



January 2006 – issue number 031



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Highlight of the Issue

SABIS® to Open New School in Erbil, Kurdistan Province, Iraq

On November 7th, 2005, a contract was signed by Mr. Carl Bistany, SABIS® President, for the management of a K-12 school in Erbil, Kurdistan in Iraq. This project is the result of a ground-breaking public-private partnership initiated by the Ministry of Education, who formed a private company and contracted with SABIS® for the operation of a school to provide a high-quality, college-preparatory education for all students.



ISC-Erbil will feature a state-of-the-art campus with a semi-Olympic sized swimming pool, as well as modern classrooms, laboratories for the sciences

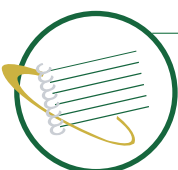
and IT, a library, and staff accommodation. With plans for a campus that will eventually house up to 2,500 students in pre-Kindergarten through the 12th grade, the school will open for students in pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 in September 2006 in newly-built, temporary facilities provided by the Ministry of Education.

Job applications are being accepted for various positions. For details on how to apply online, please access www.sabiscareers.com.

For further information, please visit www.sabis.net or send an E-mail to iscerbil@sabis.net.

<http://www.sabis.net>

Now available online



For more information on, employment, or alumni news within the SABIS® School Network, access our websites: <http://www.sabis.net>, <http://www.sabiscareers.com>, <http://www.iscalumni.com>

Disclaimer: As SABIS® is a global organization operating in several countries, English usage in the SABIS® newsletter may vary depending on the style used (U.S./ U.K.) in the region represented.

School Re-Opening

MSANO Welcomes Students Back



After more than two months of enforced closure in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, *the Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans* re-opened its doors on Monday, November 14th, 2005. One of only two public schools re-opening in New Orleans, *MSANO*, now in its third year under SABIS® management, welcomed 140 students back on that first day. Current enrollment figures have grown to 209 as word has spread and New Orleanians took advantage of the opportunity to resume normal activities.

Ms. Janice Watson, *MSANO* Director, is pleased to see the students return. *"Since re-opening, our doors can be likened to a mother opening her arms to embrace her child. The love, care, and nurturing of our students have eased their fears, and they can be seen smiling as they adjust to new circumstances."*

On a recent visit to the *MSANO* campus, SABIS® President, Carl Bistany, and Udo Schulz, Vice President of Business Development, toured the school and talked with students and staff. *"SABIS® is committed to helping MSANO and its students not only regain the success they experienced prior to the hurricane, but to eclipse it,"* affirmed Bistany.



Mr. Udo Schulz, Ms. Janice Watson, and Mr. Carl Bistany welcome a group of MSANO students.

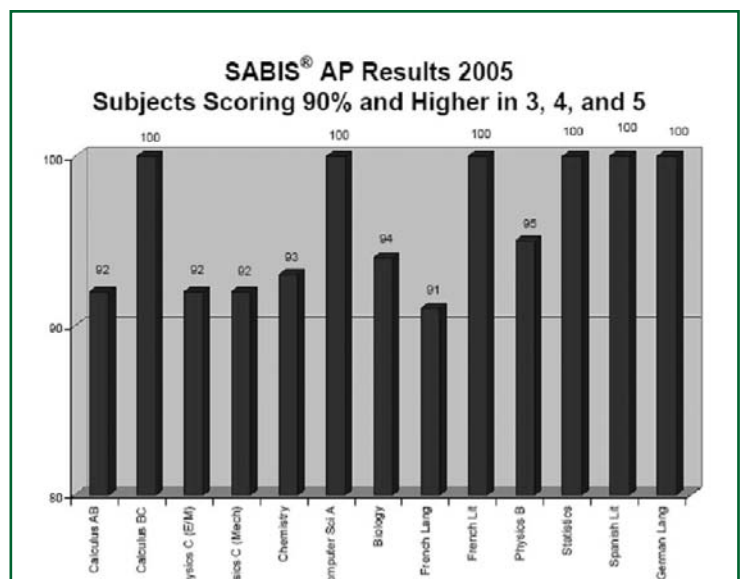
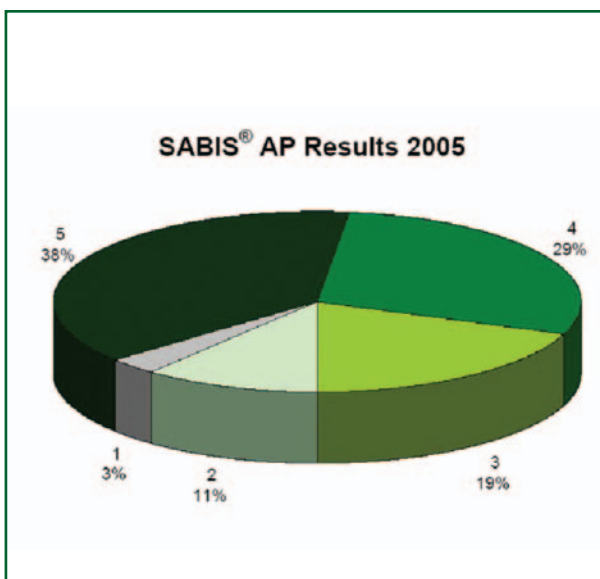
For more information about *MSANO*, please visit www.msano.sabis.net.

