



October 2005 – issue number 030



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Highlight of the Issue

The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat

From its humble beginnings in the dilapidated silk factory where the school started, the 120 year journey of the "Choueifat School" has been a long and exciting journey. Like all journeys, it has had its share of ups and downs, successes and failures, joy and sorrow, but it has maintained its upward course at all times. The difficulties it faced on the way only reinforced the resolve of the founders and those who followed to continue in the face of all adversity.

In the world today, there seems to be a consensus that raising the living standards in a country starts in the classroom. One hundred and twenty years ago, Rev. Tanios Saad, a man in his twenties, convinced Miss. Louisa Procter, a middle-aged missionary, that the relief work she was doing to improve the status of women would only have a temporary effect. He told her, in his very

persuasive manner, that what was needed was an education for women. They put their meager resources together and decided to start a school for girls. The school opened its doors on October 15, 1886.

The school started with an enrollment of twenty-eight girls – fifteen boarders and thirteen day students. As it showed early signs of success, parents started asking for a similar facility for their sons. Three years later a parallel boys' school was started, for co-education was not an option at the time.



1890

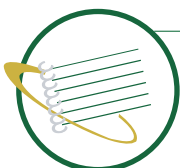
Before the turn of the century, about ten years later, Tanios Saad took the long journey to England to seek help and take a closer look at developments in the world of education. Miss Procter's connections and acquaintances were invaluable in opening doors for him there.

<http://www.sabis.net>

Now available online

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

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



The school continued to grow and attract students from neighboring countries but with the advent of the First World War things changed dramatically. All the human and financial resources dwindled; food was in short supply; and the school continued only by sheer determination. In the late twenties and early thirties, the school started to grow again and it began attracting students from the neighboring countries.

The Second World War was a period of financial prosperity for Lebanon and, contrary to the First World War, saw the school grow. In 1942, Mr. Charles Saad was officially asked by his father to take over the running of the schools. Many improvements to the academic program as well as to the physical facilities were needed, and he turned all his attention to both these aspects. His bias in favor of math and sciences was fully developed by the team that was soon to be formed.

In the mid-fifties, he recruited a young man to teach mathematics and physics to the graduating classes. It was an inspired choice. This young man, Mr. Ralph Bistany, was the nucleus who recruited and led a team that, with the futuristic vision of Mr. Charles Saad, laid the foundation and developed the school to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The sixties and early seventies saw an explosion in numbers and innovations, and the school continued to grow and prosper attracting an increasing number of students from abroad. The mid-seventies marked the beginning of a sad decade for Lebanon, but for *ISC*, through that very dark cloud came one bright ray of sunshine – the start of the expansion. It was in January 1976 that the first school outside Lebanon was started in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates with seventeen students.

In 1981, Charles Saad passed away entrusting Mrs. Leila Saad and Mr. Ralph Bistany with the existing schools and the dream of further expansion. What followed exceeded his dreams. In 1983, the first school in Europe was started, and in 1985, the first school in the US was started.

In 1983, it became impossible to keep the school going in Choueifat and the choice between moving to a safer location or closing had to be made. True to the spirit of perseverance against all odds, a decision was made to move the school to Beirut and rent temporary premises there for three months. Sadly, the three months turned out to be nine long and difficult years.



In 1990, events in the country took a turn for the better, and it was possible to move back to Choueifat. The ravages of war had not spared the campus which was in a sad state of destruction but rebuilding it, which had to come in phases, was started immediately. In October 1992 the school operation moved back to Choueifat to the great joy and jubilation of everyone. The rebuilding and improvements have continued to this day.

The vigorous revival of the Alumni Association in 2002 has re-established the link between the school and its graduates – a link that is invaluable to both. Many have worked hard for this revival but special mention is due to the Alumni Association Board presided by Dr. Samir Alam whose unrelenting efforts have been an inspiration to all.



The International School of Choueifat – Choueifat was one of the first schools in Lebanon to use Information Technology in its operation. In the mid-sixties technology was used to improve the administrative operation and in the early eighties the students were introduced to the use of computers. Today the teaching process is benefiting from the computerized teaching and testing programs that are being developed by Intered, the managing arm of the SABIS® School Network.

