

the diaspora potrezebie

Alumni Newsletter of the American Community School Beirut

Volume XLV Number 1

Our 45th year of publication

May 2023

A Message from the President

My dear fellow alumni,

It has been an unusually long, rainy winter here in Southern California, as it has for many of us around the country and the world. It is wonderful to see the sun coming out once again and the flowers blooming as we welcome Spring.

In my last message, I recounted the story of seeing my Junior Prom date at the Baltimore reunion. Our editor, Alice, got her hands on both pictures (below); the first taken in 1972, and the one from the reunion in 2022. My date was Haitham Al-Khudayri, and neither of us have changed a bit!

We extend a warm welcome to Maya Mouhaidly, the interim Director of Development at ACS Beirut, replacing Rosie Muhanna. She has been in the D & A office for about 3 years and taught science in the Middle School prior to that. I'm very excited to work and collaborate with her as we develop and execute our plans for the Alumni Association.

Lastly, a shameless plug for the 50th reunion of GREAT class of 73!! We are scheduled to meet in Charlotte, NC on

October 20-22 for a few days of fun and festivities. If you are in the Class of 73, and have not received information on our reunion, please reach out to me and I will put you in touch with the amazing duo of Marke Baker and Maureen Beurskens, who are the organizers of this event. Marke has demonstrated his investigative skills, locating many "lost alums".

I hope you enjoy this edition of the POT, and I thank Alice, as always, for her willingness to take on this responsibility. Going forward, she will get additional support from Cat Essoyan. Thanks should also be extended to all the Council members who volunteer their time to the School and the Alumni Association.

My best



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The Diaspora Potrzebie

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ACS at Beirut: www.acs.edu.lb
ACS Matters: www.acs.edu.lb/page.cfm?p=1326
Al Mashriq The Levantine
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<https://libraries.aub.edu.lb/digital-collections/collection/borre-webarchive>
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Message from the Editor

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Diaspora Potrzebie.

We have a new Alumni Council, and are excited that younger, recently graduated alumni from ACS have been eager to join. There are interviews with some of them in this issue.

We also announced that we would love to start a new "series" of stories in the Pot about couples who met at ACS and are together still. In the process, we found several other couples who hadn't really known each other at ACS, but have come together since then, thanks to our amazing reunions, contacts through friends, etc. Romance is in the air! There will be more stories like these in future issues, so please send me your story if you want to share with the rest of us.

Please also keep sending other stories, your news, mini-reunion photos, nostalgic photos, etc. to alice.ludvigsen@gmail.com, so that we can keep the Pot going. Remember to tag all the people in the pictures you send - I think it's the only frustrating thing about the whole job that this editor experiences, but it is frustrating when there are no names attached.

As I write this, I am happily ensconced in California; it's been a rainy, green, chilly, wonderful spring this year, and I am so reminded of our beloved Lebanon, with its lush greenery preceding the dry, brown grasses of summer. The green almonds and sourgrass dipped in salt are identical in taste, the clear skies and brilliant stars at night, the sudden downpours between bouts of sunshine - it has all been a wonderful background for creating this Potrzebie. I hope you enjoy it.

I also want to take the opportunity to announce that Cat Essoyan Hopen '73 has offered to assist me in the editing and story-collecting for future issues of the Potrzebie. Let's keep it going! She can be contacted at: catessoyan@gmail.com

Best wishes to all of you,
Alice Ludvigsen '70



With Bob Foster (Fac) in sunny Sausalito, CA.

Alumni Council

Members of the ACS Alumni Council 2023:

- **Yasmin Agha '04**
- **Donna Harms-Hansen '74 | Secretary**
- **Gina Kano '73 | President**
- **Margaret "Mug" Kelberer '73**
- **Jeanie Mullin '73**
- **Ramsey Barghout '12**
- **Elizabeth "Betsy" van den Berg '74**
- **Catherine "Cat" Essoyan Hopen '73**
- **Daniel Harrich '18 | Vice-President**
- **Leslie Parker '75**
- **Evelyn Lambert Saunders '71**
- **Amelia Seaton '77**
- **Glen Grubbs '71**
- **Alice Ludvigsen '70**
- **Leonard Smith '67 | Treasurer**

Ex-Officio governors (with voting rights)

Nina Joukowsky-Köprülü '79

Tom Cangiano, Head of School

Ex Officio members (without voting rights)

Jay Bruder '74

Jad Marrouche '21

Said el Kadi '22

What follows is a short introduction to three of the youngest members of the council:

Daniel Harrich '2018 - Vice President



Dear ACS Alumni Council!

To quickly introduce myself, my name is Daniel Harrich and I was part of the ACS 2018 Graduating Class! Given that this is our first meeting as the newly elected Council, I firstly wanted to congratulate everyone on this call for having been elected, but to also thank you for putting yourselves forward in the elections. I have no doubt that with the right

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- The Executive Committee
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 - Treasurer, Leonard Smith '67, leonard.smith@telesis-usa.com
 - Secretary, Donna Harms-Hansen '74, 32Aruba@comcast.net
- Email the alumni association: alumni@acs.edu.lb. Use this link to update your street or email address or request the electronic *Pot* only.
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ACS Beirut



ACS Beirut

- Diaspora Potrzebie Archives
You may visit the *Pot* archives on the school website. We digitized over 40 years of back issues, and they are searchable: acs.edu.lb/POT.
Password: Alumni_Pass_ACS Visit the ACS school website: acs.edu.lb.
- Donate here by credit card: www.acs.edu.lb/page.cfm?p=1805
- Donate here by check, payable to AA/ACS: Gina Kano, 1920 McKinney Way Unit 17L, Seal Beach, CA 90740

Alumni Council Continued

levels of engagement we'll be able to positively contribute to bringing ACS Alumni of all generations together, and I really look forward to working with everyone here (in whatever capacity) to advance the goals we collectively want to push!

Insofar as this speech of mine goes, I decided to run for the VP of the Alumni Council Position. I truly hope that I'll be able to deliver this live on our call, but I'm planning for the potentially unstable WiFi connection as I take a train back from Bratislava to Vienna. In case my connection is unreliable, I hope that reading through this speech will give you a sense for who I am and what I hope to bring to the Council – both things that I hope make a compelling case for my VP campaign.

