



### In This Issue

#### Headline News

- P1.** 2015 External Exam Results are Here!
- P2.** Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting Equips Attendees for Success
- P2.** SABIS® Set for Expansion Across Africa
- P4.** SABIS® Network Growth Brings Quality Education to More Students in U.S.
- P4.** 9<sup>th</sup> SABIS® Educational Summer Camp Delivers Exciting Summer Adventure

#### Academics

- P5.** SABIS® Book Series Ready for New Academic Year
- P6.** SABIS® Curriculum Adapted for Changes in SAT
- P7.** Integrated Learning System Improves Efficiency

#### IT News

- P7.** SABIS® IT Department Earns ISO 9001:2008 Recertification

#### SLO®

- P7.** Student Life Training Camp Participants Acquire New Skills

#### SPDI

- P8.** SPDI Contributes to Consistency of the SABIS® Educational System

#### SAGA

- P9.** SABIS® Alumni Making a Difference

#### Featured Network Member

- P10.** SABIS® University

#### Alumna in the Spotlight

- P12.** Mary Jo Pham, SABIS® International Charter School, Class of 2007

### Headline News

#### 2015 External Exam Results are Here!



SABIS® Network schools around the globe provide students with a high-quality education that gives them an edge in college and beyond. All network schools implement the SABIS® Educational System, a comprehensive, proprietary program that includes all the tools needed to equip students for success.

The SABIS® philosophy revolves around the firm belief that a university education is academically accessible to most students, rather than only a select few. Given that all schools in the SABIS® Network implement a non-selective admissions policy, realizing this philosophy is no easy feat. In line with this philosophy, SABIS® Network schools around the world prepare each and every student for success on external exams – exams that determine to a large extent their acceptance to colleges and universities in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Year after year, the results are impressive, including the results just released for the 2015 examinations. These results show that students in SABIS® Network schools continue to perform well above global averages.

We are pleased to share with you the results for the American Advanced Placement® (AP®) program and the British Advanced Levels (A Level) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE).

#### Advanced Placement®

Advanced Placement® exams are generally taken by students just before graduating. The exams take place over a two-week period in May of each year and include written, oral, and practical portions which are designed to assess student knowledge and retention of material covered over a period of one to two years of preparation.

In the spring of 2015, 1,053 students in SABIS® Network schools took AP® exams in 29 subjects. A total of 2,763 exams were taken in 23 SABIS® Network schools. Results showed that 83% of the examinations scored the highest marks of 3, 4, or 5, with 5 being the highest mark possible.

### Advanced Level

Like AP® exams, British-based Advanced Level exams, or A Levels, are taken by students who will soon be completing their secondary education. The exams cover a two-year curriculum in a set subject and can include written, oral, and practical portions, with examinations scheduled over a period of one and a half months in the late spring each year.

In 2015, 303 students in SABIS® Network schools took A Level examinations in 11 subjects including Arabic, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, Mathematics, Further Maths, Physics, Psychology, and Travel & Tourism. Results from the 441 exams taken showed that 74% of examinations scored passing marks of A\* through C, with A\* being the highest score. The global average of A\*-C in the same subjects was 61%.

### International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Also a British exam, the International General Certificates of Secondary Education (IGCSEs) are typically taken by students who are completing the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade in SABIS® Network schools. In some subjects such as world languages, IGCSE exams are also taken by students who are much younger. Like the AP® and A Level exams, IGCSEs cover material learned by students over a one to two year period and are taken in the spring of each year.

In the spring 2015 examination session, 1,879 students from 23 SABIS® Network schools took a total of 4,608 IGCSE exams in 30 subjects. Results showed that 90% of the examinations were awarded marks of A\*-C in comparison to a global average of 79% in the same subjects worldwide.

Whether for the American AP® program or the British A Level or IGCSE, SABIS® Network schools around the world ensure that each and every student is equipped for success on external exams, helping to place them squarely on the path to success in college and beyond.

For more information about SABIS®, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net).

## Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting Equips Attendees for Success



*Annual Directors' Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal*

Directors from SABIS® Network schools around the globe gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2015 for the network's annual Directors' Meeting. They were joined by senior SABIS® managers and the SABIS® Board for four days of meetings that served both as a culmination to the 2014-15 academic year and as a springboard for 2015-16.

Organized under the theme of "Equipped for Success," the conference highlighted the myriad of tools available to schools in the network. Opening remarks by Mrs. Leila Saad, a third-generation leader in the company, set the tone for the meeting. "Success is a lifelong journey," she said. "It is a journey using tools that keep changing to ensure success in a changing world. Every year we strive to meet the emerging challenges; we study the tools we have, deleting the obsolete, honing and refining the relevant, and adding new tools. We are charging you as school directors with a great objective, but we are also giving you the tools to equip you for success."

Reinforcing the conference theme were four days of presentations that included an introduction to new and improved IT tools and applications, a session on leveraging the SABIS Student Life Organization® to improve school culture and outcomes, engaging panel discussions, and daily keynote addresses, all geared to motivate and inspire attendees.

The four days of meetings ended on a high note with a keynote address from Dr. Peter Negroni as the special guest speaker. Dr. Negroni, an educator with 50 years of experience, who played a pivotal role in helping SABIS® establish its first charter school in Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S., shared his views on SABIS®.

"SABIS® should revel in the fact that its system is so effective that it can be successfully implemented anywhere in the world under the most difficult of circumstances. And still you are here, working together to make the system even better," he said. "This quest for continuous improvement and development is one of the things that makes SABIS® unique. You never stop wanting to get better and wanting to learn. You are indeed equipped for success."

Conference attendees departed ready for the new school year. "I'm new to the network," said one school director in attendance, "and I am excited to go back to my school and start using all these tools to help ensure that my students achieve success."

