



**SABIS®**  
1886 SCHOOL NETWORK

## In this Issue



### Highlight of the Issue

#### *Eighth Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting*

Highlight of the Issue <i>Eighth Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting</i>	01
Commencement ceremonies <i>IAF, ISF, ISC-Koura</i>	02-03
SABIS® Regional event <i>The Third Annual SABIS® Academic Quality Control Conference</i>	03-04
SLO News <i>From ISC-AD</i>	04
ISF, Germany <i>ISF Students Profit from Reading Programs in English and German</i>	04-05
Feature School <i>SABIS® International Charter School, Springfield, MA</i>	05 - 07
Alumnus in the Spotlight <i>ISC-Koura graduate</i>	08

The history and charm of Budapest, Hungary set the scene for the eighth Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting from July 6-11<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Directors from the twenty-seven schools, along with regional support administrators and the SABIS® Management team, gathered for five days of meetings. Interspersed by sightseeing tours of Buda and Pest, including a cruise on the Danube River, this year's workshops spanned a wide range of topics from academics and computer-based examinations (CBE) to discipline, time/staff management, and the SABIS® Student Life Organization™.

Those in attendance enjoyed the week of team-building, benefited from a reinforcement of SABIS® philosophy, its mission, and goals, and left feeling rejuvenated for the coming academic year.



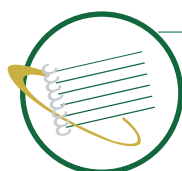
<http://www.sabis.net>

*Now available online*

For more information on, or employment within the SABIS® School Network, access our websites:

<http://www.sabis.net>, <http://www.sabiscareers.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.





The SABIS® School Network graduated ca. 1,000 students worldwide at the end of the 2003-2004 academic year. SABIS® students commemorated their graduation in a series of celebrations throughout the network.

### The International Academy of Flint's First Graduation

On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the *IAF* community was pleased to honor its first graduating class since its inception five years ago. After years of hard work and noteworthy achievements, six *IAF* seniors were awarded their high school diplomas. Three of the graduating seniors had been students at *IAF* since it opened its doors in 1999.

In a heartfelt speech, Mr. C. Bistany, SABIS® President, addressed the graduates, their parents, and the crowd of families and friends and congratulated the class of 2004 for their talent. Speeches were also given by Mr. C. Conner, President of the *IAF* Board of Directors, Mrs. T. Cormier, *IAF* Director, and Mrs. B. Kotlark, Head of the English Department, praising the graduates for their excellent scholastic performance and wishing them courage and determination on the journey ahead.

During the ceremony, *IAF's* school choir performed two selections, "God Bless America" and "You Can Win". In closing, the graduates received their diplomas, were thrilled to change their tassels from the left to the right, and tossed their caps in the air. Our sincere wishes for continued success go to the senior class of 2004.



For more information, please visit [www.iaf-sabis.net](http://www.iaf-sabis.net).

### ISF's 2004 Graduation

"We made it!" So rang out the opening statement of Alexandra Liakou, one of twelve students who graduated from *the ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main* on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The fifth graduation ceremony at *ISF* since its opening in 1995 commenced with students from the junior class bearing national flags of six nations represented by the graduating seniors. The flag bearers were followed by *ISF* Director, Mr. R. Long, commencement speaker, Mr. P. Haleen, and an assembled staff of ca. 50 *ISF* teachers. The twelve graduates entered to the music of 'Pomp and Circumstance' and found their way to on-stage seats before an audience of assembled friends, family, and dignitaries. The 2004 graduation ceremony at *ISF* featured speeches made by Mr. Long, Mrs. P. Adams, a parent representative of the graduating class, and two *ISF* graduating seniors, Alexandra Liakou and Nicholas Wilson. In the speeches, the audience learned of the university acceptances earned by the graduates – spanning the globe from Tokyo, Japan to Rotterdam, the Netherlands to the British Columbia, Canada.



As commencement speaker, Mr. P. Haleen, current president of the German-American Chamber of Commerce as well as the Trade Representative for the State of Minnesota in Germany and an instrumental individual in the founding of *ISF*, addressed the graduates directly, allowing those assembled in the audience to listen in. His speech stressed the importance of multicultural education.

