



# 24<sup>th</sup> International Convention

24 - 25 July 2015

Brummana High School Old Scholars Association 24<sup>th</sup> International Convention - July 2015



## A United, Visible, and Affluent Global Network



By Mona Karam '00  
OSA Community Manager

It is always nice to see the school spirit and the "I SERVE" motto inherited from generation to generation, especially when those old scholars are now parents or grandparents of current BHS scholars.

I SERVE

### BHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:

Elie BouJaoude '70, with his son Bishara BouJaoude '95, and his grandson Ely BouJaoude in KG I



### BHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:

Khalil Bechara '95 with his son Tony Bechara in KG I





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## Second & Third Generation Old Scholars

› BHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:

Lina Abou Jaoude Adem '00  
(daughter of Elie BouJaoude '70) with  
her daughter Christa-Maria Adem in KG I



‹ BHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:

Ramzi El Hage '95  
with his son Anthony El  
Hage in KG I

✓ BHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:

George Obeid '78 with  
his son Michel Obeid in  
KG II



^ BHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:

Nicole Abou Jawdeh '97  
with her daughter Sarah  
Melhem in KG II

➤ **BHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:**  
Lyne Rehayem '00 with her daughters  
Tala Majdalani in Grade 3 and Kelly  
Majdalani in KG I



◀ **BHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:**  
Naji Haddad '93 with his children  
Karl Haddad in Grade 2 and Thea  
Haddad in KG II



⤴ **BHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:**  
Karen Abou Jaoude Khoury '97  
(daughter of Elie BouJaoude '70) with  
her children Elie-Joe Khoury in Grade 6  
and Clara-Maria Khoury in Grade 3



⤴ **BHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:**  
Mona Karam '00 with  
her son Mario Sawaya  
in KG II

✓ BHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:

Nahla Lahad '95, with her children Nabih Noah Feghali in Grade 5, Naya Feghali in Grade 3, and Fidel Feghali in KG II.



^ BHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:

Caline Nehmeh '98 (daughter of Board Member Anwar Nehmeh '68) with her daughter Christy Ghazali in KG II



^ BHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:

Edmond Goraieb '88 (son of old scholar Robert Goraieb '68) with his son Robert Goraieb in Grade 2.

## Articles and Testimonies

### The New BHS Kitchen

By Tanya Nammour  
OSA General Manager

The new kitchen in Brummana High School is the pride of all the kitchen staff and of those who were involved in its renovation. The original kitchen was over 80 years old, and although it had been maintained over the years by many mini repairs and additions, it ended up looking more like a shabby kitchen with patchwork walls and floors than a modern kitchen fully equipped to feed daily hundreds of BHS individuals young and old – day and boarding students, teachers, staff and administrators, including visitors to the school and catering for special events.

The project, which involved the renovation of the whole floor, including kitchen, cafeteria and tuck shop, began in July 2014 and was completed in December 2014. During that relatively short time, a makeshift temporary kitchen had to be improvised in the Akl Building basement to accommodate the summer camp community and to serve boarding and day students during the first three months of the 2014-2015 academic year.

Structurally, workers had to dig 3 metres below ground to strengthen parts of the foundations and reinforce the base of the building. In other places, steel beams were added to the walls and ceiling. The kitchen walls and floor tiles of the whole floor were replaced, and a false ceiling was added to the cafeteria and tuck shop. New white tiled partitioning, which adheres to international standards of hygiene, was installed. All the electricity wiring and panels were changed, and the gas piping and whole network embedded. Also added was an extension for additional seating space – from 105 to 150 people – for added storage, and for staff toilets and locker rooms.



## Articles and Testimonies

### The New BHS Kitchen



As in the Rizkallah Building Extension, the latest technology and standards were applied to the design and equipment, which was purchased from top suppliers and international brands. An example is the provision of a water filtration facility and a grease interceptor so that water making its way into the sewage system is clean and environmentally friendly. Furthermore, 95 percent of all the equipment is new, with all furnishings made from stainless steel.

Sabah Baz '66, Trustee member of QUET, had been keen on starting the renovation as soon as possible. The project was wholly funded by the school and cost approximately \$400,000. It was executed mainly by BHS staff members, under the supervision of the Property Manager, Milhem Bu Jawdeh '64, and the directions of the Bursar, Raymond El Feghali, who went beyond the call of duty in coordinating and following up on all those involved in the renovation. Where expertise was lacking, the school subcontracted individual jobs. Others who need to be thanked and given credit for their contribution include George Younis '65, Chair of the Property Committee of the Board of Governors, Architect Tony El Youssef from MIMAR, Engineer Paul Abou Rjeily, and his assistant Architect Bachir Khoury, who were already involved in the execution of the Rizkallah Building Extension.

The eminent Chef Hussein Hadid was also kind enough to generously offer his expertise: he was consulted on the design of the kitchen – which was based on the staff's recommendations – and in the choice of equipment. Top suppliers were

recommended and the best available equipment was purchased for the best possible prices.

Chef Hussein Hadid is continuing a family tradition of helping BHS in his own way even though he is not an old scholar. Coming from a remarkable family with many connections to BHS on his mother's side, he is the great grandson of Mrs Julia Tohme Dimechkie, who at the turn of the last century taught at BHS for 10 years, and later became a leading lady of her time in the field of education and women's rights. Chef Hadid is also the nephew of Head Prefect and previous Chair of the School Committee, Nuhad Es Said, (1966-1974), as well as of the current Chair of the Board of Governors, Hani Aboul Jabine '61.

With its modern, clean and shining appearance, it is hoped that the newly refurbished kitchen will now serve our beloved BHS community for at least another 50 years.

I SERVE





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By Mohsen Agha '66

### A Lesson for Life

I had never liked school. To this day I have nightmares about having to wake up early to go to school. That confined, stifling place which we call school had never been a stimulating place for me. I would get bored quickly in class and would start fidgeting around. I used to wonder

why I had to take a History course if I wanted to become a doctor. What was the use of a Chemistry course if I wanted to go into business? Who cares about Literature if the plan was to become an engineer? My frustration would prompt me to find

creative ways to escape from that world. In most cases, this creativity got me into trouble, which is the reason I had to change so many schools from an early age.

Then it was Brummana High School's turn to receive this brat. For me, it was just another school and another saga. By that time, I felt I could pride myself on being grown up and on having more experience in life than any of my peers. I had reached the stage when, if something bothered me, I would not be afraid of expressing my discontent, in my own way.

One day at Brummana High School, the supervisor had upset me for a certain reason, which I cannot remember now. So I summoned all my experience and strength, in addition to my harmful creativity to



take my revenge. My plan was simple but inventive. I chose the right moment, and I put sand in the engine of his car, which damaged the vehicle. It did not take the administration too long to find out who the culprit was. I was immediately summoned to the office of the Principal, Mr Grosvenor. At that moment I thought of my parents. How would I explain what happened this time? How many more schools would I, again, have to change? What would the punishment be like?

I entered the principal's large room with many excuses fermenting in my mind. To my surprise, Mr Grosvenor smiled at me, asked me to sit down, and offered me tea and sponge cake. He was listening to the popular Beatles' song "Help". For a second I thought I was dreaming, and I had to pinch myself to

accept reality. Our conversation went on very smoothly, and it was mainly about the Beatles, their songs and my preferences. Then Mr Grosvenor asked me very calmly whether I would take on the task of ringing the school bell to announce the end of one class and the beginning of another. This was a privilege usually given only to prominent students who could afford to miss a few minutes of a class. For a moment, I felt the utmost happiness that the reason for summoning me was not for my misconduct. I could, however, enjoy this bliss only for a few seconds because just as I was about to leave, he called me back again to tell me that BHS aspires to instill respect among its students and teachers, and that our parents worked hard to send us to school in order to learn lifelong skills and ethical values.

I got the message. I felt ashamed, but I learnt the lesson. The key word was "respect" – for myself, others, differences, time, the law, etc...This incident helped me gain self-confidence and self-discipline. It was worth hundreds of traditional lectures and sermons I used to hear at other schools, and if it were the only thing I learnt at BHS, I admit that it became the motto I have followed all my life and throughout my career.

Those were the days when a school was a place to learn lessons in life – and for life – as well as a place to gain academic knowledge and qualifications. It was a different age; times have changed...