In the early nineties, the SABIS® Organization was formed to ensure the continuity of the quality and the growth of the schools. There are now thirty-one schools that are members of the SABIS® School Network educating over 28,000 students worldwide. A board was formed to carry the organization through the 21st century and set the course for the 22nd century thus, keeping the flame that was lit 120 years ago alive and burning vigorously.

The list of those who have contributed to making Choueifat what it is today is long – some are well known while others have contributed quietly and silently but all have earned the gratitude and thanks of *ISC*. To them and to all the Choueifat and the SABIS® family, the board has renewed its pledge to maintain academic excellence, remain on the cutting edge of technology, and to continue to “*form men and women with the ability and morality to face the challenges of the future!*”

For more information on *ISC-Choueifat*, please visit www.isc-lebanon.com.

Annual SABIS® Directors’ Meeting

Ninth Annual SABIS® Directors’ Meeting



The city of Berlin, Germany set the scene for the 9th Annual SABIS® Directors’ Meeting from July 5-11, 2005. Directors from the thirty-one SABIS® schools, along with SABIS® corporate staff and board members, gathered to review the past academic achievements and to look to the year ahead.



The meetings highlighted a variety of topics including academic performance, results and follow-up, effective school management, and the nurturing of the SABIS® spirit. Additional break-out sessions were held on academic support and discipline, IT, and SABIS® SLO™. The 5-day meeting also included a workshop on “Situational Leadership II”.

Attendees explored historical Berlin, a city marked by a turbulent past, a lively present, and an intriguing future, and traveled to nearby Potsdam to see the famous Sanssouci Palace.

The 9th Annual SABIS® Directors’ Meeting concluded with a gala dinner and awards presentation. Awards of recognition were presented to individuals having worked for ten or more years with SABIS® and included a special award and presentation made to Mr. Ralph Bistany in recognition of his fifty years with SABIS®.

Commencement Ceremonies at Some of the Schools

ISC-Amman, ISC-Koura, IAF, ISF, ISM



The SABIS® School Network graduated ca. 1,000 students worldwide at the end of the 2004-2005 academic year. SABIS® students worldwide commemorated their graduation in a series of celebrations.

ISC-Amman

On the evening of Saturday, July 2nd, his Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein presented the diplomas to the 2005 graduating class of *the International School of Choueifat, Amman*. Also present were his Excellency Dr. Khaled Touqan, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, and Mr. Abdel Majeed Al Abadi, Director of Private Education in Amman Governorate.

More than 250 students, staff, and family members attended the graduation ceremony held in the *ISC-Amman* theater. Speeches were delivered by Mr. J. High, the *ISC-Amman* Director for the 2004-2005 academic year, and Ms. M. Abou Hantash, the school principal, as well as by selected graduating seniors who reminisced about their experiences at *ISC-Amman*. The ceremony included a musical interlude, featuring songs sung in English and Arabic, and a slide show depicting each graduate as a baby, upon entry to *ISC-Amman*, and as a graduate.

His Royal Highness graciously stayed on after the ceremony to take part in the traditional tree-planting ceremony with the graduates. Refreshments were served for all the guests and the graduates took turns cutting the graduation cake.

All of the *ISC-Amman* students received acceptances at the universities of their choice, which included Bristol in England, Concordia and McGill in Canada, George Washington and California State University in the US, and AUB in Lebanon. One top scholar and graduate received the offer of scholarships to both Queen's and Dalhousie Universities in Canada.



For more information on *ISC-Amman*, please visit www.iscamman-sabis.net.

ISC-Koura

ISC Koura celebrated its graduation day on Tuesday, July 5th, 2005. The twenty-six graduates, together with their families and friends as well as the academic staff, assembled in the school theater to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Seniors T. Matta and M. Nauffal delivered speeches thanking the staff and their teachers on behalf of their peers. The senior speakers were followed by guest speaker, Mr. G. Abdel-Baki, *ISC-Lebanon's* Director, who recognized the accomplishments of the 2005 graduating class.



