

had the opportunity to work with an amazing team and published 53 peer reviewed articles and 13 book chapters in top tier neurosurgery journals and books. I was recently accepted into a neurosurgery program and I am now a second year neurosurgery resident at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, Texas. I am on the road to achieving my dream of becoming a neurosurgeon.



### **Racha Slim, Class of 2006**

I graduated in 2010 with a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from The American University of Beirut (AUB). After that, in 2012, I relocated to Qatar where I accepted a job as a clinical Dietitian at the Nutrition and Diet Center, Qatar. Since then I have

been promoted to the role of Senior Dietitian, which was effective as of October 1, 2014. I got married in August 10, 2014 to Ali Soufan (Senior Mechanical Engineer) and I am still living in Qatar and working as a Senior Clinical Dietitian at the Nutrition and Diet Center, Qatar.



### **Afif Tabsh, Class of 2006**

I have recently relocated to Riyadh and joined Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) in Riyadh in a managerial position with their consulting team. I have been working on some consulting projects with governmental bodies, thus having an

impact all over Saudi Arabia. For all friends and fellow alumni in Riyadh, feel free to contact me at [afiftabsh@gmail.com](mailto:afiftabsh@gmail.com).



## **Special Notes**



### **Wafa Saab, Class of 1971**

Congratulations to Mrs. Wafa Fayez Saab, Class of 1971, for being elected the president of The Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut (WAAAUB). WAAAUB and AUB have made history by electing Mrs. Saab as the first female president.

Mrs. Saab, the ISCAA Vice President, has proven that women are capable of attaining high positions in all industries. She is the General Manager of TINOL Paints International, President of the WAAAUB Executive MBA chapter, Board Member of AMIDEAST, BIA (LAU Board of International Advisors), CIH (Civic Influence Hub), Beiteddine Festival, Baalbeck Festival, and the Lebanese Red Cross. Mrs. Saab received her undergraduate degree from the Lebanese American University (LAU) in 1991 with a BA in Human Development and her Executive MBA from The American University of Beirut in 2007. We wish Mrs. Saab the best of luck in her new responsibilities.



### **Hassan Keshli, Class of 1998**

Maître Hassan Keshli was elected as member of the Administrative Council of Beirut legitimate and endowments in the Dar Al-Fatwa. Maître Keshli received his Master's Degree in Law from Sagesse University. He owns his own law firm in Beirut and is the current

Alumni Board Treasurer. He is also a member of different social organizations. Maître Keshli is married to Mrs. Nisrine Jammal and has two children, Taline and Afif. Congratulation Maître! We wish Mr. Keshli success in his new responsibilities.



### **Ibrahim Khoury, Class of 1967**

Mr. Ibrahim Khoury has been appointed as a special advisor and external relations to the new President of the American University of Beirut (AUB). Mr. Khoury will advise on issues related to government and community relations, protocol, media, and

communications. Mr. Khoury received his BA in Economics from the American University of Beirut. He is one of the founding members of ISC Alumni Association and an active member of its first board from 2005 to 2008.

## Emily Nasrallah, Class of 1951

The novelist and writer Mrs. Emily Nasrallah, who graduated in 1951, has donated a set of her inspirational novels and books to the library at the International School of Choueifat – Choueifat in Lebanon. Mrs. Nasrallah's books were translated to English, German, Danish, French, and Italian. Thank you Mrs. Nasrallah!



## Congratulations



### Pascale Kiwan, Class of 2006

After graduating from ISC-Choueifat in 2006, I pursued Biology as a major at the American University of Beirut, and later completed my Master's degree in Public Health- Health Management and Policy. In 2011, I started work at Fouad Khoury Hospital in Beirut as a Quality Coordinator. By May 2015 I was married and moved to Abu Dhabi where I joined Yas Healthcare as a Patient Services & Health Liaison Officer. Throughout this long journey, I realized how lucky I was to have graduated from ISC-Choueifat. Not only lucky, but proud. Proud to have been taught by outstanding teachers and raised in an environment that combined discipline with fun in a way no other school did. I have countless memories at ISC-Choueifat that I will forever cherish. I value the time I spent there and I am grateful for the skills and opportunities it has given me.

of Beirut (AUB), she earned her second BS in management from The Lebanese American University in 2014, and in 2015 she got her Masters in Nutrition & Dietetics from AUB. Bariaa married Maher Mehyo, CPA, in September 2015, and we would like to wish them success and happiness on their coming journey.



### Nancy Kiwan, Class of 2006

After graduating from ISC-Choueifat, Nancy earned a Bachelors of Science in Biology and a Masters of Public Health, both from the American University of Beirut. Nancy worked as Clinic Director at Lumident, one of the leading dental polyclinics in Lebanon. She implemented a Quality Management System that gave the clinic a competitive edge and soon gained it an ISO 9001:2008 certificate. In July 2015, Nancy got married to Omar Mostafa, who works as an engineer in Qatar, and has recently relocated to Doha with her husband. We wish them both health and success in their new life!



### Bariaa Kechli, Class of 2006

Congratulation for Bariaa Kechli on her marriage to Maher Mehyo. Bariaa graduated in 2010 with a BS in Nutrition & Dietetics from The American University



## In Memoriam



### Elias Skaff (1948-2015)

The late Elias Skaff graduated from The International School of Choueifat in 1968. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from the American University of Beirut in 1975. Skaff was elected to the Lebanese

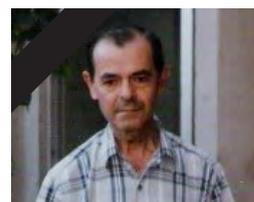
Parliament in 1992 as head of the Popular Bloc list as well as in 1996, 2000, and 2005. He was appointed Minister of Industry in 2003, and served as Minister of Agriculture in 2004 and 2005. He also participated in the sessions of National Dialogue in his capacity as Head of the Parliamentary Popular Bloc in 2006. In July 2008, Skaff was appointed Agriculture Minister. He was a man of principles and great ethics. May his soul rest in peace.

say that she created a warm and lovely classroom environment and was a very caring person. Her eventual success in tertiary educational leadership came as a result of her dedication and brilliance. She received her Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Dr. Harb became a professor of education at The Lebanese American University; she planned and conducted teacher-training workshops as well as curating several exhibitions of educational materials. She was chair of the Education Department and later became Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. During that period she published several articles on language and culture. Dr. Harb headed the first attempts of founding an Alumni Association back in 2001. She will be missed by her family, school, and colleagues. May her soul rest in peace.



### Dr. Hadia Harb (1938-2015)

Late Dr. Hadia Harb graduated from the International School of Choueifat – Choueifat in 1956. After graduation she taught and worked in the administration department of the school. Her students



### Ibrahim Nasrallah (1940-2015)

Ibrahim Nasrallah is a name that has been linked to Choueifat students for 50 years. Mr. Ibrahim Nasrallah devoted his life to the school. He taught sciences, was responsible for the school labs, and he always nourished the alumni archive with pictures and stories. The school will miss his presence. May his soul rest in peace.

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