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## Highlight of the Issue

### 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 marked the official celebration of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first school in the SABIS® School Network. *The International School of Choueifat Alumni Association* hosted a gala dinner at the Pavilion Royal, Biel, in Beirut, Lebanon and over 600 guests attended the evening's celebration.

Joining the host of *ISC alumni* and their guests in attendance were HE The Prime Minister of Lebanon and Mrs. Fouad Seniora, their excellencies Mr. and Mrs. Khalid Kabbani, Mr. and Mrs. Muhammad Safadi, Mr. and Mrs. Fouad El Saad, Mr. and Mrs.

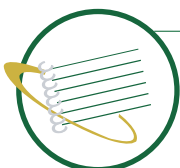


*The Alumni Board with HE the Prime Minister and Mrs. F. Seniora*

Sebouh Hofnanan as well as several members of parliament and prominent personalities from all walks of life. More than fifty directors from SABIS® schools around the world also took part in the celebrations.

Dr. Samir Alam, President of the *ISC Alumni Association*, opened the evening's program and shared a special message with alumni, the SABIS® Board, and guests. Dr. Alam reminisced about his school days, and stressed the impact they had on his life. Addressing the Directors, Dr. Alam said: "*On behalf of generations of graduates of the school where the saga of men and ideas started, we welcome you and salute you for being part of this legacy. Your worldwide network has managed to overcome cultural barriers and transcend ethnicities...The ability to innovate and teach in places as different as Lahore, Dubai, Frankfurt, Springfield, and Lebanon speaks for the passion, determination, courage, and vision that underpin this legacy.*" He then invited Mrs. Saad to take the podium.

*Now available online*



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*The Directors surrounding their excellencies the Prime Minister Mr. F. Seniora and the Minister of Education Mr. K. Kabbani*

*"I have been a part of this institution for more than half of its 120 years and I can say with certainty that the three most important factors that have led to its success are the passion and dedication of those who served, the principles of morality and integrity on which decisions and actions are based, and the constant effort to improve..." Mrs. Saad paid tribute to the founders and those who shaped the organization - Tanios Saad, Louisa Procter and Charles Saad, "whose spirit and legacy are forever with us" and Ralph Bistany, "whose 50 years of unparalleled passion and dedication is an inspiration to all those who work with him."*

The evening's program culminated as the Alumni Board presented Mrs. Saad and Mr. Bistany with a silver plaque in recognition of their long service. The music, singing, and dancing that followed reflected the atmosphere of conviviality that dominated the evening.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting



The 2005-2006 academic year marked an important milestone for the SABIS® School Network as it commemorated the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first school in the network. As a complement to the year of celebrations, the history and enchanting charm of Lebanon set the scene for the tenth Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting from July 6-12<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Directors from forty-one schools, along with key regional administrators and the SABIS® management, gathered to reinforce the SABIS® mission and goals for the 2006-2007 academic year. The week-long meetings gave attendees an overview of important issues such as human capital, talent development and management, academic challenges, the SABIS® School Management System, and others. The meeting also gave attendees the opportunity to look to the year ahead.



Famous Lebanese sites in and around Beirut impressed the attendees who enjoyed opportunities to sightsee and experience the Lebanese culture.

For further information on SABIS®, please visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## Commencement Ceremonies



SABIS® *International School - South Phoenix, AZ* held its first graduation in May 2006 and celebrated three seniors, Mervin Brown, Troy Timmons, and Anthony Gammage, who made *SIS* history as the school's first graduates.

In his commencement address, Mr. C. Bistany, SABIS® President, congratulated the seniors on behalf of the entire SABIS® School Network and wished them continued success in the new chapter of their lives. *"Within the SABIS® structure, SIS provided you with a sheltered, structured environment in which to acquire and practice life skills - problem-solving, teamwork, true leadership.*

*Be confident in knowing that you have developed the necessary skills to reach even greater personal heights."*

Each of the three graduates addressed the auditorium filled with guests including Mr. G. Saad, SABIS® VP of Academic Operations in the US, Dr. R. Kassem, SABIS® Regional AQC, and Dr. Randy Sinisi, Associate Executive Director of *the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA)*. The graduates thanked family, friends, teachers, and administrators for their experiences at *SIS* and encouraged their classmates to excel in school. Mervin Brown, Student Life Head Prefect, shared the following advice: *"I have a message to all those who follow behind me -*

Take advantage of the SABIS® education. You have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity here. Make the most of it."