The SABIS® Network is comprised of Pre-K/K-12 schools and a university that operate in the public and private sectors in 16 countries on four continents and educate 70,000 students. To keep up-to-date with the latest network news, follow SABIS® Educational Services on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sabis).

## SABIS® Set for Expansion Across Africa

On July 1, 2015, SABIS® signed an agreement with Investbridge Capital (Investbridge) and Centum Investment Limited (Centum) to launch a new company that will invest in the growing education sector in Africa. The tri-partite consortium will be responsible for the acquisition and development of SABIS® Network schools across Africa. The consortium has already identified Kenya as the target country for its first school, with plans to quickly move into the surrounding East African markets of Uganda and Tanzania. Plans also include expansion across Egypt, currently home to two SABIS® Network schools. Long-term plans include expansion across the rest of the African continent.

The decision to move into Africa is largely driven by the growing demand for quality education there. Today, Africa is the second most populous region in the world, with approximately one billion people of which over 40% is under 15 years of age. With a growing middle class and a recognition of the importance of good quality education by African parents, demand for international, well-renowned schools has been rising rapidly.



*Pictured (left to right): James Mzoria, CEO, Centum Investment Company; Mark DeSario, CEO, Investbridge Capital; Carl Bistany, SABIS® President*

“With our innovative proprietary curriculum, cutting-edge IT tools, a non-selective admissions policy, and a long-standing commitment to raise education standards around the world, SABIS® is uniquely positioned to provide top-quality education at scale on the African continent and help all students achieve their full potential,” commented SABIS® President, Mr. Carl Bistany. “We are confident that this partnership with Centum and Investbridge will make a lasting and positive contribution to the communities we serve, just as schools in our network have done in the 16 countries we currently operate in.”

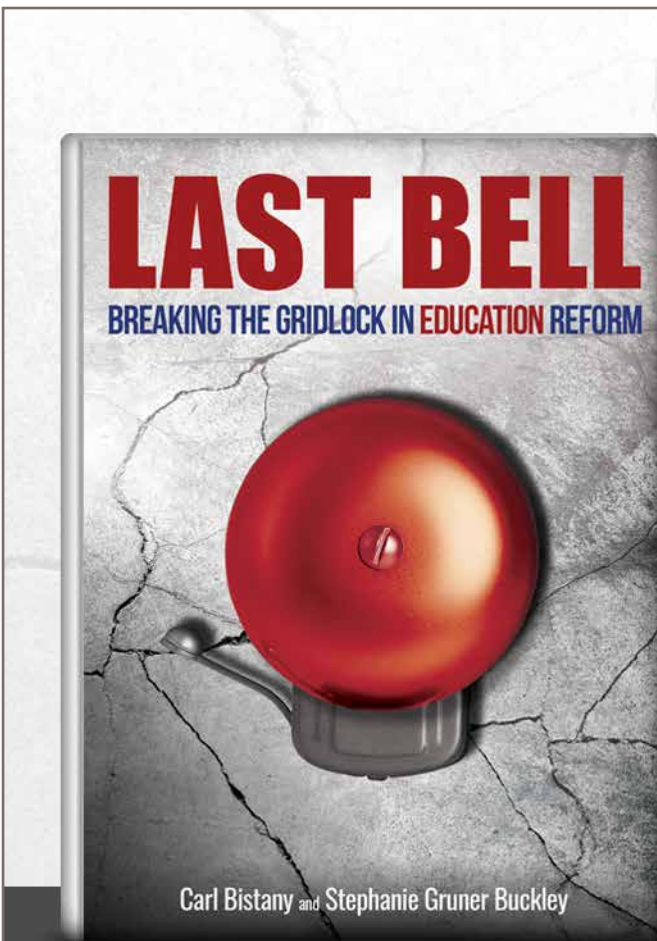
Like SABIS®, Centum and Investbridge are well-established organizations that are committed to making a difference in their communities. Centum Investment Company Limited (centum.co.ke) is East Africa’s largest listed investment company

with its shares listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange and cross-listed on the Uganda Securities Exchange. Investbridge Capital (investbridgecapital.com) is a privately-owned, Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) regulated asset manager and corporate advisory firm with a specialty in sponsoring real estate development and financing in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

To keep up-to-date with new SABIS® Network schools around the world, follow us on Twitter [@SABIS\\_EDUCATION](https://twitter.com/SABIS_EDUCATION).

*“The Board of Trustees at Empowerment Academy Charter School was so impressed by BelovED’s results that they decided to also implement the SABIS® Educational System at Empowerment Academy.”*

– Bret Schundler, former Mayor and Commissioner of Education for Jersey City



**A last bell is sounding for public education in America. It's time to take a free market approach.**

Offering a voice of reason in the increasingly fraught debate over American public education reform, *Last Bell* explains the real motives behind those combating private sector involvement in public schools. The book depicts a future in which the best for-profit companies exist alongside excellent traditional public schools to dramatically boost performance, turn schools into centers of excellence, and give parents a real choice and their children a genuine hope for the future.

*Last Bell* is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)

## SABIS® Network Growth Brings Quality Education to More Students in U.S.

With the opening of a new charter school and higher enrollment in schools across the board, the SABIS® Network in the U.S. is bringing the high-quality SABIS® education to more than 9,000 students in the current academic year. These students are enrolled in 12 charter schools, 2 licensed schools, and 1 private school, all of which are actively supported in their efforts to change the world through education by SABIS® Educational Systems, INC.

Growth in the SABIS® U.S. network comes predominantly through the opening of one new school and the expansion of grade level offerings at another school. The newest school to join the network in the U.S. is the International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School (IAAC) located in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The public charter school opened its doors in September 2015 to 311 students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 and will add one grade each year until it becomes a full K-12 school. Further contributing to the network's size in the U.S. is the addition of a preschool at the International Academy of Flint in Flint, Michigan.