I SERVE



### Interview with Joline Chakhtoura '04 (9 January 2015)



By Tanya Nammour  
OSA General Manager

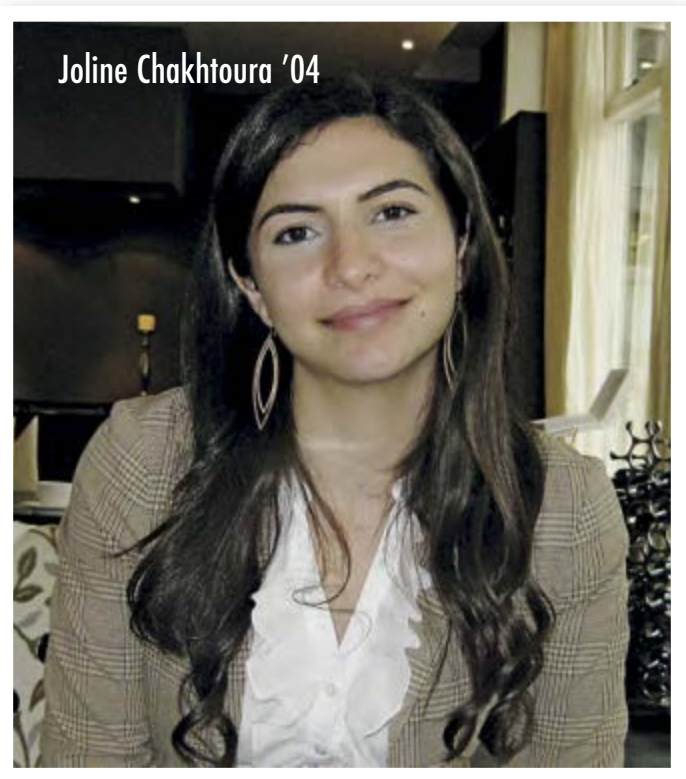
TN: First of all, Ahla w Sahla (Welcome)! Joline, you graduated in 2004, which is 10 years ago. Can you tell me about your journey since then?

JC: After I graduated in 2004, I graduated with a BS in Biology from AUB, then I did my Masters, also at AUB, in Environmental Technology. At the moment, I'm doing a dual PhD, with Delft

University of Technology in the Netherlands and KAUST University in Saudi Arabia, so I go back and forth between the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia. Also in between my Masters and PhD, I went to a NASA Astrobiology school on Mars exploration. That was one of the best experiences of my life.

TN: How did you get into the NASA school? You said it was between your Masters and your PhD; did you apply when you were still at AUB?

JC: Yes, while I was writing my thesis. Space exploration has always fascinated me, ever since I was 11 or so, when I used to watch space documentaries on the Discovery Channel. I always looked up opportunities on the NASA website, but they always had this US citizenship requirement. So it was always a disappointment to find that as a Lebanese, I was not eligible to apply, but then one day, I came across a Mars exploration summer school advert, which stated that it was "open to all students studying at American universities". I sent an email asking if I was eligible to apply since I was studying at the American University of Beirut, but nobody replied. I wondered, whether to apply anyway regardless – it was quite intensive – I had to write an essay, get 2 letters of recommendation, etc., but I went for it. A month later, I received an email from Dr. Bruce Runneger, the director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute, and he said, "Congratulations Joline– You've been selected as one of 17 scholars from around the world to attend the summer school..." So that's how it happened!



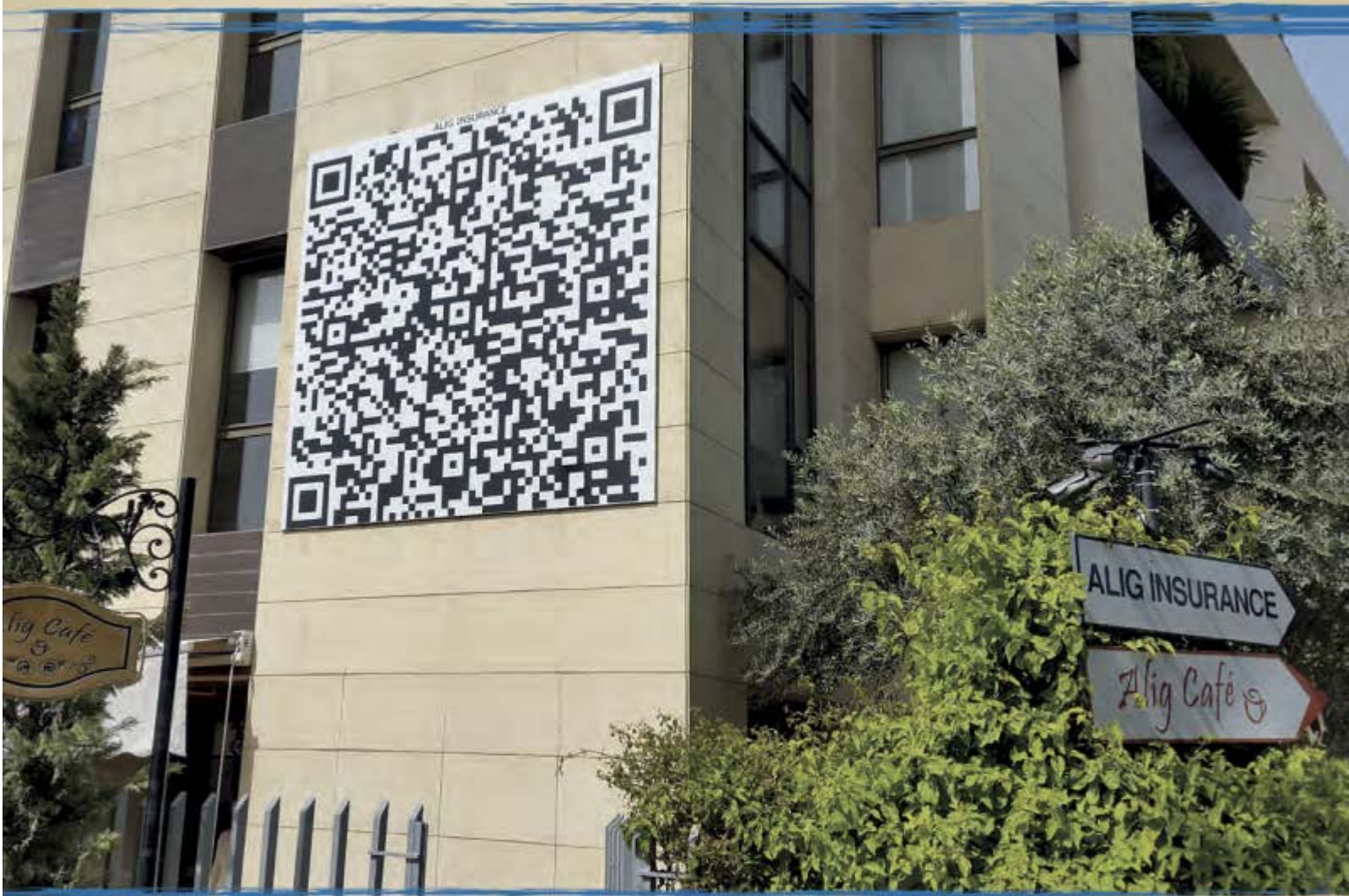
TN: Wow! And you said this was one of the highlights of the last 10 years?

JC: It was fantastic! We had field trips and lectures given by planetary scientists and astrobiologists: Carl Pilcher, David des Marais from NASA Ames, scientists from ESA (the European Space Agency)... James Head who trained the Apollo astronauts gave us many lectures too on the geology of Mars. Our project was to choose which crater the MSL (Mars rover) should land on (on Mars) as it had been scheduled to launch the following fall. The teamwork involved and the discussions we had with the scientists about the potential habitability of the planet were very stimulating.

TN: And after that?

JC: After that, one of the professors encouraged me to do my PhD in Astrobiology. It didn't know whether to pursue space exploration as a career or keep it a hobby. At the time I had already been accepted for a PhD in Bio-environmental Engineering. It was a hard decision to make but I chose to be realistic: We have enough problems here on Earth... I thought it would be best to choose a field of study that I could use later on in development projects, maybe to help Lebanon or other developing countries.

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# Articles and Testimonies

TN: Yes, I agree, because if you had chosen Astronomy or Astrobiology, you would have had to kiss Lebanon goodbye I would think, in terms of career opportunities...

JC: Yes, career and family. I would have had to stay in the US, and I wasn't ready for that. But it's still at the back of my mind! I still strongly support space travel and research. For me nothing is more valuable than learning about our vast, dynamic universe and the evolution of life. So I don't know, maybe later in the future...

TN: You're doing two PhDs. Are they related?