For further information on *SIS*, please visit [www.sis-sabis.net](http://www.sis-sabis.net).

In the presence of proud parents and a distinguished audience, the 2006 graduates of *the International School of Choueifat, Choueifat* received their diplomas in a special celebration that marked the 120<sup>th</sup> year of the school's operation. The school director Mr. G. Abdul Baki addressed the graduates and congratulated them on behalf of SABIS®.



Rawan Wadaa spoke on behalf of the graduates and she said "We came to this school as children in tears, carrying our lunch boxes...we leave also in tears, carrying a different package: an outstanding education, the ethics and morals of constructive members of society, the ability to work in teams...we learned to stand for whatever is right no matter how hard it may be."

The guest speaker, Dr. S. Alam, President of the *International School of Choueifat Alumni Association*, reminded everyone of the solid academic and moral foundations laid down by the late Charles Saad and how these foundations have benefited students throughout the years. The program was concluded with a word from Mrs. L. Saad, SABIS® chairperson, who stressed the importance of constant updating of knowledge and perseverance as a way to success.

For further information on *ISC-Choueifat*, please visit [www.isc-lebanon.com](http://www.isc-lebanon.com).



*ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main* celebrated the graduation of eighteen seniors on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. In a creative speech addressed to their fellow classmates, graduates Linda Zhang and Benjamin Reinke, used a live marionette to illustrate the importance of the four strings needed to enable each graduate to move confidently and securely through life - challenge, family, friends and education. "We students now feel ready to be successful in the play we chose for our lives because we have the ability to be the directors of our own strings."

Following the graduation, a formal dinner was held at Schloss Höchst for students, teachers, families, and guests.

For further information on *ISF*, please visit [www.isf-net.de](http://www.isf-net.de).

There were twenty-two students in the Class of 2006 at *the International School of Minnesota's* sixteenth annual graduating class. Dr. Peter Negroni, Senior Vice President for *the College Board* and prolific author, delivered the commencement address and encouraged all the graduates to "continue to work hard, to stay true to their roots, to immerse themselves in their communities, and to strive to maximize their talents."



The 2006 graduates reflected the entire gamut of experience at *ISM* with four of the twenty-two graduates starting at *ISM* in kindergarten or pre-kindergarten and one graduate who joined *ISM* for only her senior year. Many of the others entered at the beginning of middle, or high school, taking full advantage of the high school's focus on rigorous scholastic preparation for success in college and beyond.



All of the 2006 graduates have chosen to matriculate at four-year colleges and universities. Ten of the twenty-two graduates have chosen schools in Minnesota; two will enter the Ivy League schools of Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. The remaining graduates will enter a variety of colleges and universities across the US and Canada.

For further information on *ISM*, please visit [www.ism-sabis.net](http://www.ism-sabis.net).

It has long been the custom at *the International School of Choueifat - Sharjah* for the graduating class to plant a tree to serve as a tangible reminder of the class in years to come. The graduating class of *ISC-Sharjah* planted a tree on the campus. This memorable event was attended by staff, parents, faculty, and seniors. The Director, Mr. S. Cooney, shared his thoughts and vision for the graduating seniors and honored their accomplishments. He reminded graduates of the value-added education that will not only remain with them but will also grow over the years. He also wished them continued success.



For further information on *ISC-Sharjah*, please visit [www.iscshj-sabis.net](http://www.iscshj-sabis.net).

## CITA Award Presented to SABIS®



The dedication of SABIS® employees in forty-one schools around the world was recently recognized by the *Commission on International and Transregional Accreditation (CITA)* at their Biennial Conference in Washington D.C. At the conference, which was attended by US and international educators, SABIS® was presented with an award in honor of its efforts in *'Transforming the Quality of Education Worldwide'*.



From left to right: Dr. D. Petry, Dr. F. Laird Evans, Mr. U. Schulz, and Dr. R. Sinisi

Accepting the award, Mr. Udo Schulz, VP of Business Development stated: "For the past 120 years, SABIS® has been working to advance the quality of education around the world. This award is a reflection of the dedication of the 3,500 people in our network to the education of each of our 33,000 students. On behalf of Carl Bistany, I would like to thank you for this award and reconfirm SABIS®'s continued commitment to the betterment of education worldwide."