For more information on *ISC-Koura*, please visit www.isckoura-sabis.net.

IAF

The International Academy of Flint, MI held graduation ceremonies for its second graduating class since its inception in 1999. Families, friends, teachers, students, and the *IAF* board gathered to mark the achievements of the ten students in a moving ceremony that marked both an end and a beginning. Keynote speakers included Mr. C. Conner, *IAF* Board President, and Ms. L. Mckenney, who gave a motivational speech to inspire hope for a brighter future.

For more information on *IAF*, please visit www.iaf-sabis.net.



ISF

Graduation ceremonies at *ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main* capped off a year of celebrations for its 10th anniversary. Twenty-eight *ISF* seniors, the largest graduating class in *ISF's* history, received their High School Diplomas on July 1st, 2005.

Mr. C. Bistany, SABIS® President and Managing Director of *ISF GmbH*, addressed the graduates as the year's guest speaker. 'As you head out on the second academic journey of your lives, keep your focus on what counts for your future success. Seek not only the degree, but seek to deepen the knowledge that qualifies you for it.'



Twenty-four of the twenty-eight 2005 *ISF* graduates will pursue post-secondary education at top universities worldwide including the US Military Academy at West Point and Tufts University in the US, the London School of Economics in the UK, and Universita Bocconi in Italy.

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

ISM

Celebrating its 20th anniversary year, *the International School of Minnesota* honored its 2005 graduates in a ceremony held on Saturday, June 11th. In traditional style, *ISM* juniors, bearing flags representing each of the *ISM* graduates' nationalities, led a procession of twenty-five graduates into the *ISM* Performing Arts Center.

Addressing the graduates and an assembled audience of family, friends, *ISM* staff, and distinguished guests including Mr. R. Bistany, SABIS® Director General, and Mr. C. Bistany, SABIS® President, the 2005 keynote speaker, Mrs. L. Saad, SABIS® Chairperson, reiterated the competitive edge that each *ISM* graduate enjoys. In her address, she reminded the graduates that "*success is a journey not a destination*" and that the essential elements for success are continued learning, perseverance, and teamwork. She added, "*but if your work is not guided by morality and ethics, your success even if achieved, will be hollow.*"

One hundred percent of the 2005 *ISM* graduates gained admission to top colleges and universities including the University of Pennsylvania and Northwestern University.

For more information on *ISM*, please visit www.ism-sabis.net.

Congratulations to all SABIS® graduates.

Opening of a New School

Ribbon - Cutting Ceremony of Holyoke Community Charter School (HCCS) - Five Years in the Making



Saturday, September 10th, 2005 was a momentous day for the community of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Hundreds of parents and students, along with local politicians, staff members, *HCCS* board members, and SABIS® representatives attended the *Holyoke Community Charter School* Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in commemoration of this long-awaited moment. Mr. M. Sullivan, mayor of Holyoke and Massachusetts Senator Mr. M. Knapik were very pleased to finally see the parents and children of Holyoke given a choice in education.

Holyoke Community Charter School – a recent addition to the SABIS® School Network - opened its doors to 624 students on Monday, September 12th, 2005. The school's current K-7 student population, predominantly of Puerto Rican origin, will benefit from the world-class, college-preparatory curriculum featuring Spanish lessons taught daily.

HCCS staff, with the support of SABIS®, will spend the initial weeks of the school year administering diagnostic tests in English and mathematics and establishing a foundation for future academic success.



For more information on *HCCS*, please visit www.hccs-sabis.net.

Academic Achievements



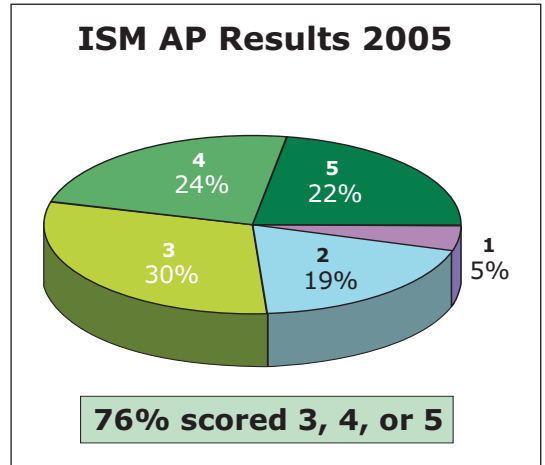
The schools of the SABIS® School Network offer a wide range of national and international exams. The performance on these exams speaks for itself.