Even though it's only been four years and a few months since my ACS graduation, I thought the best place would be to bring you up to speed on what I have done since. Immediately after ACS, I was incredibly fortunate to have been accepted to Columbia University, and specifically as part of their "newly" created Dual Bachelor's Degree Program with SciencesPo in France – the program allows you to simultaneously pursue BAs at both SciencesPo and Columbia, graduating with two degrees in four years. I studied Economics & Society at SciencesPo and then Financial Economics at Columbia. Finally, the program gave me the chance to live in both France and the US as an undergrad, and that's given me the unique privilege of being able to maintain strong ties with many of my ACS friends across the world (I've been able to see Alumni in the UK, continental Europe, and the US). Having just graduated from Columbia in 2022, I'm now based in New York and work in management consulting.

My desire to run for VP of the Council is rooted in the aspiration of getting younger generations of ACS Alumni to feel engaged with the broader Alumni community. I won't act like I have any solutions as of our conversation today, but I'd like to quickly throw out a few of my hypothesis about why we might have been struggling to get younger alumni buy-in.

1. Firstly, the mix of student profiles in ACS has changed considerably over the past few decades. Alumni are increasingly choosing to study in places like the UK, Europe, and Lebanon. While reunions in places like Baltimore are incredible, they don't necessarily easily cater to younger generations of ACS Alumni.

2. Secondly and in a similar vein, living more international lives in our ever-globalizing world is a drain on our limited capacity to engage with different causes. For example, Lebanese ACS alumni living and working in the UK have to think about their families back home and the state

of the country, in addition to the demands of their jobs, friendships, etc. The ACS Alumni community might not be top of mind anymore, especially when it doesn't immediately appear as easily accessible (back to my point about the choice of reunion locations).

3. Thirdly, I think for younger ACS alumni, the value proposition of the greater Alumni community isn't clearly defined. And this may be my most important point: we can't change that graduates are choosing to study in all corners of my world (my point #1), nor can we change that the world is more globalized than ever and people's attention is being demanded by more "events" than every (my point #2). But, what we can change is the value proposition of the ACS Alumni Community itself: who is it that we are, what is that we do, and why should people care. If we make it easier and more accessible for people to attend our events, and if we given them a reason to care (professional mentorship, college advice, etc) then I think that would already be a big step in the right direction.

These are only the 3 ideas of a single person. I don't claim that they're exhaustive nor that they're right. But, what I do think is that it is important for us to collectively brainstorm the obstacles that we might be facing, in order for us to be able to create a list of prioritized and tailored solutions! And therefore, if this is something we'd want to move ahead on, I would look forward to working with every single one of you to get your reactions (agreements, disagreements, and additions) so that we can find a way to grow and cement the engagement from all generations of ACS Alumni!

Above all, I wanted to thank you so much for your time and attention, and wishing all the candidates all the best of luck as well! Really looking forward to our work together, and no matter in what capacity I get to serve on the council, I'm sure the Council will be able to accomplish a lot!

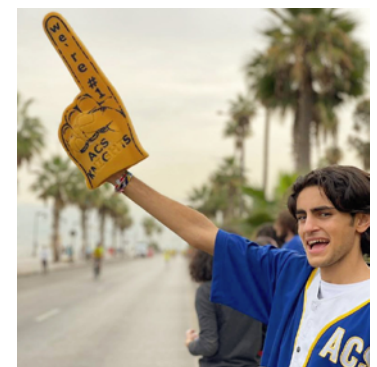
Looking forward to our call later today, and sending you my warmest regards!

Daniel

Interview with Said el Kadi '2022 - Ex Officio member of the Alumni Council

by Catherine Essoyan Hopen '73

In late January, I had a nice chat with Said el Kadi who has just joined the ACS Alumni Council



Alumni Council Continued

as an ex officio member and it is my pleasure to introduce him to the readers of the Pot in this article. Said attended ACS from 6th grade through 12th, graduating in the class of 2022. He is now in his first year at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, studying applied mathematics and economics with a minor in sociology.

Said is interested in focusing in his career on the public policy realm in relation to the Middle East region. He was active during high school in this regard, working with the AUB Knowledge to Policy Center. They set up a youth policy arm and organized bootcamps in the summer for interested young people. He explained that after the revolution of 2019, a lot of young people felt a sense of urgency to follow up but they lacked the knowledge of how to translate their passion into policy initiatives.

I asked Said what he had particularly appreciated about ACS. He said it was a sound board, very receptive to new ideas from students and ready to help facilitate translating them into action. It offered space for student initiatives and the staff and faculty also gave their time after hours and during the weekend to support these efforts. Said mentioned as examples the Model UN, a TEDX conference which students organized and a political panel with incumbent politicians, journalists and academics. Students were at the helm of these activities but faculty provided a lot of valuable support. As a result, Said graduated feeling empowered and feels quite confident and comfortable among his freshman classmates at Harvard, who are very talented students from around the world.

I asked Said why he was interested to participate in the Alumni Council and he said ACS has done a lot for him and he wants to give back to the school. I asked Said if there was something special that he would like to share from his ACS experience. He shared with me that his graduating class had dropped from 90 students to around 50 in the wake of the 2019 revolution and the Beirut port blast, with many families moving to Europe or elsewhere in the Middle East. Yet for the graduation of his class they all came back, some with their families, to attend, demonstrating the strong sense of connection they still felt. They did not want to miss out and several said they wished they had not left, that they had not found the same sense of community and connection at other schools as they had experienced at ACS.

I mentioned to Said that the Alumni Council is currently facing the challenge of how best to bridge the gap between classes who attended ACS before the Lebanese civil war and the more recent classes, how to ensure that the Alumni Council and its activities

remain relevant and meaningful to more recent graduates. I asked him for his reflections and recommendations in this regard. He said for the generation before the civil war, made up largely of expats, ACS represented the core of what Lebanon meant for them, and their direct connection to Lebanon stopped when they left. Now they fly across the US to attend reunions to keep alive that sense of a shared connection to a school they attended 50 years ago. In recent years, more of the students come from local families and ACS is just one part of their connection to the country, they might have a grandma living in Hamra or return to their village in the mountains on the weekend. So that is quite an important change. Said's advice to the Alumni Council and the school would be to capitalize on events for the younger generation. He said many of them still return to Lebanon during their breaks and suggested it would be good if the school would sponsor alumni get-togethers in the summer and in December to bring them together. Also, it would be good to organize more reunions in the Middle East region as more recent graduates are currently living there.



Conversation with Jad Marrouche '2021 - Ex Officio member of the Alumni Council

by Alice Ludvigsen '70

Jad joined the ACS Alumni Council as an ex officio member in January, as one of our young alumni. When I contacted him to do this chat, he wrote: "I graduated from ACS in 2021 and am now a Biology & Human Physiology Student at Boston University. I moved to ACS when

I was 7 years old and had the privilege to stay there for a full ten years. I still go back to Beirut during the summer and am excited to join the Alumni Council family!"