Academic Achievements

SABIS® Students Improve on AP Performance



Close to 500 SABIS® students worldwide took the American College Board Advanced Placement exams in the spring of 2005. Aiming to improve on a 2004 performance rate of 83% of 3, 4, or 5, the top scores possible, these students achieved their goal by earning 86% of 3-5. Ranging from Grade 9 through Grade 12 and attending SABIS® schools where a non-selective admissions policy is followed, the 2005 AP examinees showed not only their ability, but also their potential.



Offering exams in up to eighteen subjects, SABIS® schools helped their students realize this potential. In thirteen of the subjects examined, 90% or more students scored a 3, 4, or 5. These top-performing subjects include Biology, Calculus AB and BC, Chemistry, Computer Science A, French Language, French Literature, German Language, Physics B-Electricity and Magnetism, Physics B-Mechanics, Physics C, Spanish Language, and Statistics.

Among other top performing SABIS® schools, *the International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi* in the United Arab Emirates and *the ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main in Frankfurt, Germany*, were among the schools whose students achieved exceptional AP results scoring 94% and 95% of 3-5 respectively.

The International School of Choueifat – Koura in Lebanon was one of the many SABIS® schools where students were recognized as AP® Scholars by the College Board. Ms. Eileen Lyons, Director at *ISC-Koura*, attributes the students' success to a combination of factors: "the systematic, focused, student-centered academic preparation provided by SABIS®, the dedication and commitment of staff members, both in regular classrooms and in additional tutoring sessions, and, finally, the talented and disciplined approach of our senior students."

Elsewhere in the SABIS® School Network, school directors praised the SABIS® system and their students' results: "Our students are eager to take AP courses," reported Maretta Thomsen, Director at *the SABIS® International Charter School in Springfield, Massachusetts*. "The challenging coursework along with the work ethic taught and promoted through SABIS® helps give our graduates an edge in college and beyond." At *the International School of Minnesota*, where students take APs in eighteen different subjects, the benefits are echoed. "Through solid performance on the APs, one of our 2005 graduates currently attending the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania earned credit for a half of a year's course load. This equates to a savings of approximately \$14,000," reported *ISM* Director Sue Berg.

Speaking to a gathering of assembled SABIS® Directors in the United States, Mr. Carl Bistany, SABIS® President, shared the network-wide results. "The improvement in AP performance throughout the SABIS® School Network is tangible evidence that we are all seeking to fulfill one of our core values - continually improving and never becoming complacent. The entire network can be proud of these results. Now, let us make them even better in 2006."

For more information about SABIS®, please visit www.sabis.net.

Academic Achievements



SABIS® Delivers Speech at Education Conference at Harvard University

Participating in a conference co-sponsored by *the Program on Education Policy and Governance and the World Bank*, Mr. Carl Bistany joined education leaders from around the world at *the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University* on October 5-6, 2005. The conference, "Mobilizing the Private Sector for Public Education", provided a venue for the exchange of valuable ideas, discussion, and analysis.

Mr. Bistany presented to an assembled group of international experts in the fields of economics and education. His speech began with an outline of SABIS® views on a combined partnership to enhance education. "Enhancing public education needs the involvement of the private sector," Mr. Bistany began. "Education should," he continued, "prepare students to be functional and productive in the world they live in and to provide them with the tools that allow them to keep pace with change while at the same time remaining functional and productive throughout their lives...A challenge of this size and nature, however, is too great a task for any single sector to tackle alone. Pooling the efforts of government, business and industry, and education providers creates an effective and efficient vehicle to address this issue."

Drawing on SABIS® experience in managing US charter schools, Mr. Bistany proceeded to illustrate the existence of barriers faced by the private sector. "The decision to involve the private sector in education is oftentimes half-hearted and lacks the true spirit of partnership. Charter school laws put the private education provider at a disadvantage and are fraught with rules and regulations that impede optimum performance and discourage participation."