After receiving their diplomas and tossing their caps in the air, graduates proceeded to an on-campus reception for all those assembled at the special event.

For more information, please visit [www.isf-net.de](http://www.isf-net.de).

### ISC-Koura's 2004 Graduation

*ISC-Koura* celebrated its graduation day on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. Twelve seniors, together with their families and friends, as well as the academic staff and the rest of the student population assembled in the school's theater to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Graduating seniors Tania Bakhos and Bassel Said delivered speeches and challenged their peers to pursue their dreams. Acting Director, Ms. E. Lyons, congratulated the graduates for their academic achievements and then awarded the students their diplomas. With a toss of their caps, the graduates bid their alma mater farewell and proceeded to a reception in the *ISC-Koura* cafeteria.



For more information, please visit [www.isckoura-sabis.net](http://www.isckoura-sabis.net).

### SABIS® Regional event

#### *The Third Annual SABIS® Academic Quality Control Conference*



The third Annual Academic Quality Control (AQC) Conference for the US schools was held in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the birthplace of American public education. The four-day conference took place from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> at *the SABIS® International Charter School in Springfield, Massachusetts*. The conference's ten workshops revolved around the theme of 'Academic Excellence' and focused on the essential skills and tools needed for monitoring student progress. The twenty-five attendees included AQC's from the seven SABIS® member schools in the US as well as Special Education Coordinators, Subject Program Coordinators, and SABIS® Corporate Academic Support personnel. The degree of experience with





SABIS® among the attendees ranged from seven months to nineteen years and provided a context for a healthy and invigorating exchange of ideas and interaction.

The conference ended on a very positive note with a preview of the goals for the 2004-2005 academic year and with each AQC going back to his/her school energized and ready for a new and challenging academic year.

## SLO News From ISC-AD



### Ballet Show

*ISC-AD* introduced ballet at the beginning of the 2003-2004 academic year and the activity has since shown a steady growth in the number of participants, totaling ca. 200 students from K to Grade 7. Ballet can be one of the most beautiful, emotive, and expressive art forms and its introduction into extracurricular activities program at *ISC-AD* gave students the opportunity to explore the art form. Parents and friends enjoyed performances of the ballet dancers in three Inter-Choueifat competitions during the year and at the end-of-year show. Our thanks go out to the ballet teachers for their excellent rapport with the ballet students and for encouraging further interest in this art form.

For more information, please visit [www.iscad-sabis.net](http://www.iscad-sabis.net).

## Testimonial

// Congratulations on your recent academic achievement. The office of the registrar has informed me that your grade point average is among the highest at Palm Beach Community College...It is my pleasure to inform you that your name has been placed on the President's Academic Honor list of students who have attained a grade point average of 3.8 or higher...Palm Beach Community College is fortunate to have students who take pride in doing their best...The faculty and staff of PBCC are proud to be a part of your education and training. //

**From the Office of the President – Palm Beach Community College writing to Bilal Assaad, an alumnus from the International School of Choueifat, Choueifat, Lebanon, 2004**

## ISF Students Profit from Reading Programs in English and German



With schools in Germany reeling from the results of the recent OECD PISA study, ranking Germany's education standard far lower than expected, *ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main* continues to set itself apart, particularly in the area of reading skills. The OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, administers PISA, an internationally standardized assessment test given to fifteen-year-old students.

As in other SABIS® schools, a strong SABIS® English curriculum encourages *ISF* students to develop good reading habits in comprehension and retention. Together with the SABIS® Readers, SABIS®

Anthology lessons are conducted each week, exposing *ISF* students to a broad range of literary genres.

The *ISF* Reading Program, including Accelerated Reader, also plays an important role in nurturing students' love of reading. With reading levels assessed on a termly basis, *ISF* students can track their ever-increasing reading levels and can use the thrice-yearly ratings to assist them in choosing appropriately-targeted reading materials.

Until recently, students at *ISF*, where German is the second language, could only engage in the *ISF* Reading Program in English. A required language for all its students from kindergarten through graduation, German is spoken at a mother-tongue level by nearly 40% of the school's student body. Given the visible benefits of the *ISF* Reading Program in English, the *ISF* German Department set out to find a comparable program in the German language.

