Welcome to the – Issue 2, Volume 3 edition of WCAS e-newsletter!
After a refreshing change of cool weather in the otherwise warm to hot climate of the region, we brace ourselves once again to welcome spring (though short-lived), with nature in full bloom visible particularly in the flora and fauna around us……
And as if to herald the spring, the winter of 2013 brought in its wake the much awaited Graduation ceremony (Convocation-2012) of WCAS, held at Al Noor Hall, Madinat As Sultan Qaboos, Muscat on 19th of Jan, 2013, under the patronage of H.E. Maitha Bin Saif Bin Majid Al Mahrooqiyyah, Undersecretary, Ministry of Tourism. Among the dignitaries who graced the occasion were H.E. Dr. Omar Zawawi, Founder, WCAS, Mr. M.M. Khan, Chairman, Trustee Council, WCAS, its distinguished members, H.E. J.S. Mukul, Ambassador of Republic of India to Oman apart from academicians, Govt. officials and CEOs of prominent Corporate Houses. In total, 366 students received their Degree/Diploma Certificates. The best academic performer from each program was awarded a Gold Medal in appreciation of his/her achievements.
The importance of interaction and exchange between global institutions of excellence vis-à-vis students programs and academia can never be exaggerated. This was amply proved on 3rd Dec, 2012 when Dr. Andrew, School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Leeds, UK visited us. He delivered a lecture on “What is engineering?” and interacted with the students to apprise them about facilities available at the University of Leeds for higher studies.
Entrepreneurship, the very word reverberates in every sphere of life pertaining to the business world. The Entrepreneurship club of WCAS organized a lecture “Building Enterprises” by Mr. Arindam Dutta, an expert in the area of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Growth, on 18th Dec, 2012. WCAS was honored by the visit of Dr. Zahir A. Al Hemyari, Professor of Statistics & Expert of Research and Studies, Office of the Undersecretary, Ministry of Education on 21st of Oct, 2012. He came to share his experiences about the preparation of research proposals.
Another feather in the cap of WCAS was the prestigious Annual BTI Scholarship award ceremony held on 26th Dec 2012. Best academic performers in an academic year from various categories were awarded scholarship.
Activities galore crowned the ring of WCAS in the last few months and did the college proud! The Adventure Club organized a trekking cum cleanup program of C38 path for students, staff and their family members in Dec 2012, to highlight the importance of eco-friendly activities for the environment.
Not to be left behind, the WCAS Football Team was crowned the champion of Football tournaments organized by Al Wadihah Sports Team in Al Seeb. Eight teams participated in this tournament.
‘Education makes the man’……or so goes the saying. As part of the Academic Events of the Dept. of Management, a business quiz was organized by the Dept. of Management in November 2012.
Culture and Tradition are inseparable and culture can only be rekindled with traditional practices. The Traditional Day was organized in the college premises in November, 2012. Students from various nationalities dressed up in their traditional attire were indeed a feast for the eyes. The Dean Dr. Mohan Varma extended his appreciation to all members of organizing team and encouraged this cultural mix.
A highlight of the plethora of activities and events in WCAS was the ‘paper recycling event’ by the Environmental Club in association with ‘Muscat Daily’ in early December, 2012. On the day of the event, the Dean and Assistant Dean Dr. Padmipriya were presented with Recycled paper which was recycled in the Biotechnology Lab of WCAS! No mean feat indeed!
The faculty and staff of WCAS organized a Gala Dinner in honor of Dean Dr. Varma at Al Khair, in Dec, 2012 in order to felicitate him on being conferred with the Certificate of Recognition by the Govt. of Korea. A proud moment indeed!
And last but not the least, It is our privilege to welcome new and promising members to the WCAS family as faculty and staff, who we hope will leave their ‘footprints on the sands of time’……
So, friends let’s get a bit poetic, new that ‘spring’ is here.
Have you heard what a ‘sonnet’ is? See one on our ‘Graduation Day’ when you leaf through the pages.
Finally, welcome on board to pleasurable reading! Our sincere thanks and acknowledgement to all our contributors, without whom this issue would have not been possible…..
Miss Nabila Sulaiman Al-Zadjali

Ms Nabila Sulaiman Al-Zadjali has joined WCAS as lab technician in electronics and communication department. She is an alumnus of our college. Prior to joining WCAS, she was working at Suhail Bahwan Automobile in service department for three years.