In concluding his address, Mr. Bistany reiterated SABIS®'s belief in the strength and power of combined efforts from the government, business and industry, and education providers. "The first step is to establish a true partnership in which all partners view education as one of the most important industries of our time and afford it the necessary support and attention."

Testimonial

“ My child is in her eighth year at *ISM*. *ISM*'s excellent teachers have always been there for my child and are easy to work with in resolving various academic situations. We feel that our daughter is getting an excellent education and has had the opportunity to help other students who may need peer tutoring...There is a definite support system in place that serves other students in need of help. Our daughter is enrolled at *ISM* because of its strong academic program. ”

Parent of an *ISM* student, MN, US

Announcement

5th Annual SABIS[®] Regional Tournament, UAE 2005



Following the success of the regional tournaments of the previous four years, the 5th Annual SABIS[®] Regional Tournament is planned from March 30th through April 2nd, 2006. The SABIS[®] schools that will participate in the 2006 tournament include *ISC-Lebanon*, *ISC-Koura*, *ISC-Amman*, *ISC-Damascus*, *ISC-Homs*, *ISC-Doha*, *MES-Muscat*, *ISC-Cairo*, *ISC-6th October*, *ISC-Lahore*, *SIS-Adma*, in addition to local and international schools in the UAE. Sports for the tournament will include basketball, soccer, swimming, and sprint.

For further information, please contact regional-support@sabis.net.

SABIS[®] US Directors' Meeting

6th Annual SABIS[®] US Directors' Meeting



Directors from SABIS[®] US schools gathered November 17-19, 2005 for the 6th Annual US Directors' Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Joined by SABIS[®] corporate staff, the group engaged in three days of meetings and workshops. Topics covered included academics, student management, human resources, and special education. The group also participated in a one-day training workshop: 'Communicating and Listening' and 'Interaction Management Essentials' conducted by *Development Dimensions International, Inc.*

SABIS[®] SLO[™] News

ISF Senior Students Direct the Crucible

The empowering and enduring nature of Student Life was recently demonstrated at *the ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main* where a student-led drama production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* took to the stage. The *ISF* Players, a drama group founded by *ISF* 2005 graduate, James Murray, continued the tradition of independently producing, directing, and acting in an annual play.



The Crucible, Miller's dark, disturbing drama about the 1692 Salem witch trials was brought to life by Hazel Ward and Fraser Bowers, secondary school students at *ISF*, who directed the twenty-one member cast from grades 6 – 12 plus student stage crew, makeup, music, and technical support.

Fraser Bowers, an *ISF* ninth grader, decided to continue the tradition of student-led drama performances and worked over the summer to prepare *The Crucible* for presentation. Hazel Ward, a Grade 13 student currently preparing for her A-Levels, began putting together scripts, organizing rehearsals, costumes, props, and scenery. *"Sometimes the rehearsals were chaotic with students as young as Grade 6, but it was challenging and everyone seemed to have fun."*

The student leadership team was completed by James Murray, currently a freshman at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, USA with a quadruple major in English, Economics, Political Science and Drama. Murray returned from the US to produce the drama and to star in its lead role.

Students organized all aspects of the performance from rehearsals two to three times per week starting in October to coordinating use of the stage with the Exam Office. Parents gave constructive criticism, and helped by sewing costumes and finding necessary props. Since many of the students were acting for the first time, Bowers and Ward used improvised acting games as warm-ups before moving on to rehearsal of the long, difficult lines of the play. The *ISF* students even covered their costs and made a small profit which will be used for the next *ISF* Players performance.

ISF Student Life Coordinator, Stephan Michaud, who watched this endeavor take shape, was pleased to see the enthusiastic student and public reception of the project. *"We always say that Student Life gives the students the skills to succeed in college. The reality is that these students are learning more life skills in high school than many do in an entire lifetime."*

For more information on *ISF*, please visit www.isf-net.de.

SICS Senior Student Applies for the Congressional Page Program

In early December 2005, Ms. Mary Jo Pham, a junior at *the SABIS® International Charter School in Springfield, Massachusetts*, was appointed as a *Democratic Congressional House Page for the United States House of Representatives*. The Congressional page program is an on-the-job program that exposes high school juniors to the inner workings of the U.S. Congress. The program began in 1829 when Senator Daniel Webster appointed the first Senatorial page. The first House pages began their service in 1842.