We are presenting in this issue the first AP results that have been received.

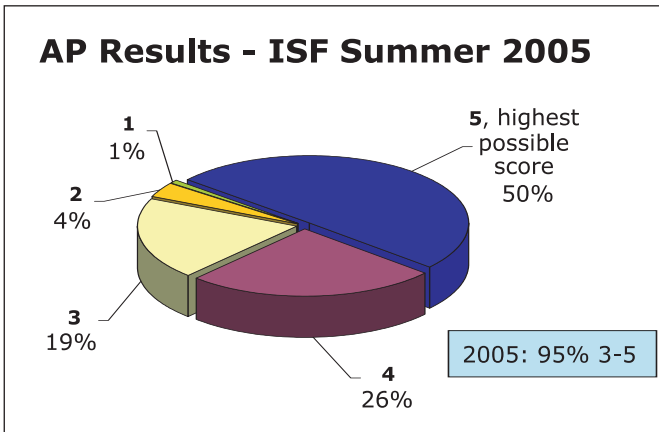
SABIS® Students in Minnesota and Frankfurt Excel on AP Exams

At a time when schools world-wide are being criticized for not challenging their students and not doing enough to prepare students academically for college or university, two schools in the SABIS® School Network, *the International School of Minnesota (ISM)* and *the Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main (ISF)*, have reported outstanding participation rates and results on the 2005 Advanced Placement exams.

The International School of Minnesota, now in its twenty-first year in operation, announced its AP results in early September 2005. With a total of forty-five students in grades 10-12 sitting exams, *ISM* reported 76% of its students earning scores of 3, 4, or 5 on the 2005 exams. In the 12th grade alone, 88% of *ISM* seniors sat APs with the number of AP exams taken by student averaging out to just under six exams.



"Taking hard classes is just inherent in the SABIS® Educational System, so it does not seem like you are doing advanced work. But now it is time for college and I feel so much more prepared," stated Sarah Dar, one of *ISM's* 2005 graduating seniors.



The Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main located in Frankfurt, Germany is a second SABIS® school producing outstanding AP results. Always striving to improve, 95% of the forty-five *ISF* students who sat 2005 AP exams earned scores of 3, 4, or 5, a significant improvement over 2004 results. 90% of the twenty-eight *ISF* seniors sat AP exams in an average of five subjects each.

Following a set curriculum that maximizes the time spent in class learning and incorporates practice questions from past AP exams, SABIS® students in each of the thirty-one schools put their knowledge to work. Upon leaving his AP Calculus AB exam in May of 2005, one *ISF* student commented, *"There was nothing on the exam that I had not already done a million times."*

Directors at both schools, Mrs. Sue Berg and Mr. Richard Long, are quick to point out that the results in and of themselves are outstanding. *"The fact that we are achieving these results with a non-selective admissions policy makes the accomplishment even more remarkable. These are students who in many other school systems would not have had the structure, support, or been able to develop the self-confidence to reach for and achieve their full potential."*

Watch future SABIS® newsletters for AP Results in the entire SABIS® School Network.

For more information about *ISM* and *ISF*, please visit www.ism-sabis.net and www.isf-net.de.

Testimonial

“ I looked at other schools but decided on the SABIS® Pre-school because of the care they take with my daughter. They are like family... Most impressive is the bonding relationship between staff and families within the school. ”

Parent of a SABIS® Pre-School student, Somerville, MA, US



SABIS® First-ever SLO Camp for the ME Schools

Student Life Coordinators and Student Life Prefects from the SABIS® schools in the ME participated in a twelve-day SABIS® Student Life Training Camp from August 8th to August 19th, 2005. The camp was held at *ISC-Choueifat* campus in Lebanon. The spacious campus, with its blend of old and new architecture, allowed all SLCs to enjoy indoor and outdoor activities.