CITA, an organization that brings together educators from around the world and promotes school quality standards, has accredited SABIS® schools in the US, Europe, and the Middle East.

For further information on SABIS® or CITA, please visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net) or [www.citaschools.org](http://www.citaschools.org).

## Major Expansion in the SABIS® School Network



Ten new schools joined the SABIS® School Network in the 2006-07 academic year and will increase the network to 41 schools in 14 countries.

*The International School of Choueifat - Erbil*, Kurdistan in Iraq is the result of a public-private partnership initiated by the Ministry of Education, who formed a private company and contracted with SABIS® for the operation of the school.

In an innovative public-private education project, SABIS® will manage *six kindergarten and primary schools in the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, UAE*. This joint educational venture will make a positive contribution to the future of public education and will reinforce SABIS®'s position as an organization dedicated to the educational development in the region.

*The International School of Choueifat - Manama* in the Kingdom of Bahrain is a non-selective, co-educational school which has opened for KG-Grade 8 students on September 3, 2006. It will promote effective teaching, student participation, and encourage students to perform to the best of their abilities.

In addition to the schools which will join the SABIS® School Network in 2006-07, plans are well underway for expansion in the 2007-08 year. In September 2007, *the Shanghai United International School - Min Hang* in China will cater for Chinese and international students in grades 6-12. The school is the result of a joint venture between SABIS® and the Xiehe Education Group. The school will provide all students with a high-quality education allowing them access to universities worldwide.

All these schools will provide a high-quality, college-preparatory education for all students, based on the SABIS® Educational System.

## Summer Camp for AFSS Students at SIS-UK



Students of *the Air Force Secondary School*, the 31<sup>st</sup> member school in the SABIS® School Network, recently capped off the 2005-06 academic year with a summer session at *SABIS® International School - UK (SIS-UK)* in Bath, England.



*SIS-UK* is set on 148 acres in the heart of the beautiful Wiltshire countryside and was the perfect location for the students to absorb themselves in academic studies. The academic program included an emphasis on developing English skills such as oral fluency in reading and expressing ideas in formal compositions, and mathematical skills, such as the essential concepts of abstract reasoning and problem-solving.

The non-academic program included outdoor activities, leadership training, and culturally enriching trips. They visited the sights of the London Eye, stood face to face with their heroes at Madame Tussauds, and explored British history through trips to Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

This summer camp was a rewarding academic and cultural experience for the *AFSS* students.

## Testimonial

“ Our experience with the International School of Choueifat - Dubai has been very good. We would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the staff, teachers, and all the members of the school for their commitment and devotion shown towards the grooming of our daughter.”

“We take this opportunity to thank you for molding our daughter's character and developing a strong and keen academic interest in her. ”

**Parents of ISC-Dubai students, Dubai, UAE**

## SABIS® Partners with ExecuTRACK



SABIS® has taken their commitment to developing talent throughout their expanding global network to an entirely new level with the recent decision to partner with ExecuTRACK Solutions. After more than a year of research, SABIS® selected ExecuTRACK Solutions to meet its Human Capital Management needs. ExecuTRACK is a global market leader for strategic talent management software, with a prestigious list of clients including: Pearson PLC, DHL, UCLA, The New York Times Company, Movenpick Hotels & Resorts, Rolls-Royce, Dupont, Porsche, VW, Audi, Novartis, Hoffman La Roche, and more.

ExecuTRACK's system will be implemented throughout the worldwide SABIS® School Network as the “SABIS® Talent” system. SABIS® Talent will provide corporate and school management and staff with online access to up-to-date employee information and will help manage the development and careers of employees throughout the network. At a later stage, other functionality will be implemented to help manage Training & Development and Performance Management.

SABIS® is proud to have taken this step forward, investing in the development of their employees as the organization's greatest asset. With an eventual network-wide release planned, SABIS® is currently preparing to launch a phased pilot implementation in a select sampling of corporate offices and schools within the network.



### International Academy of Flint - Michigan

*The International Academy of Flint (IAF)* became a member of the SABIS® School Network when it opened its doors in August 1999 to 602 students in kindergarten through Grade 8. Later, *IAF* moved into a remodelled school building on South Saginaw Street and experienced a revitalized interest from local families.