"I'm very excited and completely honored at the prospect of living, working, and studying in the heart of America's democracy. My appointment as a page is a definite milestone and I am very grateful to everyone, especially SABIS®, for encouraging me and supporting my ambitions," said Ms. Pham. She is sponsored by the Honorable Richard E. Neal of Massachusetts' Second Congressional District and is one out of twenty-four Democratic Congressional pages from across the United States. The page program has a total of seventy-two pages with forty-two pages sponsored by the majority party and twenty-four pages sponsored by the minority party.

The page work schedule changes daily but maintains a challenging line of work. *"It will be an unforgettable experience. Page work varies and ranges from answering telephones to delivering messages to assisting some of the greatest orators of our time,"* Ms. Pham stated. Pages live on Capitol Hill and attend school in *the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress*. The U.S. House Page School begins promptly at 6:45 AM, prior to the convening of the House. Twice a month, pages attend special Saturday classes designed to provide hands-on learning experiences around Washington, D.C.

Ms. Pham will be in Washington, D.C. from the end of January 2006 until the beginning of June 2006.

For further information, please visit <http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/98-758.pdf>.



SABIS® International School – South Phoenix, Arizona



In September of 2001, *the SABIS® International School – South Phoenix (SIS)*, located in Arizona, opened its doors to students in Kindergarten through Grade 6. In a newly constructed building, approximately 200 students were proud to be counted among the first *SIS* students. Today, *SIS'* student population has grown to approximately 680 students in grades K-12. The campus includes a nearly 70,000 square foot school that houses a library, an indoor gymnasium, a computer lab, and music and art rooms. A soccer field and a running track provide a venue for students to engage in a variety of sports activities which are tailored to meet individual and group needs.

Academics

Working to help all students achieve their full potential, the staff and students of *SIS* are very proud of the recent designation of "Performing Plus School", by the Arizona Department of Education. *SIS* students made remarkable improvement in the overall results of a series of math, reading and writing assessments during the 2004-2005 school year. As a member of the SABIS® School Network, *SIS* continues to strive for academic excellence as it embraces the SABIS® Academic Monitoring System™. The SABIS® AMS™ tests quickly identify student learning gaps so that the gaps can be immediately addressed through interventions such as intensive classes and tutoring.

On the verge of graduating its first senior class in the 2005-2006 academic year, *SIS* has been busy introducing its 11th and 12th graders to the college experience. Students from both grades participated in the first annual "Great SABIS® College Tour", an opportunity for students to experience life on a college campus by meeting with admissions advisors, touring residential halls, and dining in the student unions. *SIS* students also received information relative to financial aid as well as curriculum requirements necessary for their specific majors. This trip represented one aspect of the SABIS® mission – to see every graduate attend the college or university of their choice.

In keeping with the SABIS®' core value of continually seeking improvement, *SIS* is currently in the process of fine-tuning its presentation to a visiting team from *the Commission on Intercontinental and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA)*. CITA accreditation provides a powerful tool to help students gain acceptance to top colleges and universities, not only in the United States, but throughout in the world.

SABIS® Student Life Organization™

Giving *SIS* students the opportunity to develop and practice life skills, the SABIS® Student Life Organization™ at *SIS* has been active in the 2005-2006 school year. Led by a dedicated group of prefects, Student Life has been visible at events from the start of the year. Students escorted guests attending the annual "Curriculum Night" and also served dinner at the evening event. Through the *Student Life Outreach department*, *SIS* students have been active in contributing to their community and to others in need. *SIS* students encouraged the school community to donate money to support *the Hurricane Katrina* victims. They are also actively involved in collecting non-perishable food items for *the St. Mary's Holiday Food Drive*.



Through Student Life, **SIS** students have truly realized the fact that they play an important role in shaping their school experience. To complement first term activities, students at **SIS** are currently working on planning a variety of activities for the remainder of the year, including an extravagant Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony. In order for the eighth grade students to realize this event, they have held several successful fundraisers. During one sunny Arizona afternoon, the students organized a carwash that helped raise money.

Participating in an essay contest emphasizing the importance of volunteering in the community, **SIS** students won special tickets to a Green Day concert at the America West Arena. In addition to writing the essays, **SIS** students pledged to perform at least ten hours of community service by the end of academic year. The students had a wonderful time at the concert and are looking forward to making a difference in the community.

Sports

SABIS® International School in South Phoenix sports team started the 2005-2006 athletic year with a bang. The coed junior high flag football team and high school girls' volleyball team entertained both the student body and staff during Term I with a string of exciting games. Although neither team was able to bring home the championship, both teams played with an enormous amount of heart and represented the school with a great deal of pride and good sportsmanship. The flag football team finished their twelve-game regular season undefeated, with a heartbreaking loss in the semi-finals. The volleyball team finished with a record of 6-2, also losing a close one in the semi-finals.