Jad and his brothers were all born in the US, to Lebanese parents, thereby acquiring American citizenship, which made it much easier to apply and get accepted to universities in the US. Jad was born in Florida in 2003, but grew up in Muscat, Oman, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. When he was seven, the family moved back to Beirut, his parents' home town, and he started second grade at ACS. He attended all the way through till his graduation in 2021.

I asked him how he had enjoyed those years at ACS, and his response

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Alumni Council Continued

was that his main connection to ACS came through his connection to the teachers. Teachers and students kept in touch with each other, even when one or the other had to leave the school and/or the country as the crises grew and just kept coming, one after another. He mentioned as an example, his previous chemistry teacher, Mrs. Maaliki, and adds: I would like to say that the bonds created with teachers at ACS can last beyond the classroom, and it's always a good feeling to reconnect with teachers as I have.

Jad's father resigned from his job in 2017, and the family were given financial aid from the school to keep Jad there. His senior year was covered by a full scholarship, and when he applied to Boston University, he was accepted, also with a full scholarship. I asked why Boston, did he have any connection there from before, and he replied that he had always known that he would go there to study (American citizenship, his brothers were already there, etc.), and that it would preferably be in the north east, where there would only be one connecting flight away from Beirut; it would be a little closer to home than going somewhere deeper into the US.

We talked about the nostalgia that the "pre-war generation" of ACSers feel for Lebanon, based on the fact that they were mostly ex-pats and that there was a boarding department, and how it feeds the importance of connecting at the reunions, as well as the existence of the Diaspora Potrzebie newsletter. "Post-war" alumni have all lived in Lebanon and have until recently gone back to visit their families often if they had left the country upon graduating. Jad pointed out that it is becoming all the more nostalgic for them too now, because more and more young people, as well as families, are having to leave due to the sad situation Lebanon is in.

I asked him what channels he sees as important to stay in contact with other alumni when they leave ACS, and the importance - or non-importance - of the newsletter and reunions. Jad stressed the importance of the Alumni Instagram page, with its live stories which feature people who are familiar to everyone, for example the guards, teachers and others that come to life and bring back memories. This type of communication, through social media channels, is much more current and popular with the younger generations. Group chats on Whatsapp are another important way of keeping in touch with each other.

About reunions, he said, "Our generation, glued to our phones, still appreciate meeting each other in person". We talked about the mini-reunions going on, and how good they are for meeting other alumni

who live in the same area, for example the latest New York and Boston reunions. Jad was, unfortunately, not able to attend the one in Boston, because it took place at exactly the same time as he was being interviewed for a Resident Assistant post at his university.

For bigger reunions, like the traditional triennial ones that have been held in the US until now, he also suggested, as others have done, having them closer to the Middle East, i.e. Dubai, but also in the UK. The tendency of going to universities abroad is mainly split between the US and the UK. (I agreed with him that it would be great to have reunions "over here" on the European side of the Atlantic.)

When I asked him why he had joined the Alumni Council, Jad said that he wants to give back to ACS, to increase the engagement of younger alumni in the work that the Council stands for. With two brothers who are also ACS graduates, Karim Charles Marrouche '2015 and Samer Marrouche '2018, he agreed when I said that they had a lot of recruiting power. Spreading the word through the previously mentioned group chats on Whatsapp is a powerful tool to keep people in touch and engaged in their old Alma Mater.

A note: I was not quite up to speed on the technicalities of a Zoom meeting, so did not manage to record the interview. I reverted to my old secretarial skills of taking notes, then sending the manuscript to Jad by e-mail for him to review and correct or add information. Two generations of ACSers working together to get things done!

Alumni Council News:

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, and Staff,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the resignation of **Rosie Muhanna**, who has served as our Director of Development & Alumni Relations for the past five years. Rosie has been an invaluable member of our team, working tirelessly to enhance our school's relationships with alumni, friends, and supporters.

As you may know, Rosie has been instrumental in building stronger ties between our school and our community, securing funding for numerous initiatives, and fostering a culture of philanthropy among our alumni and supporters. Her dedication and hard work have helped ACS to achieve many of our fundraising goals and have had a lasting impact on our school's future.

I want to take a moment to specifically thank Rosie for her hard work and dedication during this extraordinarily challenging period in

Alumni Council Continued

Lebanon's history. Despite the severe economic and political crisis, Rosie remained committed to our school's mission and worked tirelessly to build a positive environment at school and raise the resources ACS needed to continue to provide an exceptional education to our students.

Over the last five years, Rosie has become a beloved member of the ACS community who has built life-long relationships all over the ACS community from students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and Trustees.

We are grateful for the many contributions Rosie has made to our school, and we will greatly miss her energy, enthusiasm, and passion for the work we do. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and are confident that she will continue to make a positive impact wherever she goes.

As we begin this transition process for the D&A Office, we remain committed to building on the progress that Rosie and her team have made and continuing to strengthen our relationships with our

community. We appreciate your understanding and support during this time of transition.

Please join me in thanking Rosie for her years of service to our school and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.



Sincerely,

Nina Joukowsky Koprulu '79

Chair, Board of Trustees

Maya Mouhaidly has been appointed Interim Director of Development at ACS, replacing Rosie Muhanna, who left the school last month. Maya has been on the Development team, doing functions outside of Alumni Affairs, so has been able to step right in.

Fundraising News

In March this year, the head of school, Tom Cangiano, wrote the following:

Dear ACS Community,

I am excited to announce the launch of an ambitious fundraising campaign: The Student Tuition Aid Fund. With a goal of \$675,000 USD, the purpose of this fund is to provide financial support to students and families who may struggle to pay the \$11,000 USD ancillary fee.

The jump in the ancillary fee was driven by one main goal: to be able to pay our faculty and staff better than we currently are. I'm pleased to announce that all ACS employees will receive 70% of their salaries in USD, which we hope will provide much-needed financial relief given the dramatic devaluation of the Lebanese Lira and rampant inflation. We are committed to maintaining the quality of an ACS education, and the most important part of this is being able to retain and recruit talented faculty and staff. I am confident and excited about the future of our school.

We are also deeply aware that some ACS families, especially those who may not have access to dollars, will struggle to pay the ancillary fee. The money we raise in the Student Tuition Aid Fund will provide financial relief to those who need it most. Our goal is that no student will be forced to leave ACS for financial reasons.