*Rendering of the new Lowell Collegiate Charter School*

The expansion of the facilities at two mature SABIS® Network schools in the U.S. further contributes to the network's growth. The International Academy of Trenton Charter School (IAT), which is currently in its second year of operation, recently finalized the purchase of a new facility that will house its 450 students starting from September 2016, after renovations have been completed. A new facility for the Lowell Collegiate Charter School (LCCS) in Lowell, Massachusetts, rounds out the network's building projects. LCCS students in K-5 are expected to move into a brand new, 66,413 square foot facility in January 2016.

A strong track record of performance has been driving network growth in the U.S. That track record also contributed to securing a number of charter renewals for existing schools. The SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) in Springfield, Massachusetts, the Holyoke Community Charter School (HCCS) in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and the SABIS® International School (SIS) in Phoenix, Arizona, all received charter renewals, which became effective on July 1, 2015. SICS and HCCS each received a five-year renewal, the maximum allowed in the state. SIS-Phoenix had its charter renewed for 20 years, assuring that their students will continue to receive a top-quality education that prepares them to meet the challenges of a changing world for years to come.

Rounding out the U.S. network expansion, Empowerment Academy, located in Jersey City, New Jersey, opened its doors at the start of the 2015-16 academic year. Empowerment Academy joins a growing network of SABIS® licensees in the network.

To be able to service the growing cluster of SABIS® Network schools on the U.S. East Coast, SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. recently established a regional office in Springfield, Massachusetts. This new office, which opened in August 2015, will serve as a geographical center for local corporate staff as well as facilitate the sharing of services and resources in and around the area.

As the network continues to grow in the U.S., SABIS® remains committed to ensuring that each and every school – whether private, charter, or licensed – continues to fully benefit from the proprietary products and services that SABIS® has to offer. “The future is bright for SABIS® charter school growth in the U.S.,” said Jose Afonso, Director of U.S. Business Development. “Charter school authorizers are seeking proven education service providers that are replicable across state borders and sustainable over time, and SABIS® fits the bill perfectly.”

For more information about the SABIS® U.S. Network, visit [sabis.net/educational-systems](http://sabis.net/educational-systems) or follow the latest developments on Twitter [@SABIS\\_US](https://twitter.com/SABIS_US).

## 9<sup>th</sup> SABIS® Educational Summer Camp Delivers Exciting Summer Adventure



*SABIS International School UK in Bath, England*

In July and August 2015, the SABIS International School UK (SIS-UK), a member of the global SABIS® Network located in Bath, England, hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> SABIS® Educational Summer Camp. The SABIS® Educational Summer Camp offers a program that blends academic learning with a wide array of activities and adventures and does so on a stunning campus nestled in the heart of the British countryside.

One hundred and fifty-eight (158) students aged 10 and above from 18 SABIS® Network schools around the world traveled to the U.K. for an exciting summer adventure.

### Tailored Academic Programs

The 2015 SABIS® Educational Summer Camp included two sessions that offered varied academic programs to students in levels H to M (grades 6 to 11). A two-week program, which ran from July 20-31, 2015, focused on preparation for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT I), which assesses students' skills in English and mathematics. A four-week program, which ran from July 20 to August 14, 2015, covered a wide range of subjects including physics, chemistry, biology, economics, English, French, and Arabic, as well as SAT I and II prep in English, mathematics, chemistry, physics, and biology.



*Students engage in educational science experiments*

In both the two and four-week programs, students attended morning sessions that complemented their learning from

the 2014-15 academic year and enabled them to focus on areas of improvement. In addition to being able to learn in a stimulating setting, students benefited from instruction delivered by experienced teachers from SABIS® Network schools who used the SABIS Point System® of instruction and SABIS® books, both with which the students were familiar.



*Summer camp participants visiting Stonehenge*

### Rich Activity Program

In addition to the academic program, the 2015 camp also offered participants a rich activity program that kept them entertained, motivated, and engaged. Campers did it all – from clubs, sports, and barbeques on campus to trips to Stonehenge, Buckingham Palace, Madame Tussauds, Hyde Park, and much more.

As a new activity, interested students had the option to attend the Manchester United Soccer Schools (MUSS) Residential Soccer Camp. Twenty (20) boys and girls, aged 10 to 17, spent six days and nights at Denstone College, where they enjoyed 25 hours of league-quality soccer coaching and a trip to Old Trafford, home to the world-famous Manchester United soccer team. At the end of the program, students were issued an official team uniform and a certificate of participation from the MUSS.



*Campers get active at the Manchester United Soccer School, Old Trafford, England*

### Experiencing Dorm Life

The chance to live away from home and develop independence and responsibility are part of the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp experience. As soon as campers arrive at the school, they are assigned their “home” for the duration of their stay. Boys live in purpose-built dorms on campus, while the girls’ rooms are located in the school’s main historic building. Campers share rooms based on gender and age, an experience that helps build friendships that last long after the summer is over.

For many students, the summer camp is their first experience living away from home. The combination of experiencing their first taste of independence, bonding with fellow campers, participating in new and exciting activities, and discovering a new culture is the perfect recipe for a memorable summer adventure that has a resounding impact on their lives.

*“This experience has strengthened my ability to be independent and it has allowed me to mature in so many ways,”* said Reem Al Nooryani from ISC-Sharjah. Another student, Mohamad Ahmed Ismail from ISC-Manama commented, *“This camp has made me change into a better person and made me experience something I never thought I would ever experience. I made new friends of different nationalities and in the process made a new family. I have become more mature and responsible. We have all become a part of something that we will never forget.”*



*Campers relax in the girls’ dorms*

Students attending SABIS® Network schools can enroll in the annual SABIS® Educational Summer Camp. For more information about SIS-UK, visit [sisuk.sabis.net](http://sisuk.sabis.net) or follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sabisuk).