Term II at **SIS** marks the beginning of the 2005-2006 basketball season. The coaches have ensured a promising playoff run this year. With the amount of athletic talent on the campus, it will certainly be an exhilarating season.



SIS students took on their teachers in the annual "Turkey Bowl", a match-up that finished unsurprisingly with another win for the school staff. Students from the Junior High Flag Football team, as well as from the high school, competed against the seasoned staff in a contest that had everyone bonding on the Gladiator gridiron.

As a member of the **SABIS®** School Network, **SIS** is committed to providing its students with a high-quality education for a changing world.

For more information on **SIS**, please visit www.sis-sabis.net.

Testimonial

“ I hope that *ISC-AD* grows more with all the success possible. When I graduate from university, I will apply to work at Choueifat. Wherever I go, I am respected for being a graduate of *ISC-AD*...Every student at the school needs to know that what you offer them is for their benefit...You are the best school. ”

An *ISC-AD* Student, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Alumnus in the Spotlight

ISC-Cairo



The true measure of a school comes in its ability to add lasting value to each student enrolled. Dania Sarhan exemplifies this enduring added value. Currently, the SABIS® Student Life Coordinator at *the International School of Choueifat, Al-Ain*, Ms. Sarhan was a student at *the International School of Choueifat in Cairo*. She joined *ISC-Cairo* in Grade 7 in 1995, the same year *ISC-Cairo* opened and graduated in June 2001.

Ms. Sarhan was an excellent student at *ISC-Cairo*. She was very involved in the SABIS® Student Life Organisation™ and on two separate occasions, 1997 and 2000, was offered twice a scholarship to spend a month at summer school in *ISC-Bath*, as a prefect.

When Ms. Sarhan graduated from the school in Cairo, she joined *the American University of Cairo* to study mass communication, with a minor in psychology. She graduated after having secured a place on the Dean's Honors List.

After graduation, Ms. Sarhan decided to join *ISC-Al-Ain* as the SABIS® Student Life Coordinator. Her experience as a student of *the International School of Choueifat* was very valuable to her, allowing her to "empathize with the students and to understand their problems and points of view". It also gave her insight into how to turn the students around and convince them that by taking up responsibilities within the school they could actually help themselves and their peers.

Dania has helped turn the SABIS® Student Life Organisation™ in Al-Ain into a success. She fully exploited her problem-solving skills, became a role-model for others, and contributed to the improvement of the education and lives of fellow peers and students. "Students have become more responsible, help each other academically, control disruptive behavior, provide services for students, and organize many clubs and activities".

SABIS® is an educational organization that manages K-12 co-educational schools worldwide. Today, the network comprises thirty-one schools spanning across four continents. Since the first school was founded in 1886, thousands of graduates have joined top universities in North America, Europe, Australia & the Middle East.



MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

The International School of Choueifat - **Choueifat, Lebanon** | The International School of Choueifat - **Sharjah, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Abu Dhabi, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Al Ain, UAE** | The International School of Minnesota - **Minneapolis, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Ras Al Khaimah, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Lahore, Pakistan** | The International School of Choueifat - **Dubai, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Umm Al Quwain, UAE** | The SABIS® International Charter School - **Springfield, Massachusetts, USA** | ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt - **Rhein-Main, Germany** | The International School of Choueifat - **Cairo, Egypt** | The International School of Choueifat - **Koura, Lebanon** | The International School of Choueifat - **Amman, Jordan** | The International Academy of Flint - **Michigan, USA** | King Abdul Aziz International School - **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Associate Member)** | The International School of Choueifat - **Doha, Qatar** | The International School of Choueifat - **Damascus, Syria** | The SABIS® International School - **South Phoenix, Arizona, USA** | Modern Education School - **Muscat, Oman** | Ruwais Private School - **Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | The International Charter School of Schenectady - **New York, USA** | Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans - **New Orleans, Louisiana, USA** | Internationale Schule am Rhein - **Neuss, Germany** | The International School of Choueifat - **Dreamland - City of 6 October Branch, Egypt** | International College Preparatory Academy - **Ohio, USA** | The SABIS® Pre-School - **Somerville, Massachusetts, USA** | Holyoke Community Charter School - **Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Homs, Syria** | SABIS® International School - **Adma, Lebanon** | Air Force Secondary School - **Al Ain, UAE**