Since my arrival at ACS in the summer of 2021, I have been impressed with how seriously ACS faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni value and appreciate being a part of this amazing community. It is in these difficult times when our community must come together to support those who are struggling. Earnestly I ask you to please consider contributing to this essential fundraising initiative. Please use this link to make a contribution today!



Shortly thereafter, we received this: Dear Gina and the entire ACS Alumni Association, We can't thank you enough for your extraordinary effort to get our Tuition Assistance Fund off the ground. This slide says so much about the strength of the ACS alumni community. It has been so helpful to launch the official campaign with such a great show of support from Alumni Association.

From the bottom of our hearts, thanks so much!!!

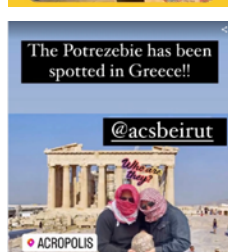
Sincerely,

Tom Cangiano
Head of School

Maya Mouhaidly
Interim Director of Development
and Alumni Relations

Alumni Notes

The Potrzebie strikes again!



Our mysterious Potrzebie has a long and convoluted history. If you go to the Pot Archives, and look up the March 2014 issue, you will get all the details, maybe. Since then, it has been pretty quiet, that is until the New York mini-reunion in November 2022. Suddenly, a story in Instagram photos from the ACS Alumni page turned up.

There is also this little tidbit to consider:

"I went on only one school trip, Krak des Chevaliers. We snuck up to the Cedars once. Bill Crays had money and used to invite us to tour via

taxi some Saturdays; we'd take jaunts around the city, out to St.Simons, or one of the small towns near the city. On the ACS Krak trip, we "borrowed" a stone ball and brought it back to school. It became a valuable tool to each class-trying to gain ownership and bragging rights by any means."

Rolf Christopherson '56

(from the Pot December 2021)

Editor's note: *The great football legend, Pelé, passed away on December 29, 2022. In that connection, the following was found on our Facebook page:*

Memory of Pelé - Helen Zoughaib '80

Pelé came to Beirut in the early 1970's and somehow my father was given this 5 lb note that Pelé had signed for him and daddy gave it to me! I dug it out from my



scrap book and sharing with you guys! That newspaper photo looks like it is on AUB campus.



Comment from Chris Karam:

What a great reminder off that day Helen! I remember seeing him, my dad insisted we all go over to the AUB field, and I had no idea how remarkable it was that he was there.

Here is a link to "[When King Pelé came to Beirut](#)".

Christina Lund '63

Sally Dickison's brother surprised her by inviting me over during her visit. She spent her freshman year at ACS when I was a junior in 1961-62 and lives in Morgantown, West Virginia not terribly far from Frederick, MD where her brother lives now. I think he was in 2nd grade at that time. I brought my two year books 61-62 and 62-63 with me and she had a great time reminiscing about a time that was kind of lost to her. Her family was in Damascus - I think her dad was a visiting professor. We didn't remember each other



Alumni Notes

but she did sign my yearbook so we kind of knew each other. I don't know if you collect these things for the Pot.

(Editor's comment: Yes, we do.)

New York reunion:



Boston Reunion, January 27

Donna H Hansen '74,

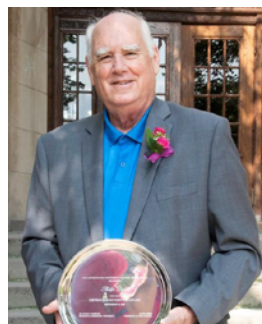
It was wonderful meeting up in Boston with all of these alumni along with Head of School Tom Cangiano and his wife Linda. While I graduated in 1974 and the youngest graduated last year, we realized we experienced many similar thoughts of what made ACS so special and important in our



lives - friends, teachers, the education, the activities and the community ACS created. Fadi Kanaan and I hope to plan more of these gatherings in the future.

Phil Davies '67

I wanted to share the news that my alma mater, Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio, honored me with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of my 40-year career in international relief and development working as a humanitarian with leading non-profit organizations. I credit Mr. Shoucair's French classes for helping me learn French which I used throughout my career and ACS for instilling in me a love of Lebanon and the Middle East which became my professional area of specialization. I am deeply honored to have received this award which has its roots in ACS.



Revenge of the Angry Leopard

(A Foreign Service Dependent Story)

by **George Herrmann '63**

Born into a family with five children, my brother Bill and I shared a bedroom most of our early lives. Our needs were modest, and our rooms did not have many decorations. There was an exception to this.

Our father grew up in India, living in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains. He had three older siblings, a sister and two brothers. All the boys in his family enjoyed hunting; at one time his oldest brother shot a leopard. Taxidermy in India was inexpensive in those years, so my grandfather had the leopard skin removed, preserved, and made into a rug. At the time, there were two ways to prepare a leopard-skin rug. One way was to fashion the hide into a flat rug, often sewing the skin onto a decorative felt border. The other way was a little more elaborate. The hide was processed as above, but the head was not kept flat. Instead, the taxidermist would cast a skull of the animal presented to him out of plaster of Paris, sizing the mold to produce an animal head of the proper size. Realistic and savage glass eyes were added to the casting. This produced a fierce-looking head, with a snarling, angry mouth open to expose the teeth of the animal presented to viewers. Mountings of this nature were often wall-mounted facing down, with a small shelf on the wall holding up the head so that it looked directly at visitors. My grandfather opted for the plaster of Paris treatment. Over the years, the leopard skin was passed from brother to brother

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Alumni Notes

to my father, who kept it. Brother Bill and I became the owners of the rug in our mid-teens when we moved to Beirut. We decided to put the rug on the floor for a little atmosphere. On the floor at night in the dark, it was easy to forget about the rug. We often stubbed our toes on the plaster skull on the way to bed. Once in a while, however, we would step on the leopard's lower jaw with our bare feet. The teeth in the lower jaw were not sharp enough to penetrate our feet, but stepping on them was certainly painful. Our usual response to stepping on the jaw was to yell and hop away from the big cat while holding our injured foot in both hands.

On one occasion, I put a bare foot into the leopard's mouth one night after doing the same thing the previous night. In anger at my own stupidity, I kicked at the offending jaw, sustaining a third injury but sending the lower jaw clear across the room. The following week, we glued it back onto the upper skull and moved the carpet out of the path between our beds. I don't know what happened to the rug after I left for college.