## Academics

### SABIS® Book Series Ready for New Academic Year



*New titles in the SABIS® Book Series*

The SABIS® Educational System is a comprehensive educational program that consists of a wide variety of tools to ensure that students are equipped for success. Among these tools is the SABIS® Book Series. The proprietary series, which is comprised of over 1,800 titles across all grade levels (preschool through Grade 13) and all subjects, ensures that the learning process is targeted, efficient, and effective. Designed to dovetail with the dynamic SABIS® curriculum, the series is updated and expanded annually by the SABIS® Academic Development Division based on changes in external exam requirements, feedback from teachers and stakeholders, and an internal review of materials.

In preparation for the 2015-16 academic year, 206 titles in the series were revised and 138 new titles were added to the book series in various subjects. In English, numerous anthology titles were updated and writing titles were carefully revised. The content, layout,

learning points, and lesson objectives for writing books in levels E through K (typically grades 2-9) were revamped in order to keep students ahead of the latest writing requirements. In mathematics, the ACE Common Core series for SABIS® Network schools in the U.S. was updated. (Common Core is a series of academic standards which students must fulfill at each grade level in the U.S. for English Language Arts and mathematics.) One of the revisions included the introduction of a completely new style of question in line with the Common Core. Other subject titles that were revised include chemistry, computing, economics, and science.

*“The continuous development of our book series through ongoing alignment and the incorporation of feedback from schools leads to an improved package and stellar results year in and year out,”* said Elie Gemayel, Production Manager in the SABIS® Academic Development Division.

Development of the series extended to books used at SABIS® University in Kurdistan, where a specific focus was the introduction of material for an academic writing course. The new material will help SABIS® University students improve their writing skills by strengthening their understanding and application of grammatical concepts, reinforcing their recognition of poor writing, and enhancing their ability to meet targeted writing objectives.

In all countries where SABIS® Network schools operate and at all levels of education, SABIS® ensures that all students are equipped for success. The latest revisions and additions to the SABIS® Book Series ensure that students benefit from up-to-date course material that prepare them for success.

For more information about the SABIS® Book Series, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net). To stay up-to-date with the latest SABIS® Network news, follow [SABIS\\_EDUCATION](#) on Twitter.



**SABIS® SUN International School**  
Dreamland - Baku, Azerbaijan

The global SABIS® Network welcomes its newest member in **Baku, Azerbaijan**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**  
for the AY 2015-16 for students in Kindergarten through Grade 5

**For more information:**

<b>School Address:</b> Zigh Highway, 22 <sup>nd</sup> km towards H. Aliyev Int'l Airport, Dreamland, Baku, Azerbaijan	<b>Mobile:</b> (+994) 51 990 65 65 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ssisbaku@sabis.net">ssisbaku@sabis.net</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://ssisbaku.sabis.net">ssisbaku.sabis.net</a>
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*Education for a changing world.®*  
Member of the SABIS® Network

## SABIS® Curriculum Adapted for Changes in SAT

SABIS® Network schools have sought to prepare students for successful admission to college or university since the first school in the network was established in 1886. In fact, the firm belief in the accessibility of college for almost all students, not just a select few, forms the core of the SABIS® philosophy. Through the implementation of the SABIS® Educational System, network schools actively provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need to gain admission to and succeed in pursuing university studies.

Keeping up with the academic standards required in colleges and universities is a full-time job and the responsibility of the SABIS® Academic Development Division. The department follows the latest changes and updates the SABIS® curriculum actively to ensure that students in SABIS® Network schools have the academic foundation necessary to gain access to the college/university of their choice. The impending changes to The College Board’s Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), commonly required for college admission in the U.S., are among the most recent developments requiring the department’s attention.

In March 2014, The College Board announced that it would be implementing significant changes to the SAT in order to create a test that could more accurately assess the knowledge and skills students would need for college-level work. The changes, which will go into effect in spring of 2016, include, among other things, a revision of the types of vocabulary words assessed – words more common in college courses would be included in place of more rarefied vocabulary – and a greater focus of math questions on linear equations, functions, and proportional thinking. Additionally, the essay portion of the test, which was introduced in 2005, will be made optional for students and will be based on source documents rather than on topics related to a student’s opinions or experiences.

The SABIS® Academic Development Division has been preparing for the new SAT by integrating skills required for the SAT into the curriculum. New content has been added at all levels including primary, middle, and high school to ensure that students are ready on exam day. Steps have also been taken to reinforce specific skills and content to help student retention.

*“We have been watching the development of the new SAT carefully and integrating the revised content into our curriculum,”* commented Mr. Ghassan Kansou, Vice President of SABIS® Academic Development. *“When the new SAT starts being administered, students in SABIS® Network schools will be ready for it.”*

In addition to acquiring knowledge and skills required for the SAT actively through the SABIS® curriculum, students in many SABIS® Network schools can take dedicated SAT preparation classes. These classes, often organized through the SABIS Student Life Organization®, give students the opportunity to take mock exams and target their preparation based on their own strengths and weaknesses.

SABIS® Network schools are committed to preparing students for successful admission to college or university. Through a rigorous and dynamic curriculum, students in SABIS® Network schools acquire knowledge and skills needed to achieve success in college and beyond.

For more information about the SABIS® Educational System, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net). To keep up-to-date with SABIS® news, follow [SABIS\\_EDUCATION](#) on Twitter.

## Integrated Learning System Improves Efficiency

Schools in the SABIS® Network are known for offering a high-quality education that prepares students to be successful in a changing world. To help ensure that students get the most out of their time in school, SABIS® strives to create an efficient learning environment, specifically through the meaningful use of technology.