'Antolin', a reading program sponsored by 'Stiftung Lesen', the German national reading foundation, is a web-based program of over 4,000 books in German. Based on the same principles of the Accelerated Reader Program, 'Antolin' not only classifies books into different levels, but also provides multiple-choice tests to measure student comprehension of each book read. 'Antolin' provides detailed reports to teachers showing rate of successful comprehension, number of books read, and allows teachers to give immediate feedback on student reading performance.

The *ISF* German Department spent much of term three piloting the 'Antolin' program and recently announced its intention to implement the program in full in grades **two through six** in the 2004-2005 academic year. Now newly defined to include reading in both English and German, the *ISF* Reading Program is set to continue its reinforcement of reading skills for *ISF* students.

For more information about *ISF* or SABIS®, please visit [www.isf-net.de](http://www.isf-net.de) or [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## Feature school

*SABIS® International Charter School, Springfield, MA*



*SABIS® International Charter School (SICS)*, Springfield, Massachusetts opened its doors in 1995 serving 450 students in grades K-7. Having grown each subsequent year of its existence, its current enrollment totals 1,344 students in grades K-12. For the past several years, *SICS* has had a waiting list of over 2,500 students, nearly three applications for each available seat.



Today, *SICS*, housing the lower, middle, and high school, occupies a new facility on a 40-acre site and includes two spacious cafeterias, two computer labs, two art studios, and a gymnasium.

## Academics

It is *SICS*' philosophy that all students can learn and that students of average or slightly below average ability can achieve high academic standards provided they want to learn and that the school takes steps to hinder the formation of gaps in their knowledge. *SICS* applies the SABIS® Educational System, featuring the SABIS® Academic Monitoring System™, a system that monitors learning gaps and the acquisition of essential concepts. Students who are behind the academic level required are assigned to intensive classes and tutoring sessions to help them regain the concepts needed. Once students understand the essential points, they join their peers in regular classes. *SICS* has supplemented and adapted the SABIS® curriculum to align it closely with the curriculum of the State of Massachusetts.

*SICS* students are regularly tested by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Systems (MCAS) to determine their competency in the major subject areas. Tenth grade students must pass the state tests in mathematics and English in order to graduate from high school. In the 2003-2004 year, the *SICS* MCAS scores improved, with average scores well ahead of the surrounding district of the Springfield Public Schools. All twelve seniors passed the MCAS.

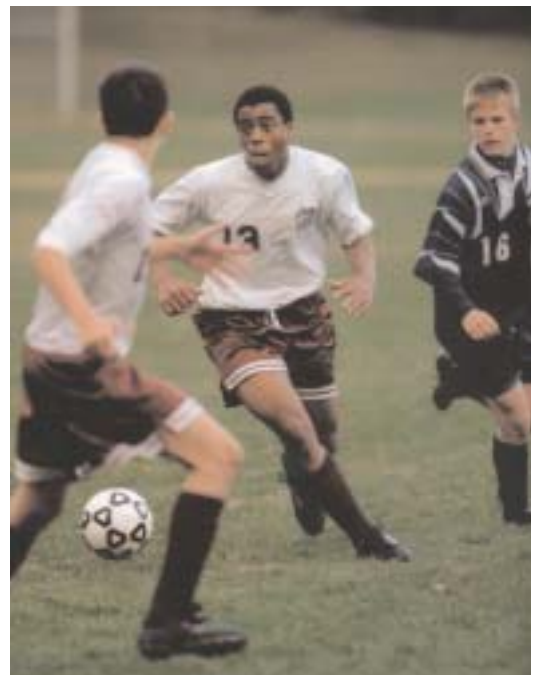
## The SABIS® Student Life Organization™

The accomplishments of *SICS* can be attributed to the unique hierarchy of students in the SABIS® Student Life Organization™. Under the leadership of the Student Life Coordinator, *SICS* students participate in the school community within a structured micro-society where students have various positions and duties and work collectively to achieve their goals.

The SABIS® Student Life Organization™ is not a separate entity in *SICS* where students describe it as a water, flowing throughout the school and sustaining the school's vitality. The SABIS® SLO™ provides students with the appropriate time and space to create and manage their own micro-society within the school. At various times throughout the day, students are at work in their own offices; they appoint tutors; they tally positive and negative points; they coordinate athletic events; they plan the layout of the school's newspaper and take charge of other activities. Students run a large part of the school, whether they hold an official position or not. Over eighty percent of the student body is involved as academic prefects, tutors, athletes, hall monitors, mentors, and more. "We're all in this together", said one SABIS® SLO™ member.