JC: Yes, they are, but the projects are different in each country. One is in Environmental Engineering, and the other is in Biotechnology. In both we utilize the huge potential of microbes to treat waste/water or generate clean electricity (bioenergy).

TN: And you have one more year before you have to present your dissertation. And then?

JC: And then... The big question... Well first I'll be taking a few months off as there are important things I need to do, and I don't want to rush and start a job haphazardly. Then it's most likely R&D (research and development) - projects and technology that will serve developing countries. I'm now analyzing Dutch water and the research is great, but the water is already of high quality, and we're still trying to perfect the quality, whereas in Lebanon for instance, we can't even drink tap water. Globally, 1 in 9 people lack access to safe water, and 1 in 4 don't have a toilet. I want to practise science that can catalyze solutions for developing countries, be it in water, sanitation, energy, healthcare or food security - it doesn't matter - they are all basic human rights. So it's either going to be R&D (maybe even with the UN) or... science that expands our knowledge about the universe, i.e. go back to Astrobiology...

TN: Presumably, if you choose to work for developing countries, you might end up coming back to Lebanon.

JC: Yes, it's an option. But I feel it's too early to go back; there is still so much I can learn abroad. The Netherlands is ranked second worldwide in water research (after Singapore). Besides, I don't have to



be physically there to help. I would love to live in Europe and there are so many companies there with R&D departments that work on technologies for developing countries. There are also institutes, such as the world-renowned UNESCO-IHE, which train students from developing countries around the world and give hands-on experience with e.g. simple water solutions.



The students return home with strong engineering or management skills. This is something I love - being able to go back home and do something for my country.

A good friend of mine, Hussam Hawwa, who also did his graduate studies in the Netherlands, recently

founded an environmental resources company called Difaf, concerned primarily with restoring and conserving Lebanon's water resources through assessing water quality, designing solutions for wastewater treatment, consulting on suitable agricultural practices etc. We might branch out into renewable energy in the near future. I serve on the company's Advisory Board and will possibly soon become a partner. I can be engaged in any project even while abroad, mainly by providing know-how. We are currently working on installing UV filters in 900 schools all over Lebanon so that children can drink directly from taps, and soon we will train them to monitor the water quality themselves (ensuring the project is sustainable).

TN: I'm glad about that because there is one article about you, published in L'Orient le Jour, which asks whether you were planning to return to Lebanon...

JC: Yes, L'Orient le Jour's interview was more personal and the ending was quite negative...

TN: Very negative, and of course you're right... I can't deny anything you say here, but it still made my heart sink because if people like you end up also leaving the country and working abroad, how is the country ever going to improve? And especially as a Lebanese woman, you can be a role model to all our Lebanese girls here.

JC: Thank you... Maybe the ending was too negative but at the same time, it's the reality...It's not easy. As a woman, although I never felt any direct discrimination myself, I'm still not a "complete" human being in Lebanon. I don't have all my rights; for example, if I marry someone who is not Lebanese, I still cannot give my children the Lebanese citizenship. I am still not protected from domestic violence, and women in Lebanon hold a mere 3% of seats in Parliament... This is outrageous! Why should I come back to a country which is corrupt on so many levels and whose laws are demeaning towards women, domestic workers, etc. But, it is still the country where I was born and grew up, where I acquired an excellent education, where my best memories were made and where my family and best friends still live, so it's frustrating. How long do you fight against a system that is so resistant to change? It's hard. But small, gradual changes can make an impact and are the way forward.



TN: Ok, going back to BHS, you have always been a brilliant student. Do you think that BHS as a school has added value to your education, or you were naturally an academic high achiever?

JC: As a scientist I would need a negative control to answer this question accurately, ha-ha. BHS is a special school because it doesn't only concentrate on academic achievement but encourages community service (e.g. we used to regularly visit an elderly care home) as well as extra-curricular activities. This allowed me to be involved in so many clubs and activities: drama, chess, Waldmeier team captain, Student Council Treasurer, Speak Out writer, recycling club founder etc. The annual May Festival for example made me realise how much I love dancing, and Field Day was my favourite day of the year. I was naturally athletic, and Field Day definitely





made me a faster and stronger person. But at the same time I was focused and conscientious. I used to love to write and read– I enjoyed quiet afternoons sitting on our garden swing reading a good book or an astronomy magazine. So I think I got the best out of both worlds! It was probably a good balance. BHS never repressed our ideas and opinions and definitely nurtured our ethical values (I still remember Ms Mona Sarkis’s exact words on justice and human rights). It is a unique school, open to diversity, art, music, theatre and sports, and I think it did play a role in making me a more tolerant and well-rounded person, not afraid to step out of my comfort zone, or to live and travel alone, adapting quickly, and of course, always clinging to the school motto “I SERVE.”

**TN:** So you think the extra-curricular activities were important at BHS. Of course you also have the International students who come to the school and bring a lot to it as well.

**JC:** Yes, and the boarders as well. Diversity fosters tolerance and protects you from culture shock later.

**TN:** What is one of your most vivid memories of BHS? What is it that you remember most about it? When someone says: “BHS” to Joline, what comes first to your mind?

**JC:** The beautiful campus, like no other! Especially when it snowed. But countless memories, really. The May Festival and Field Day were such fun, my green Waldmeier T-shirt (which I still have), the Dobbing Hall! So many plays, ceremonies and parties there... And of course, the wonderful teachers we had. Mr Samir Ayache first comes to mind... But all



unforgettable and very dear to me. I haven’t seen you in 15 years, and I feel nothing has changed. Everywhere I go, when people ask “Where are you from?” or “Where did you study?” I always say I graduated from Brummana High School and AUB. You know, I will never “let go” of Brummana High School because it’s really special to me. Every time I visit Lebanon, I feel I have to drive to Brummana just to pass by its gates... I haven’t noticed this in other students I’ve met abroad. Nobody mentions their school.

**TN:** Going back to your achievements, you seem to value the DOW Chemical Company award more than the recent AWWA award. Why is that?

**JC:** The AWWA award was for my PhD research on water bacterial dynamics in the Netherlands, and as I said earlier, the water there is already clean (treated). The results were great: they disprove the concept that water should be biologically stable during its distribution, which is a guideline of the World Health Organization. But what if clean water is not available to begin with? My Masters research on the other hand, which earned the DOW Chemical Award, was on a technology called a microbial fuel cell, which I used to generate electricity from food leftovers (which constitute ~60% of the waste stream in Beirut) using sewage and cow manure. I built and operated the reactors from scratch, which was very challenging, and it’s a sustainable technology which we could do with here. In fact you can use it anywhere, if up scaled. So for me, this has more global implications and doesn’t only serve the developed world.

**TN:** I agree. I’m pleased that you haven’t given up on the idea of working in Lebanon if there is an opportunity for you to come back and be a role model to others. It’s very easy to be pessimistic and to give up on the country, but at the same time, there has to be hope, and the hope can only come from people committing to this country, no matter what the odds are. So I’m glad you haven’t given up...

**JC:** True... Not yet... Thank you so much for having me.

**TN:** Not at all! It’s our privilege to have you, and thank you for granting us this interview. You are a great source of pride to us all!





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By Khaled Daouk '62

### My Elementary School Days at BHS

When I look back on my school days at Brummana High School, so many memories rush to my mind that I can include here only a few of the most vivid ones.

I was enrolled at BHS in Grade 1 during the 1950-1951 academic year. I was only 6 years

old at the time. We were allowed to have snack boxes which were kept in the canteen room. My box was full of yummy treats which my parents had bought me as an incentive to attend boarding school. The canteen room was always locked until 4:30 pm and was kept open only for 1 hour. I remember that the very first time I entered that room, I found the padlock on my box broken and all its contents stolen. What a great beginning to the school that was for me!

Our dormitory was on the first floor of the Junior Building which also held all the Elementary classes. There was no heating in that building and we were escorted twice a week, to the Secondary Building, to take our showers. I was placed in the big room of the Junior Building, which accommodated 14 to 15 students. Right next to me was Toufic Bizri. At the time, the boarders far outnumbered the day students, which created a feeling of competition between us.

Right after the Christmas vacation, half of the Junior Building was demolished to rebuild a new one, so we were all cramped in together. The toilets were located on the balcony, so in winter they were always wet from the rain, and we often got wet from the rain that dripped through the vent opening above our heads.

I remember that the biggest event was the opening ceremony of the swimming pool.