SABIS®'s Integrated Learning System™ (ILS) is one of the classroom technology solutions used in schools throughout the network. ILS classrooms operate with tablets in the hands of each student and their teacher. Key components of the lesson – the points to be covered for the day, instructional content, and practice questions – are delivered to students using the device. Students study independently and ultimately complete practice questions directly on their own tablets. All students' responses are transmitted in real time to the teacher's tablet so that the teacher can immediately assess student understanding and learning before deciding whether intervention is needed before moving on to the next point.

The SABIS® ILS has been under development by SABIS® for the past few years and has been implemented in pilot programs in several network schools. "I have taught classes in the traditional way and by using the ILS," commented a teacher in the network. "What impresses me is the flow of information and the way I can use it on the spot to know exactly which students have understood things correctly and which ones need more explanation."

In 2015-16, the SABIS® ILS will be rolled out in full in 17 network schools, five of which piloted the program in previous years.

"We know that technology is key to help increase learning efficiency and outcomes," said Mr. Serge Bakhos, SABIS® Vice President – IT, Book Publishing, and Creative Design, "and we are excited to see the value of ILS realized in more network schools this year."

For more information about SABIS® and how it is using technology to enhance efficiency, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net) and to stay updated on the latest SABIS® news, follow [SABIS\\_EDUCATION](https://twitter.com/SABIS_EDUCATION) on Twitter.

## IT News

### SABIS® IT Department Earns ISO 9001:2008 Recertification

The SABIS® IT Department recently earned its five-year recertification from the International Standard Organization (ISO). The renewal follows the department's initial ISO certification, which was obtained in 2010.

ISO is an independent, non-governmental membership organization that gives world-class specifications for products, services, and systems to ensure quality, safety, and efficiency. ISO international standards are strategic tools that allow systems to be cost effective and achieve increased levels of performance. Quality procedures and processes ensured by the ISO international standard result in top-quality, dependable, up-to-date products.

The SABIS® IT Department develops software and services for all SABIS® Network schools. By following ISO guidelines and quality standards, the department ensures that the process of developing IT tools for SABIS® Network schools around the world is smooth and efficient, ultimately creating products that contribute to enhancing the learning environment for the benefit of students.

Software systems created by the SES IT Department include the SABIS® School Management System (SABIS® SMS), the SABIS® Exam Management System (SABIS® EMS), and SABIS® WebSchool. These systems allow the school to monitor students' progress, manage school operations, and facilitate communication between the school and home.

"The SABIS® IT Department is committed to being leaders in their field and to supply the SABIS® Network with top-quality software, services, and products," said Ms. Rosy Zeidan, Quality Assurance Specialist at SES. This commitment ensures that the organization achieves its objectives of using technology to optimize learning, improve academic results, enhance teacher efficiency, and reinforce communication between the home and the school.

For more information about SABIS®, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net).

## SLO®

### Student Life Training Camp Participants Acquire New Skills

Every year, the SABIS® Student Life Organization® (SLO®) holds a training camp that brings together selected SLO® prefects from SABIS® Network schools around the world. As part of the camp, which is held in a different location each year, students have the chance to develop skills they can use to impact others and learn new skills that will help them take their SLO® and school environment to the next level.



SLTC participants at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece

From July 21 to 30, 2015, 93 students and 27 Student Life Coordinators from 34 SABIS® Network schools gathered in Athens, Greece, for the 2015 Student Life Training Camp (SLTC). Throughout the nine days, camp participants attended interactive lectures that taught them new life skills – such as the power of positive thinking and emotional intelligence – and management skills such as leadership and the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens." Camp participants also engaged in numerous activities and brainstorming sessions aimed at inspiring students to come up with new ideas to improve SLO® in their schools.

"The primary objective [of the camp] is to encourage participants to go back to their schools and teach their fellow students what they learned during the camp. The momentum they gain during the camp creates a snowball of goodwill as students return to their schools, ready to make a difference in their respective communities," explained Mr. Soweid, SABIS® Corporate Director – Student Life and Student Management.

In addition to participating in activities and brainstorming sessions, the SLTC participants had ample time to enjoy the sights and sounds of Greece. They went on cultural heritage trips that included the National Gardens, the Acropolis, and Market Square, as well as cruises to Greek islands.



*SLTC participants enjoy a day out in Athens, Greece*

Perhaps the most popular activity during the 2015 SLTC was the community service component that was incorporated into the agenda. "Greece is currently in the midst of an economic crisis, with many people in need of clothing, shelter, and care," explained Mr. Roger Soweid. "In the spirit of ensuring that our students really learn about social responsibility, we decided to involve them in an activity that would teach them not only how to give back to their schools and communities back home, but also how to make a difference in the world around them."



*SLTC participants interacting with homeless people at CoCoMat*

For the community service activity, the 93 participating students were divided into five groups, each group tasked with a different community service project. Together, the five groups worked with a number of local and international non-profit organizations to touch the lives of those in need. From *The Smile of a Child*, an organization which protects underprivileged children, to *CoCoMat*, an organization that grows healthy, organic food for the homeless, and *Caritas*, an international NGO that works to serve the world's poor, vulnerable, dispossessed, and marginalized, there were numerous opportunities to build relationships and make a difference.

In addition to the Student Life Training Camp in Greece, a tailor-made camp for K-8 SABIS® Network schools in the U.S. was offered. From July 13 to 15, 2015, 17 selected middle school students along with their schools' Student Life Coordinators traveled to Michigan for the 3-day camp.

Sessions held at the International Academy of Flint and the International Preparatory Academy, two of the SABIS® Network schools in the state, taught participants valuable lessons on communication, motivation, and leading by example, among other things. Camp participants also got the chance to explore Michigan, visiting the Sea Life Aquarium and going by ferry to Mackinac Island.



*Participants attending a workshop at the 2015 SLTC*

Whether in Athens, Greece, or Michigan, U.S., the ultimate objective of the SLO® camps is the same: Students who attend the camps take the lessons they have learned back to their schools, share them with others, and create an active student life and a positive school culture.