The SABIS® Student Life Organization™ is a student-led society that empowers students to contribute to the management of a school, to make a positive difference, and to play an active role in their education as well as the education of others. While providing opportunities for emotional, social, and moral growth, the SABIS® Student Life Organization™ helps students develop their academic, managerial, organizational, and leadership skills. It is made up of seven departments, namely: Academic, Discipline, Management, Sports, Activities, Outreach, and Lower School.

The SABIS® SLO™, through its different departments, gives students the chance to get involved in a variety of academic and non-academic activities such as tutoring other students, planning sports and social events, organizing community service projects, being involved in the school newspaper, etc.



This year's prefects were chosen by their individual schools for their active contribution to Student Life, their commitment to help others, and their leadership potential. These prefects and coordinators worked together toward the same objectives: making a difference in the world through the SABIS® SLO™, learning how to be leaders in their schools and outside. The sessions offered included sessions on leadership, team building, the seven habits of highly effective teens, emotional intelligence, the power of positive attitude, advanced student life concepts, and bullying as well as an exchange of best practices among the schools.

There were tests of leadership inside and outside of the classroom during the camp. The skills taught in class were embodied in unique "homework" tasks assigned to students and coordinators after every leadership class. Homework included tasks such as random acts of kindness for a stranger and writing a mission statement in life.

The SLO camp offered students and SLCs twelve days of student-centered recreation, trips to famous Lebanese sites and locations, and entertaining activities such as visits to the Jeita Grotto, Baalbeck ruins, Beiteddine castle, and other historical places. It was an emotional parting when the SLCs bid farewell to each other on the last day of the camp. There were mixed feelings when everyone was saddened to leave behind the friends they had made and all were excited and eager to apply the practices they had learnt and shared to make their respective schools a better place.

For more information about the SABIS® Student Life Organization™, please e-mail slo@sabis.net.

Testimonial

“ I am one of the lucky students who had the opportunity to spend a great time and unforgettable moments at your school. At *ISC-Amman*, I succeeded in developing a sense of team spirit and was glad to have so many good friends...Due to my dad's work in the UAE, I am going to transfer to *ISC-Dubai*. Undoubtedly, I am going to miss my teachers, who were always there for me, and my friends...For students looking for a better future, *ISC-Amman* is the right place. ”

An *ISC-Amman* student, Amman, Jordan

Alumnus in the Spotlight

ISC-Dubai



Rania Ayat joined *ISC-Dubai* in Grade 12 in September of 1994 after having previously studied for three years at *ISC-Sharjah*. Ms. Ayat was one of eight students in Grade 12S, out of a total *ISC-Dubai* school population of ca. 400 at that time.

Ms. Ayat's time at *ISC-Dubai* was characterized by her display of exemplary self-discipline, determination, and a will to succeed. Taking on a challenge was second nature to her as she completed her A-Level Maths in Grade 12. She graduated with a total of 5 A-Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.



From an early age, Ms. Ayat was determined to study Medicine, so it was no surprise when she applied and gained admission in 1996 to King's College, London. *"Until I started university, I did not realize how valuable the skills I had learned at ISC-Dubai were. I felt better equipped than most of my friends to deal with the challenges and hurdles I faced in the field of medicine."*

Ms. Ayat continued to strive for excellence and ranked top in her university class. She earned her Bachelors Degree in General Medicine in 2000 and after completing an internship period of five years in surgery and medicine, she successfully gained her formal registration on *the General Medical Council Register*. She went on to pursue her Masters in Clinical Nutrition in 2003-2004.

Ms. Ayat is currently employed as a Senior House Officer at West Suffolk Hospital near Cambridge where she is set on continuing her further training in General Medicine. Her research studies focus on diabetes and obesity with specialized training in endocrinology.

"As a student at ISC-Dubai, I developed several skills that I carry with me to this day. I learned to perform extremely well under pressure, handle multi-tasking efficiently, and stay focused on my goals regardless of any small setbacks or distractions."

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



MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

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