There were very few swimming pools in Lebanon during that time, so we were very lucky to have one at BHS. In most of the swimming competitions, HE former President General Emile Lahoud almost always won

first place, followed by Hani Salam in second place. I also remember that during my first or second year at BHS, my friends, Ghassan Karam, Raymond Kanaan, Salim Abou Fadel and I were part of the Christmas play, and I was given the role of Herod. Below is a picture of this event courtesy of Raymond Kanaan.



BHS students 2015

We had our meals in the main dining room located beside the Secondary Building. We mostly had stews for lunch, which we did not enjoy much except for the bean stew served on Mondays. Meals served at dinner time were much better as we were given macaroni with sausages or sardines. We used to compete to wait tables because this gave us the chance to barter food from one another and to keep it to ourselves. Each of us waiters would collect a dozen sausages. As for breakfast, it always consisted of Labneh, and butter with jam. Cheese was never served.

I remember a story about Omar Daouk, who was a senior student and who was feared by most students. No one would dare rat on him. He used to stick his butter under the table, and one day our teacher, Mr Salibi, found the butter dripping from under the table. When he asked who had been doing this, Afif Daouk,

who used to sit at the same table as Omar, couldn't help blushing when the teacher looked at him. Poor Afif, who wouldn't dare report Omar, ended up being the one punished. He was made to eat the butter under the table once a week a little at a time...

By the time I was in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, the Primary School Building had been constructed, and it accommodated all the elementary classes. It had an assembly hall, a basement, and an art room. The art room was quite important for us boarders on rainy days, because when we could not go out and play, we would spend our time drawing with Mr John Thompson, our art teacher. Mr Thompson had started an art club, and I was its president, with the authority to admit students into the room.

At weekends, we either had parent leave for a day or two, or our parents visited us for a few hours on Sunday. Parents were not allowed to visit every week; therefore, on such days, our teachers would take us for long walks in Roumieh.

During one of these walks, while going back to school, Hani Kassem and I found a 25 Lira note on the side of the road. I picked it up immediately, but Hani, who had seen me, threatened to tell the teacher about it if I did not share half the amount with him, so I agreed. Back in those days our weekly allowance was only 1.5 Liras, so naturally, 25 Liras was a big sum of money, and we were now wondering how to break it into smaller notes without getting caught. We ended up going to one of the shops beside the school to exchange it for smaller notes. Gradually, we spent our shares either outside the school or at the tuck shop which was run by Mr Nagib Baz.

Mr Baz was a tough, well-built man. He was famous for deliberately dropping a coin on the floor and asking a student to pick it up so that he could kick the student on his behind. Unlike his wife, Mrs Renée Baz, who was loved by all the students, he was feared by everyone. The football field was being built during that time, and we were made to help out in pulling down the terraces of the valley, which was an enjoyable task. One day we found a relatively big snake there, and Mr Baz stepped in and killed it. That was my first experience with a real snake.

Also when I was in Grade 6, I became a monitor along with Salem Shakerji, and we were assigned the responsibility of supervising our fellow students. As monitors, we had the authority to report fellow students to Mr Albert Kamel, who would punish them for any misconduct. This was running smoothly until one day they took us on a trip to Beirut to attend an interscholastic AUB sports event. Instead of going down to the field, a few of us students, including Salem and myself, sneaked out and went to the cinema in Burj Square to watch a movie. When we returned, we found Mr Kamel standing by the buses, waiting for us. We were punished for running away by being stripped of our privileges as monitors and were replaced by Alun Bull, who unfortunately could not keep the discipline. Soon enough we were reappointed as monitors.

I also remember being suddenly woken up one night in our dormitory with my bed shaking vigorously. My first thoughts were that my fellow students were playing tricks on me, but after looking around the room, I realized that all the beds were moving about. This was when the 1956 earthquake had hit the region. It was a night I would never forget...

BHS made me the man I am today, one who is independent, resilient, self-reliant and disciplined. It also taught me to be responsible, to fulfil my duties, and mostly to "serve". I made wonderful friends such as Ahmad Karameh, Salem Shakerji, Alan Bull, Mohamad Safadi, Hani Kassem, and Hani Aboul Jabine. I also formed good friendships with older students like Elias Shammass, Emile Lahoud, Bassam Freiha and many others. Even now, whenever I bump into an old scholar, I'm struck with nostalgia and miss my old school days dearly.





By Haamed Fakhro '95

## BHS I Miss You!

I was a bad kid. I was always on the lookout for something new, something strange, something different, and most importantly, something exciting. I kept busting out of the jail cell that was my home and wreaking havoc at night in my hometown in Bahrain, so

one day my parents decided to send me, as a boarding student, to a larger, more sophisticated jail cell: Brummana High School. So they shipped me off in a cargo container with a lunchbox containing a can of nuts and a bottle of water. (Well, at least it felt that way.)

Unfortunately, the headmistress also had plans. And my freedom wasn't included in them.

Her first order of business was to put barbed wire all around the school. She then ensured we had only five minutes to get to school from the dorms (it's a long walk up the mountain), and then we had extra punishment (after school homework time). She also made sure that they counted us before bedtime to make sure nobody escaped. Regardless, we were an unruly bunch of kids, and nobody could stop us. We snuck out of the dorms but got caught. We smoked but got caught. We fought with each other but got caught. Alas, the more we rebelled, the more detentions we got and the more time we spent in the headmistress's room. I got into countless fights, and endless conflicts with teachers (even though I loved them), but I was always top of my class. That was something I could never compromise: My grades.



Shoulder wrestling during break

I was fifteen years old with nothing to lose and a glint in my eye. I didn't care much about what the teachers said, and I wanted to get to know every kid in school. More importantly, I wanted everyone to know who I was. The future stretched ahead of me like an infinite highway, and I had the keys to a brand new corvette.



Dormies field trip



Dormies night out

One day, my friends and I decided to get our revenge on the headmistress for all those punishments, so we made a late night visit to her car and demolished it. After escaping the guards and jumping down the mountain, we managed to escape! Unfortunately the

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May Queen fashion show finale

next day under the headmistress's pressure and threats, one of our crew ratted on us, and we all got caught and punished (and part of our punishment was spending a fun hour at the local police station): It was a valiant attempt at revenge that ended up rather badly for us, but we were kids and laughed it off afterwards.

Looking back, I remember that the best moments were having a cheese manoushee, sitting in the sun on that small wall near the school entrance, feeling the cool mountain breeze on my cheeks as I laughed, and joking with my friends and classmates. I remember those freezing mornings and the comfort of those

warm heaters that we would sit on top of in the classrooms to defrost our frozen bones. I remember how sad we, dormies, would feel when school ended and the day students left us all alone in school. We would comfort each other by laughing, but we all secretly wished we could also go home. That made us so much closer to each other. I remember how free I would feel at weekends as soon as I crossed the school gate onto the main road and waited for a service to pick me up and drop me at Dora.

Those small details are all that really matters, and nothing remains but our friendships. I'm still in touch with many of my classmates and occasionally visit Lebanon to live in their homes. The smell of pollution and garbage in Beirut takes me back to my childhood when I thought I was invincible and would never grow up. Life becomes more complicated after college, and I smile to myself when I remember how much I yearned to get out of high school, and then to finish university. There is no freedom like the one you feel at high school, even though we thought at the time that we were in a cage. I would give anything to be sitting again on that small wall with a manoushee in my hand, with the sun above my head, and with the wind blowing on my cheek.

I miss you BHS.

I SERVE



May Queen day time



## Back to the Campfire 2015

**Once a Scout Always a Scout**

Book your calendar for the **29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>** of August 2015

For more information please contact OSA Community Manager  
Mona Karam '00 on 00961 4 964 454  
e-mail: [community@bhsosa.net](mailto:community@bhsosa.net)

### Brummana One Group - Generations

The Brummana One first scouts' group was founded in the 1952-53 academic year. In 1955-56 the group joined the Lebanese Boy Scout Association, took the flag and became active.