Mini-reunion in Sunol, California by Anne Peet '70

It was strange...going, without Rodge, because I would have loved for him to connect with my pals from ACS. From Beirut. He was fond of all of my Broumana pals, who he met both stateside and in Italy. I have seen none of THIS group of wonderful people since 1970. Imagine (53 years?!). The

miracle of our internet (a veritable time machine) reconnected all of us, by fits and starts. How FANTASTIC to motor over to El Cerrito to catch a shrieking BART train through old stomping

grounds (now overgrown with homeless encampments, so like the shanty towns of old Beirut, sadly), out to Pleasanton to meet **Alice Ludvigsen '70** at **Bob Foster's (Faculty)** welcoming house!



Alumni Notes

Becky Sibley '70 and her husband **Cliff Barnard '69** picked me up at the BART station (they merged in high school at ACS...imagine!). The frissons!!! How to describe the lovely sight of a beautiful girl you'd always so admired, who was always friendly (at a school not always so very friendly), coming towards you with open arms...after 53 years?! Unbelievable...thank you, Becky!! Her husband, so easy and handsome, as you remembered. Their coordination (not knowing this area, but driving the snake pit of freeways and byways to fetch me... no prob, hah!) so loose and easy. Can it BE?! Is this FOR REAL?! The greening hills, jubilant...masses of heavy clouds, lifting for us...the sun slanting through... all the way to Bob's house...a charming settlement just beyond the tiny train station. Fruit trees in blossom, in the fuzzy bright green softness of spring... exactly like Lebanon! Alice couldn't stop crying (and apologizing...so delightfully Lebanese, hah), and I couldn't stop laughing, as we hugged and hugged

- her brother, **Børre**, very present. Oh myyyyyy...what exhilaration and DELIGHT...the whole evening. Each sweet person, a revelation...I remember **Clifford Hunt '74**. I remember **Lisa Moore '73** and Mr. Foster distinctly, but did not know either one. She was a classmate of my sister **Mary's** (now known as Mary-Minn), and he was a teacher at ACS. I remember Vicky Sontag '70 very clearly, so it's fun to meet her sister **Sam '74**. SO much fun to hear all the stories and to meet Leslie, Clifford's wife who grew up in Berkeley. So much fun to meet Sam's Bob, too...but it was all SO INTENSE. Alice, at center (come to stay with Bob Foster for 3 months!) and Becky...two benign and happy influences and friends at ACS. But...check out the MEAL that Alice, Bob, Becky and Cliff put together: Tabbouleh (gluten-free!), baba ghanoush, hummus, labneh, various olives, Bob Foster's impossibly deliciously succulent marinated and charcoal fired chicken, pistachios, and of course delicious drinks of all sorts. Lisa brought REAL baklava

and stuffed grape leaves, and I brought REAL California cheeses. Someone brought the most insane loukoom. WHAT a feast of emotions, conversation and tunings-in...all sorts of

nutritive delights!! Both heart breaking and heart filling...SO INTENSE! Becky and Cliff took me (pure magic) back to BART, and I never even opened the book I'd brought to read on the trip. WAY too much to sink into...to allow to spill over and through me, on the ride back to El Cerrito.

What LOVE!!! ❤️ Astounding! ❤️

Reunion of old friends in Florida by Glen Grubbs

Debra and I spent a few days in Boca Raton while she was participating in an Art Show in West Palm Beach. We had some fun! We visited my classmates from ACS in Beirut, Kathleen Holmes (Smith) '71, Dr. Mike Blevins '71, and Kathleen's husband Lou Tyrrell. Lou and Kathleen's house is like an art museum, it's gorgeous, faces the ocean, and also is home to several dogs.



L-R: Glen '71 & Debra Grubbs, Kathleen (Smith) Holmes '71, Mike Blevins '71 and Lou Tyrrell.)

In Memoriam

Georgia Clark Sadler, ACS Class of '58 and Captain, US Navy (Retired) passed away Wednesday morning, 30 November, from complications related to Alzheimer's.

Her education and experience at ACS, including her opportunities to travel in the Middle East and in Europe, well prepared her for her career as naval officer and as a pioneer for women in the US Navy and the US armed forces.

Georgia's childhood years were spent in Los Angeles California and elsewhere in the USA until her father, Thomas E. Clark, moved the family (with her mother Anne and sister Carol) to Saudi Arabia for his job with the Arabian American Oil Company. She attended high school at ACS from 1955 to 1958 when she and her schoolmates were evacuated during one of Lebanon's political crises. Upon return to the States she attended Drury College in Springfield Missouri where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962. Georgia was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy in March 1963 at the Women Officers School in Newport Rhode Island, graduating first in her class!

Among the highlights of her distinguished career, in 1972 she was appointed the *first women faculty member at the US Naval Academy*. This groundbreaking assignment got her an invitation to appear as a contestant on the TV show "What's My line!"

Georgia had been awarded a Master's Degree in 1972 from the University of Washington's School of Public Affairs. It was from there she was selected for her instructorship at the Naval Academy.

Following her Naval Academy tour, she began the first of a number of duty tours with the Defense Intelligence Agency. In 1975 she became *DIA's first woman intelligence briefer to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff*. She personally considered this her most satisfying career accomplishment among her many others.

In her next assignment she served with distinction as a staff officer with the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She

then attended the National War College in Washington, DC from 1979 to 1980. The geographic focus of her studies was the Middle East and included a class trip to the area where she met Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

After the National War College, Georgia reported to the Chief of Naval Operations staff as head of women's programs. *This was her most important assignment on behalf of US Navy women.* She was especially involved with the new program to assign women to ships and aviation squadrons. As Georgia told it,

there was much resistance to allowing females on board ships, but not long after the first women were assigned, the ships' commanding officers and Chief Petty Officers were calling to request more female personnel!

From 1982 to 1985 Georgia, now Captain Sadler, was assigned to DIA as a *Deputy Director for Intelligence in charge of the National Military Intelligence Center*. She was responsible for supervising many intelligence analysts in providing worldwide current Intelligence to the Joint Chiefs and the Defense Department. Subsequently she became the *head of the Warsaw Pact Division for the agency's Current Intelligence Directorate*.

She was the *first woman to hold these two positions!*

Georgia retired from the Navy in 1991 after completion of her final tour with the Chief of Naval Operations Staff.

In retirement, Captain Sadler became a willing and active resource for military women's issues, contributing to numerous books, journals, radio and television news programs.

She also became a skilled woodworker. After attending the Marc Adams School of Woodworking in Indiana, she became quite proficient in marquetry and parquetry, creating many beautiful pieces of artwork, which she enjoyed having on display to share with her fellow Goodwin House Alexandria residents.