For more information about the SLTC in Greece and in Michigan, visit [sltc.sabis.net](http://sltc.sabis.net). For details about the SLO®, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net). To review a press release on one of the community service projects in Greece, [click here](#).

## *SPDI*

### **SPDI Contributes to Consistency of the SABIS® Educational System**

As a global network that operates in 16 countries on four continents, SABIS® is committed to ensuring that all schools within the network deliver consistent results. This consistency is achieved through network schools' accurate implementation of the proven SABIS® Educational System, an effort supported by the SABIS® Professional Development Institute.



*SPDI and ISR teams hard at work*



The SABIS® Professional Development Institute (SPDI) plays an important role in ensuring that over 6,000 employees in schools in the network have access to ongoing training, enabling them to fully understand the goals and objectives of the SABIS® Educational System and giving them the chance to develop their knowledge and skills as professionals. With schools out for the summer, SPDI used the time to hold a number of training sessions and workshops.

For SABIS® Network schools located in the eastern Mediterranean, an Academic Quality Controller (AQC) training session took place over four days. The training involved AQCs from the SABIS® International School – Adma and the International School of Choueifat – Choueifat in Lebanon, the International School of Choueifat – Amman in Jordan, and Abdulaziz International School – Al-Sulaimaniah in Saudi Arabia, as well as the Cambridge School of Bucharest from Romania.

*“The diversity of the people in attendance brought a lot of valuable experience and skills to the sessions, which focused on the role of an AQC and their significance to the schools in the SABIS® Network,”* explained Mr. Elie Berchan, SPDI Corporate Trainer.

In Neuss, Germany, at the International School on the Rhine (ISR), a SABIS® licensee, SPDI held an across-the-board orientation for administrators, AQCs, and SABIS® Student Life Coordinator (SLC). The training took place over two days and covered a wide range of topics. SPDI explained the SABIS® philosophy and emphasized the various roles and responsibilities found in the SABIS® Network. SPDI also organized workshops that focused on themes like developing others, communicating for leadership success, and coaching for peak performance.



*ISR and SPDI teams enjoy a group lunch during training*

By helping individuals in the network to develop an understanding of the SABIS® Educational System, its roots, and implementation, SABIS® can realize its goal of providing an outstanding education and helping all students achieve their full potential. As students around the world returned for their first day back at school, they were welcomed by teachers and staff equipped with the skills and know-how to consistently implement the SABIS® Educational System and help their students succeed.

## SAGA

### SABIS® Alumni Making a Difference

SABIS® Network schools are known around the world for giving students a strong academic foundation – knowledge and skills that students can build upon as they pursue success. The reputation of the network’s schools, however, does not stop there. Schools in the network are also recognized for setting students on the path

to become responsible, caring, conscientious, global citizens, a journey that continues after graduation and throughout life.



*Movie premiere of “Run All Night” in Beirut, Lebanon*

Members of the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) exemplify the longevity of values they learned while at school. Working together as chapters of alumni associations, members organize events that give back to their communities. An example of a particularly impactful alumni event comes from the International School of Choueifat in Choueifat, Lebanon.

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, the ISC-Choueifat Alumni Association (ISCAA) organized a movie premiere for the film “Run All Night,” raising funds through ticket sales for the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL). Special guests in attendance at the event included SABIS® third generation leader, Mrs. Leila Saad, the ISCAA president, Mr. Fadi Abboud, and Mrs. Hana Chaar Choueib, Class of 1989 and the general manager of the CCCL. A large number of ISC-Choueifat graduates also attended the premiere and were happy to participate in raising funds for a good cause.



*SABIS® alumni and ISCAA President of the board at the movie premiere*

*“Our school instilled in us the desire to give back to our community and to make a difference,”* said Alumna Dr. Raya Saab (Class of 1992). *“This desire to give back has remained with us and we continue to live by it long after having graduated from our alma mater.”*

Dr. Raya Saab is joined by over 7,500 graduates from the global SABIS® Network who are members of SAGA. Through SAGA chapters and alumni associations, SABIS® alumni benefit from a valuable platform that allows them to give back to their communities and network with other SAGA members long after graduation day.

For more information about the ISC-Choueifat Alumni Association and to view additional pictures from the fundraising event, visit [iscalumni.com](http://iscalumni.com). For information about the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA), visit [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net).

## Featured Network Member

### SABIS® University



SABIS® University in Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq

SABIS® University, located in Erbil, Kurdistan, first opened its doors in September 2009 and set out on a mission to provide high-quality education to a new generation of young men and women who could contribute to building Kurdistan. Today, starting its sixth year in operation, the university has built a strong reputation as a provider of top-quality tertiary education in the region.

SABIS® University is currently comprised of three colleges. With SABIS®'s deeply-rooted history in education and a growing demand for teachers in Kurdistan, it is not surprising that the first college at SABIS® University was the College of Education. In 2010, seeking to expand the scope of fields in which its graduates could excel, SABIS® University opened the College of Business Management and Studies, and most recently, in 2012, the College of Engineering joined the university's offerings. The university also operates an active Continuing Education Department, which offers local professionals the opportunity to acquire and develop new and existing skills.

*"As one of the most rapidly developing regions of Iraq, Kurdistan has been successful in attracting many multi-national companies,"* explained SABIS® Operations Director – Higher Education, Dr. Zahi Ramadan. *"To fill the jobs that those companies brought, there were two choices: bring in expatriates or create a skilled workforce within Kurdistan. With SABIS® University, we have sought to do the latter."*

SABIS® University is headed by Dr. Mohammed Ihsan as its president. Dr. Ihsan, who was recently appointed to the position, has a wealth of experience, both on the international and local level, as well as an impressive list of degrees and accomplishments. He holds a Ph.D. in International Law and another Ph.D. in Arab and Islamic Studies. He is a former member of the Kurdistan Regional Government, having served as Minister for Human Rights (2005-2010), Minister for Extra Regional Affairs (2010-2012), and Minister of the General Board for Disputed Areas in Iraq (2012-2014). He was also appointed International Investigator for Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity in Iraq from 2001 to 2005 and Kurdistan Representative to the Federal Government in Iraq from 2007-2012.