The leaders of the various generations over the years were:

- 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Generation

Wilfrid Rust, Chaker Kiameh, Antione Asmar, Raouf Malak, Hany Aboul Jabine, Malek Zein, Ramzi Cortas, Ghassan Karam, Bachar Kabbara, Collim MacIntire, Jackeline Farah, Ussama Toukan.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Generation

Ramzi Farah, Khaled Saab, Ayad Baban, Janan Hani, Fida Jdeed, Nabil Massouh, Emile Rashid, Victor Mattia, Mona Aswad, Arsen Manouguian, Said Hani, Ghassan Khammu, Aziz Azmeh, Ramzi Khoury, Said Said, May Mouffarej.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Generation

Nazih Khattar, Tarek Baajour, Khalil Mouffarej, Bassam Karam, Ziad Jazairi, Nabil Sabbagh, Izzat Shawa, Rushdi Shawa, Imad Baban, Naamat Totoonchie, Omar Salhab, Khalifah Al Khalifah, Sami Abou Hassan, Akram Masri, Suha Mourad, Gaith Kotob, Salim Kammourieh, Raef Sawaya.
- 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Generation

Khalil Moukhaiber, Farid Jureidini, Rana Sawaya.
- 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Generation

Kameel Sawaya, Naji Chakhtoura, Maher Abu Fadel, Nadim Samara, Bassam Abu Jawdeh.
- 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Generation

Elie Abu Jawdeh, Elias Hajj, Tony Hajj, Dany Abu Jawdeh, Alfred Helou, and Roy Younes (current group leader).



## Articles and Testimonies



By Chief Roy Younes '10  
Group Leader

### Brummana One Group

Why scouting? A simple question that every scout is faced with at one point in time and to which there isn't always a clear answer. Answers may vary from "I don't know" to "I like it" to just plain "Why not?" We, Brummana One Group, pride ourselves on being one of the most

active scouting groups in the Lebanese Scout Association.

So who are we exactly? The first thing we can tell you is that we are a family – a rather large one in fact. Our members' ages range between 7 and 18 years old, and we are led by a small group of young men and women who regularly volunteer their time to help contribute to each and every member's life. The members of our current leadership team are: Roy Younes (Group Leader), Jane Abi Farah (Assistant Group Leader), Dana Atallah (Administrative Leader), Christina Salhab (Assistant Administrative Leader), Julie-Ann Abi Farah (Cub Scout Leader), Riwa Azar (Assistant Cub Scout Leader), Rana Zeinoun (Assistant Guides Leader) and Elia Abou Jaoude (Assistant Scouts Leader).

Our members are divided into troops according to their age group. Ages 7 to 11 are *Cub Scouts*; ages 11 to 16 are *Scouts* or *Guides*; and ages 16 and older are *Ventures*. Each troop has its own set of activities, specifically designed for their respective categories. Scouting, to us, is not just preparing meetings from 3pm to 5pm every Saturday. We live as scouts day in and day out; *Once a Scout, Always a Scout*. Our programmes do not only entertain our members; they help them grow physically, emotionally, socially, culturally, intellectually, and spiritually. Their personal development is our priority. We like to push them and ourselves forward, continuously striving to reach our greatest potential.





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## Articles and Testimonies



We are not a closed community as we are expanding every day. We are active members in the Brummana High School community; we participate in the May Festival along with the Parents Association Committee on an annual basis. In the past year we worked hard to build closer ties with the Lebanese Scout Association, Mount District, and with the groups belonging to it, in addition to the Brummana High School Old Scholars Association, and Brummana Municipality. Our group's parents and scout veterans are constantly supporting us in all our adventures, small and large.

walked, run, hiked, biked and camped our way from the lowest hills to the highest peaks of Lebanon. We want to explore the world and maybe one day, change it.



As Steve Jobs once said, "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

I SERVE

So why scouting you say? Because we are leaders, adventurers, humanitarians and innovators. We have



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By Nassib Solh '68  
Director General Al Amal  
Institute for the Disabled

### For Welfare, not for Market

Yes, in service since 1958, this is what the Al Amal Institute residents have been busy doing. They have been manufacturing the "Winter Sweater" since 1992. Also since 2003, they have been packing 5 kinds of grains purchased at fair prices from farmers with special needs. The grains and

sweaters are distributed free of charge to the needy including refugees.

The Amal Institute residents are thirty five adults who live at the centre and do all this work, and the association keeps busy trying to find sufficient funds to cover all their expenses.



But what about the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Welfare Wheat" Race? Its logo is:

### BRUMMANA & METN: A SPACE FOR SPORTS, MUSIC & WELFARE



## The Al Amal Institute Welfare Wheat Race - May 2015

This race is the outcome of a full school year of exchanging visits between our residents and children in the Metn. Students from various local schools come over to Brummana to run distances in races according to their ages, as specified by the Lebanese Federation of Track & Field. They run to support the "Sweater & Wheat" Relief program.

Of course we want you all to join in helping build new heroes in sports, especially in running. Music is also another important activity we need to continue to encourage. Many individuals, companies, and local

authorities, such as the Quaim Maquam, the Brummana municipality, and many others participate in these activities which help encourage youngsters become interested in peace rather than in war and mischief.

We give special thanks to the BHS administration and its students who, encouraged by their principal, Dr Walid El Khoury, have taken part regularly over the years in our activities. You are entitled to be proud of your students who have won many of the first six places in the races.

We are also grateful for the sponsorships of our old scholar friends from the OSA and of that of President Nazih Khattar '66, who have also always been very supportive.

I SERVE





By John Kirkbright  
English Teacher  
and Housemaster 1964 - 71

## MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

There used to be a sitcom on TV in the UK years ago called 'Mind your Language' about mistakes people made in speech – in this case foreigners – how funny they seemed, and how to correct them.

When we say 'Mind your language,' we usually mean 'Be careful what you say,' but 'mind' can have other meanings. 'Mind that child' could mean 'Don't bump into it and knock it over,' but it could also mean 'Take care of it until I return.' I want to talk about both of them.

We all have a native language no matter how sophisticated we may think we are, and we all have a mother tongue – images applied to our major method(s) of verbal communication. Does 'native language' create a picture of a savage with a spear?

They say that our method of communication places us at the top of the 'animal' pyramid. Not only can we think about now, we can think about the past and the future. Well, our conception of them. We all love BHS but although your BHS isn't exactly the same as my BHS, we share enough experiences to think it is.

I am lucky that British English, northern variety, is my native language as some version of English is widely used in business throughout most of the world. As we speak in Dubai, (alHamdu lillah.)

How about English spelling? Enough said. Enuff sed. Enough, cough, plough, through, though, hiccough. A French friend from Fresnes (alliteration) once said to me, 'In English you say 'elastique' but you write 'caoutchouc' [rubber].

Have you heard the Lebanese speak to each other? "Well, I said to him: qu'est-ce que tu fais?" and he said to me: shoofee shugh-ik intee! You can even Lebanize French verbs: maa bi-t-dowbel hôn, yaa Habeebi. Fee 3arabiyah jaayeh. Most people who speak several languages do the same thing.

What a wonderful extension of language. If everybody understands what is being said, who cares which bit is which!

We sometimes think some languages sound sweet, like French: 'Cheri(e), je t'aime, cheri(e) je t'adore.... (You finish it, if you are over 50) or Farsi: 'haal ey-shoma? khob ey? (How are you? OK). Some are harsher in sound: 'Achtung Sie verlassen sie Franzöziche Sektor,' my German for: 'Attention you are leaving the French sector.' Not used very often in Berlin now.

The pleasure you get from a language depends on your knowledge of it. I get by reasonably well in Arabic, but don't ask me about almu3allaqaat.' They are beyond my ken. (Scottish word for knowledge).

If you read the Scottish play by William Shakespeare (claimed as Lebanese by one of my former students as 'Sheikh USber.), there is a line which says, 'If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly.' - which means: If it was all over when we did it then we should hurry up and do it. I needed a translation to understand that!

Take pleasure from the languages you know and develop them every day. It is such a pleasure to savour language. I teach languages and get paid for doing so. What more can I want?

One last thing before I go. Don't use language as a weapon. Sometimes we laugh at children and say things like 'How stupid can you get?' You should / will / go to Hell if you say things like that, especially to someone vulnerable. A good friend of mine did not learn Arabic all the time he was in Lebanon because a teacher had told him as a 15 year old boy: 'You'll never learn French; you haven't got the brains.' yel..... ar..... Can you guess my curse in Arabic? I considered making a little doll of the teacher and sticking pins in it, but there are many more worthy things we can do with our time.



I do prattle on, don't I? So I will say 'So long' which I think comes from the Arabic 'salaam'.

Don't forget to 'Mind your language' – it is so precious.