In Memoriam Continued

A complete memorial and summary of her illustrious career may be found on the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home Tribute page:

<https://www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Georgia-Sadler>

Georgia now rests with the “Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” and is sorely missed by me, her loving husband of 47 years, our niece and sole surviving next-of-kin, Lori Gibson, and many others who knew her.

Respectfully, and with best wishes for ACS, its students, faculty & staff,

Dudley C. Sadler



Summer in the city 2017 in Baltimore, Georgia is 4th from the right.
Photo: Jay Bruder

We received the following message from a friend of Georgia's:

Hi, **Bill Covington** here. I attended ACS from 1951 through 1953 while my father was the air attache in Damascus, Syria. While at ACS I was in grades 6, 7 and 8. I just read a recent obituary about Georgia Clark who attended ACS from 1955-1958. I am not sure that she graduated from ACS. Georgia's father worked for ARAMCO I believe. We both retired from the Navy as Captains, working as Intelligence officers. Georgia recently passed away and I thought you might like to see a write up about Georgia, published by the Navy History Organization; Here it is: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/people/trailblazers/georgia-c-sadler.html>

Just to show you what a small world this is, Georgia and I never met until we attended the military Defense Intelligence School

in Washington DC in 1967-68. We were in the Middle East section because of our past association with Lebanon. She had a wonderful career with the Navy as an intelligence officer. Her husband Dudley Sadler was a classmate of ours at the DIS.

Kathleen “Kacie” Carrick Kos '75

Kathleen Ruth Kos, age 64, of Asheville, passed away on June 16, 2022 in Buncombe county, where she had lived for 17 years, after losing her home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. She was born in Winter Park, Florida on July 4, 1957. She was the wife of Frank Kos, and the daughter of Ruth Hall Carrick, and is also survived by her brother Mike Carrick, her daughter Lilli Rayne and her grandsons Trafton and Tristan Kos. She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Franklin Gilbert Carrick.



A self-described 'Happy Nomad', Kathleen had lived in Venezuela, Kuwait, and Lebanon where she attended the American Community School in Beirut. With a gift for language, she never hesitated to engage with locals in communities all over the world. Upon returning to the United States, Kathleen lived for some time in Arizona, and Nevada before settling down in Biloxi, Mississippi.

When the Katrina hurricane demolished their home, she and Frank found a warm embrace by the citizens of Asheville who opened their doors and their hearts to those whose lives were devastated by flood. Kathleen, also known as Kacie, or Katie established a business in Asheville, operating Katie's Treasure Chest at Smiley's Flea Market in Hendersonville. Those of you fortunate to have engaged with her will remember her as warm, outgoing, and easy to talk to. If you were a small child, more often than not, you walked out with some small gift or treasure that Kathleen gave away for the pure joy of seeing those tiny smiles.

Sadly, Kathleen lost her life in her sixth and final battle with cancer, after a three year struggle with pancreatic cancer. Those

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In Memoriam Continued

who knew her well know that despite her continual struggle with this relentless disease, she remained upbeat, cheerful, and positive throughout her many medical struggles and setbacks. She was always ready with a joke and determined to live her best life against all odds.

With the courage of a lion and the soul of a warrior, she wanted it to be known that she refused to Go Gently into that Good Night.

Michael C. Hudson, Faculty

received from Aida Hudson:

My father was a teacher at ACS many years ago and I believe in the chaos of the pandemic, many old friends and colleagues were not aware of his passing in 2021. Here is a brief obituary, if you would like to include it in a future newsletter.

Thank you.

Aida Hudson

Michael C. Hudson taught history at ACS as a young man in the late 1950s or early 1960s. At the school he met his future wife, Vera Wahbé, who taught biology. He also began a lifelong engagement with the Arab world. Inspired by his experiences in Beirut, he went on to write two pioneering works in the field of Middle East politics, *The Precarious Republic: Political Modernization in Lebanon* (1968) and *Arab Politics: The Search for Legitimacy* (1977). In a distinguished academic career that spanned 50 years, he served as Professor of International Relations, Seif Ghobash Chair of Arab Studies, and founder and Director of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University as well as Director of the Middle East Institute of the National University of Singapore.

Michael lost his wife Vera, the love of his life, to pancreatic cancer in 2007. Nevertheless, he continued to work, write and travel until shortly before his death in May 2021. Michael and Vera are survived by two daughters, Leila Hudson of Tucson, Arizona and Aida Hudson of Copenhagen, Denmark, and four beloved grandchildren, Zayna, Zayd, Annika and Benedict.

Dear ACS Alumni

I just wanted to let you know that my mom, **Patricia Henning (Roberts)** has passed away. She went to ACS in her teenage years (1950's) and together we attended your reunions in Boston and in Salt Lake City a few years ago.

My mom treasured the few years she spent in Beirut and reminisced often..

All the best

Hayley Henning

Martin Gostelow, Faculty 1968-1972

The sad news of Martin Gostelow's passing on the 3rd of April has been received from his wife Mary Gostelow, via John Nelson, Faculty. There has been no obituary published; Mary is planning a tribute gathering for him in England on July 2.

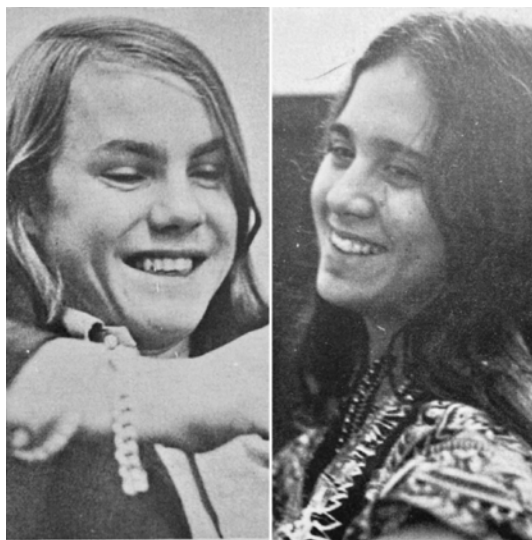
I found this message from Mary on her LinkedIn page. I also discovered that Martin wrote numerous travel books.

Martin arrived in Beirut in 1967, married his Mary in 1968, and they stayed until 1972, when they moved back to England.