*"We are very pleased to have Dr. Ihsan join SABIS® University,"* commented Chairman of the SABIS® University Board, Mr. Carl

Bistany. *"Dr. Ihsan shares SABIS® University's vision to provide a top-quality higher education that will equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to make a valuable and lasting contribution to the future of Kurdistan."*

### Campus

When the university opened, it was located on a temporary campus in Erbil. Its enrollment increased quickly and the university soon outgrew its first home. In 2013, SABIS® University welcomed the new academic year on a new campus located near the Sardam Private Hospital. The new campus meets the growing requirements of the university and offers modern facilities including state-of-the-art computer and engineering labs, classrooms equipped with Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs), and modern sports facilities for students to enjoy.

### Academics

Today, SABIS® University is one of the few universities in Kurdistan that has adopted English as its language of instruction. The majority of universities in the region lecture in Arabic and/or Kurdish. Being able to study and become fluent in the English language is an advantage for students, as it heightens their competitiveness in the global market. With so many international companies in Kurdistan, it also positions them at the top of the local market for employability.

In all three of the university's colleges, a western-style, credit-based system is followed, and this further distinguishes SABIS® University from other institutions of higher learning in the region, which typically follow a yearly system similar to secondary schools. In a credit-based system, students accumulate a certain number of credits in order to earn a bachelor's degree. The advantages of adopting a credit-based system are numerous. These include an ease of transfer for students who choose to continue their education at another institution, the acquisition of credits from courses that are offered over the summer period, and finally, the option to repeat a particular course rather than the entire year should students not obtain a passing grade.

Further distinguishing SABIS® University and its credit-based system is the fact that a certain percent of credits required for a degree must come from humanities subjects such as philosophy, civilization, and psychology. This ensures that SABIS® University graduates are not only experts in their field of study, but well-rounded individuals who are ready to become leaders in their community.

### College of Education

The College of Education (COE), the first of the three colleges at SABIS® University, was inaugurated at the start of the 2009-10 academic year. The COE aims to enhance teaching standards and create a self-sustaining, high-quality corps of educators in Kurdistan. Students learn lesson delivery, content mastery, and classroom management. They also learn techniques to keep children actively engaged and learning efficiently.

### College of Business and Management Studies

The SABIS® University College of Business and Management Studies (CBMS) offers students six majors based on a four-year program that reflects the innovative approaches and competitive skills required in today's business world. Students can earn a bachelor of science (B.S.) in one of six majors including accounting, banking and finance, hospitality and tourism management, general management, management information systems, and marketing.

*"Programs offered meet international standards and provide students with practical experience through internships,"*

explained Dr. Zahi Ramadan, SABIS® Operations Director of Higher Education. *“The emphasis placed on the acquisition of both knowledge and on-the-job experience means that upon graduation CBMS graduates can effectively compete for available positions in the region.”*

### College of Engineering

The College of Engineering offers four majors based on a four-year program that includes engineering topics complemented by courses in the humanities and culture domains. At the end of the four-year program, students earn a bachelor of science (B.S.) in one of the four majors offered, namely: civil engineering, computer and communications engineering, electrical engineering, or mechanical engineering.

To complement engineering subjects, the College of Engineering program at SABIS® University includes a number of modules designed to enhance students’ theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience and exposure to the field of engineering.

Currently in their sophomore year, the first cohort of 24 students in the College of Engineering will be ready for graduation in 2018.

### Continuing Education Department

In addition to three colleges, the university also includes a comprehensive Continuing Education Department (CED), which seeks to serve the needs of professionals in Kurdistan. Through a wide range of professional seminars on offer, the CED offers local professionals the opportunity to update and develop their knowledge and skills and remain competitive in today’s ever-changing and challenging employment market.



*Leadership in Management seminar at SABIS® University*

Professional seminars on soft skills offered by the CED include assertive communication, business etiquette, conflict management and problem solving, customer service, effective time management, leadership in management, public speaking, and team building, to name a few. All seminars are delivered by professionals who are licensed experts in their fields.

### Graduates

June 29, 2013, marked a special milestone for SABIS® University. Eighteen (18) students enrolled in the university’s College of Education and 12 students from the College of Business and Management Studies became SABIS® University’s first cohort of graduates. This first cohort was followed by graduating classes in 2014 and 2015.

Today, SABIS® University graduates are successful individuals who hold positions in a number of industries in both the public and private sectors. Graduates from SABIS® University are sought after by reputable firms in Kurdistan for their well-rounded education, exposure to a wide range of topics, and mastery of English. In fact, 98% of 2015 graduates have found full-time employment in their field of study. They are all united in their acknowledgment of SABIS® University as the institution that has given their careers a head start and put them on the path to success.



*Class of 2015 graduates with SABIS® University President and senior faculty*

Rebaz Najat Majeed, who graduated in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in Information Technology, said: *“I can handle difficult situations because of my education at SABIS® University, which taught me how to perform in high pressure situations. I am ready to complete my work under much stress.”* Rebaz is currently Webmaster and Head of the Website Department at the Ministry of Education in Kurdistan.