*IAF* is now a full K-12 school serving 901 students in AY 2006-07. *The Academy* is viewed as more than a typical school and parents throughout the community are eager for their children to attend the school which is known for its high academic standards as well as its ongoing contributions to community improvement.



#### Academics

*The International Academy of Flint* students benefit from a rigorous college-preparatory environment based on the SABIS® curriculum, an interactive and dynamic curriculum which provides a well-rounded education based on the mastery of English, mathematics, sciences, and world languages.

In the fall of 2005, *IAF* students in grades 3-8 completed their state level examination - or *MEAP Michigan Educational Assessment Program - Exam*. *IAF* students outperformed the local district in all grades and subjects tested. They also surpassed the state average in grades 3, 4, 6, and 8 in English Language Arts and Social Studies.

*IAF* students also take *the Performance Series Test - PST*. Students in grades 3-12 take this computerized, criterion-referenced test which measures reading and math growth over the course of one academic year. Recent results showed that *IAF* students outperformed Central Michigan University's average charter school yearly growth in all grades, in both subjects. The *IAF* students' growth rate also exceeded the national average for all grades tested in both reading and math.



#### SABIS® Student Life Organization™

The SABIS® Student Life Organization™ is the driving force at *IAF* whether it is athletics, academics, or clubs and activities. All students are encouraged to join this mini-society and to take an active part in their education, both at the academic and the non-academic levels. Working in cooperation with and complementing the efforts of the administrative and academic staff, prefects are valuable assets to the school. The activities of the SABIS® SLO™ bring major advantages. Students learn to become responsible and caring citizens.

On the academic front, the SLO has taken a lead role in automatically helping all the students who need academic support in order to ensure their success and the success of *IAF*. Moreover, the SLO has created a culture of achievement that was unheard of and promoted the **"It's cool to be smart"** theme throughout the school.

Dances, sports tournaments, and the ever-popular "Friday Night Live", are just a few of the events hosted by the SABIS® SLO™ at *IAF*. Friday Night Live provides students an opportunity to play sports, dance, play video games, and utilize the computer lab.

The SABIS® SLO™ at *IAF* also plays an active role in discipline and the improvement of behavior in the school, through the establishment of a formal mentoring program for the lower school and a similar, although less formal, program for the upper school. Furthermore, study groups examine various theories of leadership and youth development.

#### Sports

The athletic program at *the International Academy of Flint* is growing by leaps and bounds. *IAF* is part of *the Michigan High School Athletic Association* and competes in basketball, cross country, and track and field. Activities are also offered in wrestling, spirit team (cheerleading), and baseball.

In only three years of varsity competition, *IAF* has established itself in both girls' and boys' basketball competition. Both varsity teams made it to the *MHSAA District championship game* in 2005-2006.

Despite being one of the smaller high schools in the state, *IAF* teams regularly compete against schools up to twelve times its size. *IAF* plans to continue strengthening its basketball program as teams are fielded on many levels: varsity, junior varsity, junior high, and elementary.

### Law Day 2006

Each year, the Genesee County Mock Trial Law Day, sponsored by *the Genesee County Bar Association*, is celebrated with mock trial competition between county high schools. This event begins with the presentation of a case by the Bar Association. The facts of the case are sent to participating area high schools, who select a team of students to perform as attorneys, witnesses, and jury members. In preparing for the Law Day, students also work together with a member of *the Genesee County Bar Association*.

On Law Day 2006, *IAF* won their mock case for the second year in a row. "This is a great event that *IAF* plans to continue in the future to experience real-life work and responsibilities," commented *IAF* Director, Mrs. T. Cormier. "This is another event that helps our students acquire and refine the skills, attitudes, and attributes that give them an edge in the world."

### The Arts

The performing arts are an important part of *IAF*. A favorite event showcasing the arts at *IAF* is the annual talent show for grades K-12. The 2006 show featured twenty-five well-rehearsed and loudly applauded acts which included folk dancing, hip-hop dancing, instrumentals, dance groups, and a variety of solo and group vocal acts.



### Prom

The junior and senior classes of *IAF* celebrated prom in style with a dinner cruise on *the Detroit Princess*. The four-decked ship sailed the Detroit River while beautifully attired staff and students danced the night away. A buffet that included carved roast beef and stuffed salmon as well as delectable and endless trays of petite desserts was enjoyed by all. The enchanted evening ended with all revelers enjoying a beautiful sunset and an all-around wonderful evening.