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## DEATH is nothing at all

*I have only slipped away into the next room.  
I am I, and you are you.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.  
Call me by my old familiar name,  
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference in your tone,  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was,  
Let it be spoken without effort, without the trace of a shadow on it.  
Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was; there is unbroken continuity.  
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near,  
Just round the corner.  
All is well.*

Henry Scott Holland



**Me Amine Shams '61**

December 2014



**Mr Charles Sawan '71**

April 2015



**Mr Issa Sawabini '66**

February 2015



**Dr Ramsay Bisharah '55**

May 2015



**Mrs Samira Rizk Haycock '39**

March 2015



**Mumtaz Ali Mumtaz Al Daftari  
'50s**

June 2015



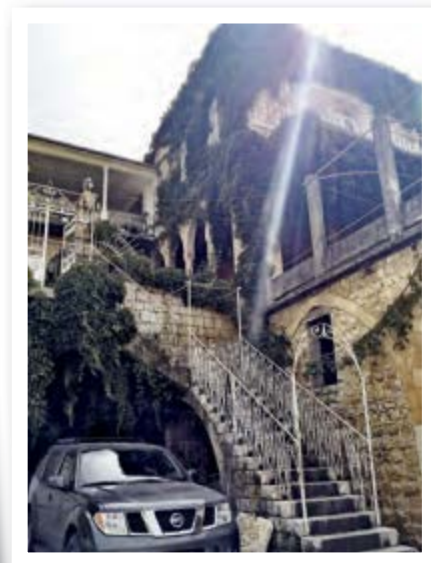
## Tribute to Me Amine Shams '61

By Hani Aboul Jabine '61  
Chair of the Board of Governors

The late Maitre Amine Shams '61, fellow BHS old scholar and previous Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, was the son of Najib Shams and Abla Al Imad.

He was born in Hasbaya in 1942, attended BHS from the age of 5, and left the school in 1961, transferring to another school where he could earn the Lebanese Baccalaureate, which he needed to join the Faculty of Law at the Lebanese University. He graduated in 1967 and subsequently became a distinguished lawyer.

At school, Amine is remembered as a great athlete. Amine was a gentleman, a true friend, sincere, loyal and deeply committed to BHS and its motto, "I Serve."



## Tribute to Issa Sawabini '66

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By George and Nadim Sawabini

Sons of the late Issa Sawabini '66

Issa George Sawabini lived his life to the utmost. He squeezed the fruit of life and drank its juice with vehemence. He lived his life in the fast lane, not only in cars but also in his daily life. He visited and sampled cuisines of places many may only dream of. He cared deeply for his family and friends, lending a helping hand, a gentle smile or a warm hug wherever it was needed. All those who knew him, remind us of how helpful and welcoming he was, with his smile always shining a special light.

Issa travelled and worked all over the world. From Kuwait, to China, Afghanistan, England, the USA, and Australia. He was able to adapt to any situation, and to lighten the mood with a few jokes, most of which were good, and some at which he was the only one laughing. He took the lessons he learned at BHS with him, and always talked about the special people and experiences he had there. He truly SERVED.

During his career he worked in many fields, demonstrating his adaptability, from construction, to import/export, to technology, and even energy. Issa was not a man to back down from a challenge. His most recent endeavour was to build an eco-friendly power station in Wales to create jobs in an

area lacking job opportunities, and to provide clean and renewable electricity to nearby communities.

Issa is survived by his wife Camille, his sons George and Nadim, his grandchildren Anthony and Alexandrine, and his brothers Nabil, Ramez and Samir.



## Tribute to Dr Ramsay Bisharah '55

---

By Amal Abu Khalil '60

I was shocked and saddened to hear about the passing away of Ramsay Bisharah '55. May God rest his soul in peace.

I first met Ramsay around ten years ago when I was the Librarian at Brummana High School. He was visiting the school and dropped by to meet "Mrs Kamel" wife of Mr Albert Kamel Abu Khalil, whom he said had left a great impact on his life as a student at BHS. He spoke about how Albert had encouraged him and given him tips on football tactics that eventually got him elected Captain of the football team.

Ramsay was a loyal person to his friends and to his school. He always spoke fondly of his days at BHS and greatly appreciated his teachers. He donated

many articles and magazines on various interesting topics to the BHS Library, in addition to an autobiography of Theophilus Waldmeier, one of the founding fathers of the school. There is no doubt that BHS had a special place in his heart.

I will always remember Ramsay for his honesty and loyalty.

My deepest condolences go out to his family.



## Tribute to Charles Sawan '71

By Joline Chakhtoura '04 and Violet Sawan Chakhtoura '69

Charles' early departure on 9 April 2015 was due to cardiac failure. After graduating from BHS in 1971, Charles studied Aeronautical Engineering in Oakland, California (Sierra Academy of Aeronautics) and was much loved by all his colleagues and friends.

He was very bright and knowledgeable. Everyone called him "Hakim" as he knew a lot about cars and planes, and everybody remembers him as the guy who drove the black and fuchsia Porsche.

Actually, he knew something about everything! Charles was clever, exuberant and had a great sense of humor. Everybody loved his company and he always showed concern for others. It was always a pleasure to discuss ideas with him, and we constantly learned new things from him. Unfortunately, life was not very generous with him.

Charles has touched all our lives and is very much missed by his numerous friends, colleagues and family.

May God bless his soul.



Charles  
Sawan '71  
and Malek  
Mrowa '71



## Tribute to Mumtaz Ali Mumtaz Al Daftari '50s

By Hani Aboul Jabine '61

Chair of the Board of Governors

Mumtaz is one of four brothers who all attended Brummana High School. Coming from prominent families on both sides, he was the son of Ali Mumtaz and the grandson of Yassin Pasha Al Hachemi, who was previously Prime Minister of Iraq.

Mumtaz was a brilliant scholar who started experimenting with rockets on the football field. He attended MIT and AUB, and later established HACE Engineering with family members. Then he moved to the UK where he opened a cartridge making factory. Upon retirement he moved to Marbella.

Mumtaz was a true friend, a business partner and a mentor.



## جمعية برمانا هايكنغ غروب

تأسست جمعية برمانا هايكنغ غروب في العام ٢٠١١ وحصلت على علم وخبر من الدولة اللبنانية في العام ٢٠١٤ بموجب علم وخبر رقم ٥٦١/٢٠١٤ - برمانا - لبنان.



بقلم كمال ابو سامرا خريج ١٩٨٢

هدف الجمعية هو تعريف هواة المشي وتسلق الجبال على برمانا - الوجه الاخر - اي الطبيعة والدروب الجبلية والطرق التي كان يسلكها ابناءها اثناء تنقلهم الى اراضيهم وازقاهم لحرثها وجنى ثمارها وانتاجها وحتى التنقل من بلدة الى اخرى على دروب جبلية وعرة وضيقة للتجارة وللعلم ونقل المراسلات وما الى ذلك مستخدمين كافة وسائل النقل المتوفرة اكان سيرا على الاقدام او على الحمير او البغال. برمانا او ما يعرف ب ام المصايف هي ايضا من اجمل اروع اماكن ممارسة هواية المشي في الطبيعة -HIKING- لما تحوى على مناظر طبيعية خلابة مطلة على وادي نهر الجعمانى الشهير بهديره في الشتاء وجفافه في الصيف، اضافة الى عدة اماكن لا يعرفها الا قلة من ابناء البلدة مثل جورة التيماني - النعص - الطلبة - الاتونات - الشير - هارون - الشحلة ...

تنظم الجمعية كل ١٥ يوم نشاط في برمانا او انطلاقا من برمانا. في برمانا اكثر من ٧ دروب للمشي ٦ منها مطلة على جهة الشرق وواحدة على الجهة الغربية بحيث يمكن اي كان المشاركة حسب قدرته الجسدية منها من هو مخصص للجمع وبعضها مخصص للمحترفين واصحاب المقدرة الجسدية المجهزين بلوازم الهواية. درب مشهور جدا تعمل الجمعية على تنظيمة سنويا. في برمانا ما لا يقل عن ٦٤ درج عملت بلدية برمانا على تاهيلها وترميمهما. لكل درج في برمانا اسم وقصة وخبرية يتداولها ابناء البلدة. في كل سنة تحديدا في اخر سبت من شهر تموز تنظم الجمعية هذه المسيرة بدعم من بلدية برمانا والشركات المتواجدة في برمانا وشخصياتها التي تدعم الجمعية. تدعو الجمعية عبر كافة وسائل الاعلام المرئية والمقروئة وعبر شبكات التواصل للمشاركة في هذه المسيرة المسائية. المشاركون كثر ومن كافة الاعمار بحيث يتجمع المشاركون في ملعب بلدية برمانا. توزع الجمعية بالتعاون مع بلدية برمانا وراعيي النشاط على كافة المشاركين كل ما يلزم للمشاركة في النشاط بحيث يحصل كل مشارك على حقيبة مخصصة للمشي عليها شعار الجمعية وفي داخلها كل ما يحتاجه للمسيرة مقدمة البلدية والجهات الراعية للنشاط. الانطلاق من ملعب بلدية برمانا باتجاه ادراج برمانا وما اكثرها و على سبيل الحصر سوف نذكر بعضها:

درج اوتيل الغاردن - الكنائس - مار شعيا - العازارية - بونا طوبيا - سينما عايدة - سينما برنتانيا - طلعة اوتيل برنتانيا - نزلة الزحلاوي - البريد - مريم الطويل - الدروز - طريق الهويرة - الفبركة - انيس الطويل - ساحة البتروني - الانكليز - عين السلام .