Martin Gostelow, the love of my life, is now in heaven - he was so humble. Once, (in Lusaka or was it Lahore?) he noticed a keen front desk guy had lost all his front teeth playing football. This youngster wanted to be a GM but now he couldn't. Martin quietly paid for all surgery without telling anyone, even me



ACS Couples



Cat Essoyan and René Hopen - both Class of '73

We met at ACS. I started in 1966 in 6th grade and René came in 1967 in 7th grade. He was in the BD in the beginning

and I was a day student. We both graduated from ACS in the Great Class of 1973. We were not an item at ACS, although we were friends pretty much from the beginning. Years later, when I was pregnant with our second son, I asked him whom he had had crushes on in high school. I told him that he was one of those I had a crush on and he named those he had crushes on, and then said (in case I had missed it!) that I was not one of them. Our sisters were good friends. We edited the Aleph Beth school paper together, and we have different versions of which of us did the most work on it. We hung out with other friends including Noreen O'Donnell, Maureen Beurskens, and Beth Basson in the carrels in the library. Although he did higher level math and science courses than I did, he got the English award at graduation while I was named most likely to succeed. He went to Princeton and I went to Yale and we visited each other during our college years.

After college I worked in DC for a couple of years for a Senate committee. While I was there, I heard René's sister had died 6 months earlier, and I remember feeling so upset and that somehow the world should inform you if something terrible happens to someone you care about. I managed to reach René and we talked by phone. In the summer of 1979 we traveled together in Europe visiting friends in France, England and Scotland. After that I started a 2 year MA course at Harvard in Middle East studies. Partway through my degree, René suggested I move to the Netherlands to solve our distance problem. I decided to finish my degree.

René was back in Beirut taking courses at AUB when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, and I went to work on Lebanon relief and reconstruction at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Philadelphia. I traveled to Lebanon to assess relief and reconstruction needs together with the Middle East Council of Churches. We were driving in the south and drove by Tapline in Zahrani. I mentioned I knew someone who lived there. It was under Israeli occupation and we stopped to ask the guards if the Hopens were there. It turned out they were there and they drove me up the hill. As I walked by the kitchen window, René's father thought I was yet another journalist. He and René were very surprised to see me! We had a super brief but really memorable visit before I had to head back to Beirut.

My initial contract with AFSC was for three months but I ended up staying for 10 years, three of which were in East Jerusalem where I ran the Quaker Legal Aid Center. I saw René once or twice when I would transit through Amsterdam enroute back and forth from

the region. It is fair to say that I am significantly better at keeping in touch with people than René is. We traveled again in Europe at the end of my time in Jerusalem and visited friends in Bavaria and Switzerland. I had surgery that fall and René came to visit me in Philadelphia



when I was convalescing. I came to the Netherlands to spend Christmas with him and introduced him to the importance of Christmas stockings and he gave me a ring. The next summer

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ACS Couples Continued



we traveled together to visit my family in Hawaii.

We stayed overnight at my brother's second home and René proposed to me and I said yes. From Honolulu we went to Seattle for the ACS reunion where we announced our engagement.

At our wedding that December on the lanai of my parents'

home on the North Shore of Oahu, my father said 'Ten years ago René asked Cat to marry him and this year she said "as you were saying..."'

Dan Ball and Anna Kennedy (both ACS Class of '72) were our best man and best woman. I moved to the Netherlands on Valentine's Day 1992. That was quite a big change for me as it meant giving up my job and learning a new language. I was lucky to find a new job as a program officer at Novib (later Oxfam Novib) where I ended up staying until our retirement in 2021. Our first son Bjorn was born in November 1992 and his brother Kai in January 1996. René's parents lived in Apeldoorn



across town from us which was special as they were fully part of our kids' early years. While my parents were alive we visited them in Hawaii every summer. They visited us a couple times but my father was convinced it always rains here.

It has been good for us living here in the Netherlands although I miss friends and family in the US and in the Middle East. René worked in IT at Achmea, a leading insurance firm, while I commuted across the country by train to my work and traveled regularly to the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region.

We are quite different as people. We joke that we invariably tackle any simple task in different ways. He is rational and logical and tends to find my approach a bit random and impulsive. I am more outgoing and outwardly emotional than he is. We fit together well though and have just celebrated our 31 st anniversary. We have adopted a new rhythm in our retirement, with a lot of walking and recently swimming at a local pool once a week. We are both active on Facebook, René enjoying humor and connections with old friends while I post photos of our walks and vacations and of birds and butterflies. We have a lot to be grateful for and it is precious to have shared memories of our ACS years and to still be connected with many friends from those days.

Maureen Beurskens and Marke Baker - both Class of '73



In the almost 50 years since I left ACS, life has been busy as I am sure it has been for all of the members of the Great Class

of '73'. I graduated from Smith College in 1977, went straight to the University of MA Medical School and then onto a four year residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology. I got married while in medical school and over time became the lucky parent of 3 healthy sons. Taking care of my patients, raising my boys and

ACS Couples Continued

trying to catch up on my sleep was about all I had the time and energy for. This challenging schedule continued for years. Soon after I said to goodbye to my youngest son as he left for college, I set myself on track for a divorce. The marriage and I could not survive multiple traumas, big and small, that had occurred.

My sisters and I had attended very few ACS reunions since graduation. We decided to do a "sisters' trip" to the ACS reunion in Austin in 2010. Juliette, Carolyn and I looked forward to reconnecting with old friends and to reminiscing about ACS and living in Lebanon. Attending the reunion transported me back to what represented such a formative and fun part of my life. While at the reunion, the class of 73' gathered and among the attendees was Marke Baker. Even

though our class at ACS was small, I only knew Marke from a distance. We chatted for a while. Marke was living in Chicago at the time, and I told him I was planning to attend a medical conference in Chicago about 6 months later. He said to be sure to look him up while I was in Chicago.

I had remembered Marke as somewhat of a mischievous teenager. In contrast, I was pretty much a rule follower in high school. In the almost 40 years since I had seen him, Marke had graduated from college and worked his way to becoming the President of Mitsubishi's North American Printing Division. I found Marke to be not only smart and accomplished but charming and generous to boot. As a quasi-scientist, as doctors are sometimes perceived, I thought I sensed some chemistry in the making. While I was in Chicago, I invited Marke to have dinner with me, one of my best friends from my residency years and another Ob Gyn. During the dinner, conversation



turned to sharing clinical experiences with my colleagues. Marke remembers the exchange as supplying fodder for what might be a potential contender for a new tv talk show.

Marke and I had a long distance relationship for a few years until we decided to buy a house together in Charlotte in 2013. By then Marke had left Mitsubishi and had established his own business with his office and warehouse being in New Jersey. We chose a house strategically close to the Charlotte airport. On Monday mornings I would drop Marke off at the airport on my way to the office or hospital and then pick him up on my way home on Thursday evenings.