### Class of 2006

*The International Academy of Flint* celebrated its 3<sup>rd</sup> graduation on June 3, 2006. Fifteen graduates were awarded their high school diploma in front of a crowd of gathered *IAF* staff, friends, and family. Selected by the graduating class as the staff speaker, Mrs. Ulishney delivered a heartfelt, personalized speech to the class before the seniors were presented with their diplomas marking the end of a long journey. "With 100% of our graduates being accepted into college, this ended yet another successful year for *the International Academy of Flint*," commented *IAF* Director, Mrs. T. Cormier.



For further information about *IAF*, please visit [www.iaf-sabis.net](http://www.iaf-sabis.net).

## Testimonial

“ I wanted to thank you for allowing us to have the chance to host the students and the Student Life Coordinator. They were very polite and enjoyable to talk with. Originally, we were concerned about not being able to relate to them or how to entertain them, since our daughters are much younger; however, the girls really enjoyed talking to them and they got more experience in serving others. They are also excited that they now know someone in the upper school...The students are a testament to how great the International School of Minnesota and the SABIS® Educational System are. This experience gave us a chance to interact with students in high school who have been in the SABIS® system and it confirms our belief that SABIS® provides the best education for our daughters. The training they had at the Student Life Camp improved their leadership skills, most often overlooked in traditional education. The training you provided the students truly showed in their interaction with each other and with us. We know all of them will succeed in doing whatever they set out to do. ”

**Mr. & Mrs. Powell-Larson, parents of two ISM students who hosted students from the 2006 Student Life Training Camp, MN, US**

## Alumnus in the Spotlight



### ISC-Abu Dhabi



A 2005 graduate of *the International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi*, Ms. Joanna Abousleiman credits *ISC-AD* for her success and for contributing to enriching her life experiences.

Joanna joined *ISC-Abu Dhabi*, as a fifth grader in the fall of 1997 and graduated in 2005. She is currently finishing her freshman year at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and has many fond memories of the eight years she spent at *ISC-Abu Dhabi*.

*"The people I met and the experiences we shared have been instrumental in getting me where I am today. Studying at ISC-Abu Dhabi allowed me to get to know and work closely with so many fantastic people."*

At *ISC-Abu Dhabi*, Joanna greatly benefited from the wide range of academic courses. She had the chance to explore diverse subject areas, ranging from English literature to business studies and computer science. These learning opportunities created a culture that promoted experimentation and academic risk-taking, two fundamental values Joanna brought with her to Brown University. In addition to this open culture, years of frequent SABIS® Academic Monitoring System™ tests taught her to handle academic pressure and to face her college workload. *"These days, I find myself to be among the least stressed-out people at Brown when exam time comes around."*

One of the pillars of the school's system is the SABIS® Student Life Organization™, which provides an excellent framework for building relationships among students and administrators. During her time at *ISC-Abu Dhabi*, Joanna worked in almost every department of the SABIS® SLO™, *"The SABIS® SLO™ gave me a chance to learn teamwork, organize events, and be involved in various capacities over the course of my education."* Her tasks ranged from being a door prefect to running a craft club for third and fourth graders to teaching. She also taught during lunch breaks, after-school, and Thursday mornings, sometimes teaching classes of twenty-five to thirty students.

Over the years, Joanna moved up the Academic Department hierarchy, and in the twelfth grade she became Assistant Head of the department where she learned the value of teamwork and dedication. According to Joanna, participation in Student Life was enriching on several levels - repeatedly trying to explain difficult concepts, learning to become an effective communicator, teaching large groups, increasing her self-confidence. The SABIS® SLO™ provided opportunities for social and moral growth and empowerment to make a positive difference in education.

Joanna is currently a member of the executive board at the Brown University Arab Club and is involved in *the Brown International Organization*. In the fall of 2006, Joanna is going to be a mentor to incoming international students as well as a mentor in the WiSE (Women in Science and Engineering) program. Joanna is looking forward to her university life and might further her studies in Chemistry and explore subjects outside the sciences, possibly Humanities.

SABIS® is an educational organization that manages K-12 co-educational schools worldwide. Today, the network comprises forty-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** | The International School of Choueifat - **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** | The International School of Choueifat - **Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain** | The International School of Choueifat - **Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq** | SABIS® International School - **Bath, England** |

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