من درج لدرج مشاركون يتجولون في برمانا حيث يرحب بهم اهاليها بتوزيع المياه والكلمات المرحبة بضيوفهم من كبار وصغار. يللي المسيرة حفلة من تنظيم الجمعية وبدعم من البلدية يشارك الجميع في تناول المناقيش الطازجة وشوي البطاطا والبصل والثوم وعرانيس الذرة. اضافة الى توزيع كافة انواع المشروبات وسهرة للصباح على انغام موسيقى واغاني برمانية مميزة جدا دبكة وطبل وزمر ورقص.

كل ذلك مجانا ومن دون اي مقابل حيث لا تتقاضى الجمعية اي مبلغ من المشاركين في نشاطاتها على الاطلاق. هدفنا واضح الا وهو وضع دروب برمانا على خريطة و فكرة هواة المشي و تسلق الجبال في لبنان والعالم وبدعم من بلدية برمانا.



من دروبنا:

الاحراج صعودا الى راس المتن ونصب اعيننا المبنى الكبير لفريندز هاي سكول في راس المتن، طريق شاقة وطويلة وصولا الى المدرسة الشهيرة في راس المتن باسم مدرسة اوليفر.  
- درب كان يسلكها والدماير ومن كان يكلفهم لتوصيل رسائل من برمانا الى راس المتن تحت عنوان : رسالة من تيوفيلوس والدماير الى دانيال اوليفر.

- على خطى كبارنا  
- رسالة من تيوفيلوس والدماير الى دانيال اوليفر  
- من مدرسة برمانا العالية الى فريندز هاي سكول راس المتن  
- من امام المدرسة مرورا بمقر قدامى المدرسة باتجاه عين الحجال طريق المسلخ الى هارون سلطنا طريق الاتراك باتجاه الشحلة الى اطراف بيت مري من الشاغور الى المدورة الى جسر نهر الجعمانى عبرنا الجسر الى زندوقة في



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## سلطة التكنولوجيا



بقلم الدكتور اسماعيل سكري  
خريج ١٩٦٤

لا يمكننا الا ان نعترف بدور واهمية التطور التكنولوجي المتسارع باسرع من قدرتنا على الاستيعاب، في شتى ميادين حياتنا العلمية والاجتماعية والتنموية وغيرها، حيث بات يتحكم بنسبة كبيرة من يومياتنا... لكن وبالمقابل، لا نستطيع ولا يجب ان نتجاهل او نتغافل عن سلبيات التحكم التقني هذا والخضوع له بما يشبه الادمان، وفي كافة الميادين ايضا الاجتماعية والتربوية والعلمية وغيرها...

الالتصاق شبه الدائم بمواقع الاتصال والفضائيات وغيرها من الاسلحة الثقافية الاستهلاكية الاخطر في عصرنا، حطم الكثير من القيم والاعراف الاجتماعية والضوابط الاخلاقية والانسانية، حيث تراجعت انسانية العلاقات الاجتماعية المباشرة بصدقها وطيبتها ودفء تفاعلها، الى علاقة من خلال التقنيات لتصبح علاقة بالواسطة ومن بعيد، جامدة باردة مختبئة خلف الهاتف المحمول وشاشات الكمبيوتر، لا يعوضها جميل الكلام ورسائله مهما ابدعت لغويا، لان الانسان هو المحور الاساس في هذه الدنيا، وكل ما يحد من التفاعل المباشر بين الناس يلغي اجمل وامتع واغنى ما في الدنيا، الناس ومحبة الناس ...

وهذا هو جوهر رسالة الاديان السماوية... ولا يسعني هنا وبحكم مهنتي التي اعشق، ان اعرج على مهنة الطب، حيث دخلت التكنولوجيا الطبية وسيطا بين الطبيب "الحكيم" والمريض، وشكلت حاجزا خفف الكثير من قدسية هذه العلاقة بانسانيتها وعلميتها وفاتورتها!

من هنا، اتوجه للجيل الجديد من خريجي مدرسة برمانا العالية متمنيا ومطالباً بعدم الاستسلام المطلق لشتى تفاصيل التكنولوجيا وثقافتها السطحية - الاستهلاكية، مع التاكيد على اهمية استيعابها ومواكبتها، وبترك مساحة لثقافة القيم الانسانية والاجتماعية والاخلاقية وحتى الجمالية الطبيعية، فتخيلوا معي مثلاً مدرسة برمانا العالية، بابنية حديثة والكترونيات في كل زاوية فهل كانت ستحمل ذات المعنى وروعة المشهد والقدرة على تحريك الحنين، لا والى لا، فما تركته مدرسة برمانا من تربية حرة ديموقراطية انسانية حوارية من بصمات طالت اجيال، شاركت بها حجارة الابنية الرائعة ببساطتها وقرميدها وباشجارها ... هي مدرسة لا تزال تختزن روحا نقلتها اذا ما انهزمتنا كليا امام ثقافة "التقليد والاستهلاك والالتحاق".

تحية لمدرسة برمانا وادارتها، ورابطة قدمائها، تحية محبة للجيل الجديد ملؤها الامل والتطلع الى الارتقاء دائما بثقافة تواكب الحداثة والتطور دون الانسلاخ عن جذور الانتماء.





بقلم جورجيت سالم خريجة ٢٠١٥

سعادة السفير فلتشر، مجلس امناء مدرسة برمانا العالية، حضرة الدكتور وليد الخوري، اهالينا الكرام، حضرات الاساتذة والاداريين، زملائي الطلبة والطالبات، ايها الحضور الكريم،

شعورٌ غريبٌ مليءٌ بالشوقِ والحنين، ممزوج بالاعتزاز والفخر، انتابني وانا اكتب كلمتي هذه فاختلط الحُبُّ بقطرات من الدموع رسمت حروفا تحكي حكاية عمرها خمسة عشر عاما عشتها في مدرسة برمانا العالية وجدت الحنان والعتاء والحنن الدافئ. هذه المدرسة الشامخة شموخ ارزنا والراسخة على ثرى وطننا الحبيب وضيعتنا برمانا نذرتْ نفسها منذ مئةٍ واثنين واربعين عاماً للعلم والثقافة فقدمتْ كلَّ امكانياتها لبناء جيلٍ واعدٍ بالخير والإشراق.

نعماً! انه لشرف عظيم أن أقف بينكم بالأصالة عن نفسي وبالنيابة عن زملائي، لنفتح قارورة عطرالسنوات التي امضيها هنا، فيفوح منها شذا الذكريات الحلوة ونحن نودع حقبة مهمة من تاريخ حياتنا المليئة بالحب والتقدير للجهود العظيمة التي أوصلتنا إلى ما نحن عليه اليوم ان نتخرج حاملين شهادتين: شهادة العلم والمعرفة وشهادة الثقة بالنفس وبالله والحياة.

#### مدرستنا الحبيبة

إنها لحظات حاسمة ومؤثرة بلا شك، لكن كلمتي لن تكون وداعية لاننا لن نترك هذا الصرح العظيم لا قلباً ولا قالباً. سنستحضر دوماً دفتر ذكراياتنا ونلملم اجمل الصورأيما كنا.

كم كنا نتسلى ونمرح في رحابك و ننتقل من صف الى اخر نكتب اسماءنا هنا، ونحفر قلوبنا على الصنوبرية العتيقة ولن ننسى كيف كنا نتعب في التحضير للامتحانات و نفرح حين "نسكرها ونبكلها" وكم كنا نتمتم على الاساتذة و نتذمرمنهم عندما يبالغون في اعطائنا الفروض الكثيرة. لكننا لا نلبث ان ننسى هذه المتاعب عندما كنا نشارك في المناسبات الثقافية والرسمية فنعتز بها. ذكريات غنية لن ننساها لاننا سنرافق مدرستنا في المستقبل ان شاء الله فلن نترك مناسبة مدرسية دون ان نشارك بها. رئيسنا ومعلمينا الأفاضل :

جئناكم أطفالاً لهونا ولعبنا واستفدنا والقينا عبء المسؤولية عليكم فكنتم خير من حملها بأمانة وإخلاص. فمن بين ملايين الكلمات في اللغة العربية لم اجد اجمل من كلمة شكرًا اقولها بالفم الملآن.