## Sports

*SICS* strengthens its academic curriculum with competitive and instructional athletic programs. Currently the school fields twenty teams at both the varsity and sub-varsity levels. As a member of the Pioneer Valley Inter-scholastic Athletic Conference and the Massachusetts Inter-scholastic



Athletic Association, *SICS* provides competitive opportunities in soccer, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, golf, and tennis. *SICS* also has a varsity cheerleading team.

During the 2003 – 2004 school year, over 325 students-athletes participated in the inter-scholastic programs, while teams in softball, basketball, soccer, and tennis qualified for the state tournament. Last year, twenty-nine *SICS* student-athletes received recognition as either an All-League or All-State selection, while both the boys and girls basketball teams and the softball team won their respective league championships.

*SICS* also provides a number of instructional opportunities to lower school student athletes. Weekend camps and a five-week summer camp are open to students in grades three through six. Varsity student-athletes and members of the coaching staff provide the technical skill and the training necessary to gain the confidence needed to compete at the next level.



Since June 2001, *SICS* has conducted commencement exercises for its graduates. On June 11, 2004, thirty-nine seniors graduated. The event was held at City Stage with ca. 200 hundred friends, family members, teachers, and the administrative staff attending the event.

Mr. J. Dougherty, Chairman to the Board of Trustees, Mrs. M. Thomsen, *SICS* Director, Mr. C. Ryan, the mayor of the city of Springfield, and Mrs. L. Saad, Chairwoman of the SABIS® School Network, addressed the class of 2004. "The road to the future is rough and bumpy..." Mrs. L. Saad stated, "Use the boulders as stepping stones to your goal."

This year's ceremony also honored the memory of one senior who passed away in a tragic car accident two weeks prior to graduation. All of the seniors laid red roses in a basket which was then presented to the parents of the deceased. It was a very moving moment.

Two members of the Parent Connection presented scholarships to selected *SICS* seniors. After the ceremony, the graduates and their families were invited to the lobby area to share refreshments and a chance to say farewell to all.

One hundred percent of the school's four graduating classes – a total of 168 students - have been accepted to prestigious colleges and universities in the US, such as Massachusetts Institute for Technology, Harvard University, Tufts University, Williams College, Smith College, and the University of North Carolina. This year's *SICS* seniors have been awarded almost \$90,000 in scholarships.

In an increasingly competitive world, university education gives students a wider choice and better chances. SABIS® believes that university education is academically accessible to all students. SABIS® also believes that the success of an educational institution should be measured by the value it adds to each individual. Almost all students educated in *SABIS® International Charter School, Springfield*

graduate from good universities and the percentage of former students who go on to further their studies is significant. As the system is not selective, SABIS® attributes its success and that of its students to its philosophy and goals and to the high standards of accountability that the SABIS® Educational System requires.

For more information on the school, please access [www.sics--sabis.net](http://www.sics--sabis.net).

## Alumnus Spotlight

### ISC-Koura graduate



Bassel Said joined *the International School of Choueifat, Koura* in 2001. Over the next three years, he worked hard to finish both the International Program and the National Baccalaureate Program. He graduated from Grade 12 General Science in June 2004 and obtained his Official Baccalaureate with distinction.

Mr. Said successfully completed five AP courses for which he obtained the AP Scholar award. Bassel's name regularly appeared on the school's honor list due to his consistent A-average. Bassel was Head Prefect of the SABIS® SLO™, a task that helped him develop self-discipline, responsibility, and acquire a multitude of other skills.



Recently, Mr. Said was the recipient of a full scholarship at Harvard University for his outstanding achievements. He is confident that the education he has received at *ISC-Koura* has prepared him well for university. "*ISC-Koura* has granted me a high degree of education which will give me an edge over fellow students and ease me into any university's academic system. I give credit to the SABIS® Educational System and the devotion of my teachers, who have made such an education possible."

SABIS® is an educational organization that manages K-12 co-educational schools worldwide. Today, the network comprises twenty-seven 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**