Another SABIS® University graduate, Ms. Mahnaz Aqrabi, currently works as an Administrative Coordinator at the Sardam International School, a SABIS® public-private partnership school in Duhok, Kurdistan. Ms. Aqrabi attributes her success to the organizational and multitasking skills she developed at SABIS® University. *“SABIS® University prepared me for my professional life. It taught me how to be goal-oriented, to organize both short and long term projects, and to work both independently and in teams.”*

Azdhar Hussein Ali, also a 2013 graduate, now works in the field of accounting. His B.S. degree in Accounting from SABIS® University has helped him secure two managerial positions, one at Al-Moyssaer Medical Equipment and Supply as an Accounting Manager and another as an Auditing Manager at Mellat Holding Company. He draws on the knowledge and skills he acquired at SABIS® University in his daily work life. *“SABIS® University has a strong curriculum, wonderful instructors, and produces qualified professionals.”*

Equipped with a reputable degree that reflects their knowledge and skills, their readiness to perform in the workplace without further training, and their fluency in English, SABIS® University graduates are well-positioned for success.

For more information about SABIS® University, visit [sabisuniversity.edu.krd](http://sabisuniversity.edu.krd).

## Alumna in the Spotlight

### Mary Jo Pham, SABIS® International Charter School, Class of 2007



Mary Jo Pham, SABIS® International Charter School, Class of 2007

In 2003, Mary Jo Pham was an eager ninth grader at the SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) in Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S. Today, she is a well-traveled, successful diplomat who draws daily on the foundation of knowledge and skills she started building as a student at SICS.

From the time she enrolled at SICS, Mary Jo seized every opportunity that came her way. She dedicated herself to her schoolwork and started contributing to her school community through the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®). She was involved in numerous clubs and activities at school and was Head Prefect in her senior year. *"I'll never forget the SLO® motto: We are all in this together,"* commented Mary Jo. *"We genuinely are, and in my professional and personal journey since graduation, I've learned that everyone stands to benefit when we help others around us. When we empower others around us, everyone wins."*

As a student at SICS, Mary Jo was also active in U.S. Model Congress, an activity that gives high school students the chance to engage in a role-playing simulation of the United States Congress. She distinguished herself in Model Congress and was one of only a handful of students in America selected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives Page Program in Washington, D.C. in the summer of her junior year at SICS.

Mary Jo graduated from SICS in 2007. She attended Tufts University in Massachusetts, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in International Relations with a minor in Chinese. As an undergraduate, she was awarded the Thomas R. Pickering

Undergraduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship in 2010, allowing her to pursue her studies at the American University in Washington D.C., where she obtained a master's degree in International Communication, with a specialization in public diplomacy.

Upon graduating with her master's degree in 2013, Mary Jo joined the U.S. Department of State to serve her country as a diplomat overseas. After studying Arabic for a year at the Foreign Service Institute, she moved to Saudi Arabia to work at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh as an economic officer specializing in trade, critical infrastructure, and intellectual property rights. She now works in Washington, D.C. at the Department of State, where she manages U.S. foreign assistance to countries in East Asia and the Pacific.

Reflecting on her time at SICS, Mary Jo comments: *"From the beginning, I loved that my high school had the word 'international' in it. SABIS® International Charter School shaped my life by providing me with an education that lived up to its name and a community that nurtured my aspirations. As a result, I've been able to pursue all things international in college and beyond – foreign languages, foreign policy, and foreign cultures."*

Mary Jo's choice to embark on an international career that would take her around the world and allow her to contribute positively to the world she lives in is, in many ways, an extension of the values that she acquired and developed at SABIS® International Charter School. In all SABIS® Network schools, students are helped to reach their full potential and encouraged to make a difference in the world. We wish SABIS® alumna Mary Jo continued success on her incredible journey!

For more information about the SABIS® International Charter School in Springfield, Massachusetts, visit [sics.sabis.net](http://sics.sabis.net). If you would like to connect with former classmates, hear about stories such as Mary Jo's, and keep up-to-date with news on your alma mater, join the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) by visiting [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net).

*"I'll never forget the  
SLO® motto:  
We are all in this together."*

– Mary Jo Pham,  
SABIS® International Charter School,  
Class of 2007



*SABIS® is a global education network that operates on 4 continents serviced through three independent corporations headquartered in the U.S., Lebanon, and the U.A.E. Schools in the SABIS® Network operate in 16 countries and educate 70,000 students.*

*Based on a proven, proprietary system, SABIS® Network schools provide students with a top-quality education that prepares them to meet the challenges of a changing world.*

## *Members of the SABIS® Network*

**AMERICAS PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Minnesota - Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. | **CHARTER SCHOOLS:** SABIS® International School - Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Linwood Public Charter School - Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School - Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | Lowell Collegiate Charter School - Lowell, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School - Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Preparatory Academy - Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint - Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy - Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw - Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School - Pleasantville, New Jersey, U.S.A. | International Academy of Trenton - New Jersey, U.S.A. | Mt. Auburn International Academy - Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** BelovED Community Charter School - Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. | Empowerment Academy - Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. | **EUROPE PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** SABIS International School U.K. - Bath, England | ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main - Frankfurt, Germany | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** International School on the Rhine - Neuss, Germany | Cambridge School of Bucharest - Bucharest, Romania | **AFRICA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat - Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat - City of 6 October, Egypt | **ASIA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** SABIS® SUN International School - Baku, Azerbaijan | The International School of Choueifat - Lahore, Pakistan | **MIDDLE EAST REGION PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat - Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan | The International School of Choueifat - Dream City, Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Suleimaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq | SABIS® International School - Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat, Lebanon | SABIS® School El-Metn - El-Mtein, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar | Jeddah Private International School - Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International School - Al-Wadi, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International School - Al-Sulaimaniah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City, U.A.E. | SABIS® International School - Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai Investments Park - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | **PPP SCHOOLS:** 7 Schools - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | Military High School - Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Ruwais Private School - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School - Madinat Zayed, Western Region, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School - Al Zaid, Mliha, Sharjah, U.A.E. | **UNIVERSITY:** SABIS® University - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq

*Education for a changing world.®*