لقد علمتمونا والابتسامه على وجوهكم بالرغم من الإرهاق والتعب، ليكون الأمل لنا بالنجاح، فاحتضنتم كل امالنا و الآمنا. وانتم يا اهلنا الاحباء، لا شك أن لكم فضلاً لا يدانيه فضلاً، ويكفي أن نقول لكم اننا نحبكم كثيراً و نفتخرُ باننا اولادكم . لقد عبرنا معكم يا اهلنا ومعلمينا درب الحياة المليء بالأشواق، وانتم ذللتم هذه الأشواق فازهرت وروداً تنسمننا منها الرائحة الطيبة. بعرقكم المتصبب، رويتم غرساتنا فأنبئت ثمراً طيباً صالحاً. غديتمونا بالعلم والمعرفة والوعي، غرستم فينا الخير والأمل. فما عسانا نقدم لكم مقابل اتعابكم؟ نعدكم بالأ نخب امالكم وسنكون التاج الذي يكمل هاماتكم. وماذا بعد؟

بعد هذه المسيرة الطويلة، سننضم الى عائلة جديدة هي قدامى خريجي مدرسة برمانا العالية و نكون عناصر فاعلة فيها، متسلحين بشعارنا "I SERVE" ونساعدُ بعضنا بعضاً ونرفع اسم مدرستنا عالياً.

سنواكبُ التطور العلمي و التكنولوجيا في مراحلنا المقبلة و لن ندع هذا التطور يسلبُ قيمنا و مبادئنا التي نشأنا عليها بفضلكم. سنخوضُ مُعترك الحياة بكل قوةٍ و عزمٍ و ثقةٍ و نصمدُ في وجه الصعاب تماماً كما فعل اسلافنا من رؤساء واصحاب مقامات عالية تخرجوا من هذا الصرح التربوي ووقفوا ووقفنا على هذا المدرج ورموا في نهاية الاحتفال قبعتهم وانطلقوا كلُّ في دربه.

بإسْمِي وبإسْمِ رفاقي،

نُهدي مدرستنا نجاحاً بين دمعَةٍ وابتسامَةٍ ونغادر ونعرفُ نعرفُ اننا لا لن نغادر.

مدرستنا الغالية

وعدٌ مُبرمٌ اننا على دربِ الوفاء والتفوق ماضون.

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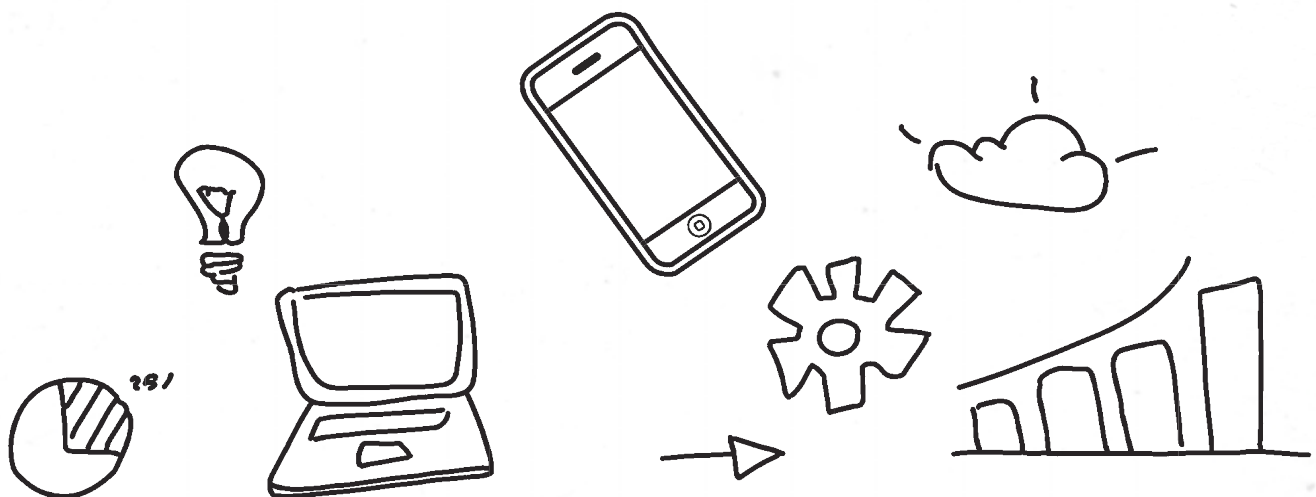
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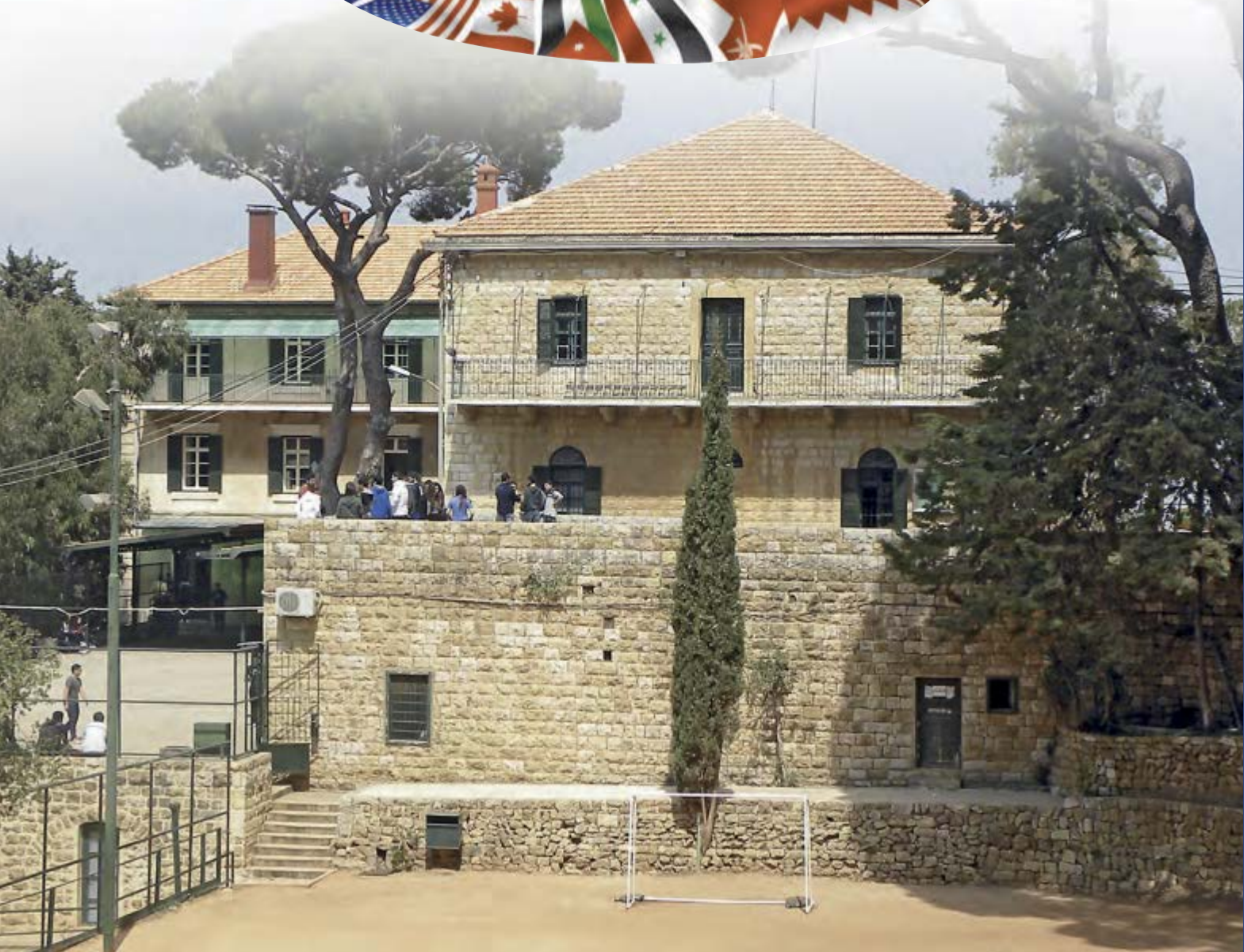
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