Marke and I were fortunate to travel to Beirut in 2015.

It was my first trip back to Lebanon since 1975. It was heartwarming to be back in Lebanon. We enjoyed visiting the ACS campus, walking through the AUB campus and finding our way from Bliss to Hamra. A close Lebanese friend of Marke's gave us unlimited access to his driver. The driver was a very friendly Druze fellow who took us to Byblos, Sidon, Tyre and Beiteddine. We were able see old friends and neighbors of mine in Rabiya, an area north of Beirut, where I had lived with my family during my ACS years. On that trip we sought out Mary Najemy, class of 72' and Randa Azkoul, class of 71'.

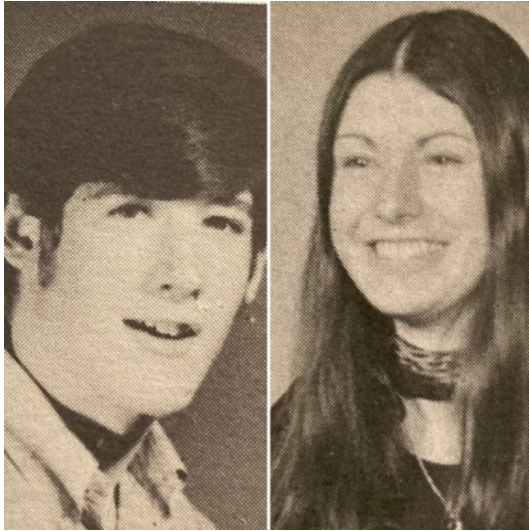
The beauty of Lebanon was still incredible. Personally, I found that the years of civil war had affected the way the people behaved towards strangers. To no surprise, people seemed more circumspect and less open to strangers than I had remembered. Nonetheless we enjoyed being back in Lebanon so much that we returned to Lebanon in 2018 along with Marke's brother, Sean Baker, and close friend and classmate, Pete Canarella.

In January of 2020, Marke decided to retire and he joined me full time in Charlotte. I retired at the end of 2020. We renovated the lower level of our house into an apartment for my mother, Irma. She joined us in February of 2021. Marke and I stay busy entertaining Irma, working on home projects, visiting with family and doing some traveling. We acquired a house in the NC mountains to enjoy the cooler weather when it gets steamy in Charlotte. We love spending time in the Blowing Rock/Boone area and are putting some sweat equity into making the mountain house our own.

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ACS Couples Continued

We, especially Marke, have recently been busy organizing a fun and memorable 50th reunion for the Great Class of '73' to be held in Charlotte in October 2023. We are excited that the outcome of the voting for the location of the reunion resulted in the choice being the Queen City. We are hoping for a record breaking attendance and looking forward to welcoming everyone, especially first time ACS reunion attendees.



Sara Lambert '73 and David Whitney '71

David writes: This article was posted by ACS while we were visiting Beirut on our honeymoon in 2015. We had a great visit, and went again in 2017!

11 September 2015 - ACS Knights

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join us in congratulating Sara Lambert '73 and David Whitney '71, our latest alumni couple!!!

David and Sara dated in high school but then David left half way through. Sara graduated from ACS in 1973 but left Beirut at a very difficult and unstable time, losing contact with everyone at ACS.

In the Spring of 2013, Sara's classmate reached out to her about the Triennial Alumni Reunion in San Diego and after browsing through the Facebook event Sara managed to friend David on Facebook. After reconnecting they both decided to attend the reunion. Sara had locked up her ACS days after losing contact and was in desperate need to find herself all over again.

What happened next?

The reunion was a game changer. Sara reconnected with many

alumni and old friends in San Diego, but most importantly her high school sweetheart. Upon returning to England, Sara felt changed, excitement struck her to the point of no return. Knowing David is the one, Sara threw away her life in England and 8 months later got herself a one way ticket to California!

Today Sara and David are on their honeymoon in Beirut, 42 years later, to reminisce and connect back to the place they first met! They will be joining us tonight at the Alumni Networking Series and maybe you get the chance to hear the details we left out that make this story even more exciting!

Congratulations once again to Sara and David!



ACS Couples Continued



Scott Brunger '64 and Ann Owens Brunger '65

Scott Brunger and Ann Owens met in Sunday School in Beirut in 1961, according to Scott.

According to Ann, we met in Mme. Bourdais' French class, where we learned about

smoking as well as French grammar. After her summer in Lausanne, Ann had a good French accent and Scott, who hitch-hiked through France, did not. Our first date was to the Sadie Hawkins dance, where we were married for the first time. Guess who asked whom?

We came together in college around our homesickness for Lebanon and our nostalgia for Lebanese food. When Ann was at Barnard College in NYC Scott would take the train from Yale to see her and enjoy her cooking. Sometimes she would come to New Haven as his date for a dance or a football game. We married for real the week after our graduations in 1968.

Ann's parents were Presbyterian missionaries and Scott's were International YMCA. After college we served as Christian mission volunteers in francophone West Africa meeting students in newly created national universities. When their governments banned student associations outside the ruling party, we organized a church conference center for training women's groups, Sunday school teachers, and volunteer literacy teachers. At the center we also discussed issues, such as birth control in Africa. Ann was invited to preach in French on Sundays.

During that time we took cheap hajj flights to Beirut and visited ACS in 1971 and 73.

Returning to the U.S. Ann went to study at Yale Divinity School. She was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1979. Scott studied

economic development of poor countries in a program full of Arabs, Iranians and Latin Americans at The New School for Social Research in New York. By the time we finished our degrees, we also had three young sons. Scott chose a faculty position at Maryville College in East Tennessee, because of the fine missionary graduates we had met in Jordan, Iran, Switzerland and Asia.

All of the Brungers together revisited Lebanon and ACS in 1998. Our sons were able to see and taste what we had been talking about for years. During the conflict in Syria, Ann and Scott returned in 2017 as part of a Presbyterian organization Syria Lebanon Partnership Network which brings American Christians into partnership with Arab Christians.

Our marriage begun at ACS has lasted 55 years. Alhamdulillah!



Our 50th wedding anniversary



l-r: Melinda, Scott, Muriel, Bill & Anne Brunger at Baltimore 2022 reunion.

Alumni Association of the American Community School at Beirut, Inc.
20 Franklin St.,
Salem, NH 03079

Return Service Requested

You may update your street address or email by sending an email to: alumni@acs.edu.lb