Mr. Prashant Singh

Mr. Prashant Singh has joined WCAS as Assistant Professor in the Department of Management. He has six years of industry experience in ICICI Bank, Yes bank, finally with HDFC bank as Manager. He has worked as Assistant Professor (Department of Management) with Noida Campus of Birla Institute of Technology.

Mr. Rashid Mubarak Rashid Al-Handasi

Mr. Rashid Mubarak Rashid Al-Handasi has joined WCAS as Lecturer in the English Department. He studied English language at Sultan Qaboos University. He was chosen as presenter of English Omani Literature in 2011. He has a wide range of experience in teaching at various institutions including Ministry of Education.

Mr. Issa Al Noobi

Mr. Issa Al Noobi has joined WCAS as Lecturer in the English Department. He has got a BA degree from Sultan Qaboos University, and has many achievements to his credit.

Mr. Umair Ujala

Mr. Umair Ujala has joined WCAS as Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics. He is MSc. in ‘Mathematics and Computer Science’ from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi. He has taught in various colleges at Graduation and Post Graduation levels. He is a life time member of the Academic Committee of ICS, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
The 8th Graduation Ceremony (Convocation – 2012) was held on Saturday January 19, 2013 at Al Noor Hall, Al Noor Plaza, Madinat As Sultan Qaboos, Muscat under the patronage of H. E. Maitha Bint Saif Bin Majid Al Mahrooqiyah, Undersecretary, Ministry of Tourism, Sultanate of Oman. Among the dignitaries who graced the occasion were H. E. Dr. Omar Bin Abdul Muniem Al Zawawi, Founder, WCAS, Mr. M. M. Khan, Chairman, Trustee Council, WCAS, its distinguished members, H.E. J. S. Mukul, Ambassador of Republic of India to Sultanate of Oman, Academicians, Government officials and CEOs of prominent corporate houses. In total, 366 students (of which 52 were Masters, 239 Bachelors, 2 Advanced Diploma and 73 Diploma) received their Degree / Diploma certificates.
The best academic performer from each program is awarded a Gold Medal in appreciation of his/her achievements. In Convocation – 2012, the Gold Medalists were awarded to Ms. Sneha S. in Master of Business Administration (MBA), Mr. Ayman Matar Masaad Al Mayah in Executive Master of Business Administration, Mr. Aditya Murali in Bachelor of Engineering (BE), Ms. Rajila Majid in Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA), Ms. Akshata Arun Shirodker in Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Mr. Mohammed Khalifa Ahmed Al Riyami in Bachelor of Business Administration (part time program).

The next best academic performers from each program were awarded a Certificate of Merit in recognition of their academic achievement. The Certificate of Merit recipients of this year were Mr. Abdullah Salim Hamood Al Braiki, Ms. Shilpa Sudhakar, Ms. Zahra Ali Mohammed Al Siyabi, Ms. Greeshma Unnikrishnan, Ms. Muna Juma Khamis Al Abri, and Ms. Jahnawi Pravinchandra Rajaguru. The respective winners received the Certificates of Merit from the Chief Guest, H. E. Mattha Bint Sa’if Bin Majid Al Mahrooqiyyah.

The Dean, Faculty & staff, distinguished guests and parents congratulated the outstanding achievers and wished them all success in future endeavors to bring laurels to their Alma Mater.

**College Graduation Day!**

*A Sonnet*

Oh what a day, the glorious College day
Those degree getters gladly wait to seize,
With bright dyed gowns and caps that fitly lay
Pursue the line with patience and with peace.

How wondrous are the College heads arrayed?
With honoured city men, their halo, see
The march to stage was pomp and grace portrayed
All guests now see the august jubilee.

The fond memories the cameras clicked and stored
Of honoured, learned and the freshly crowned
With vows to guard the reverence just bestowed
And strive yet harder or they shall get doomed.
Of course, it is with scroll that’s placed on hand
They’ll strive anew or fade as fallen land!

*by T. D. Manohar, Asst. Prof*
Change is essential for progress. Winston Churchill opined - to improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often. However, changes in any system have to be done with adequate care and caution and must be in tune with vision and mission of the organization. Changes must not be done just for the sake of it; these must be carefully considered, discussed and agreed by the core team. These must be relevant to the entity concerned and caution must be exercised to ensure that these are not randomly borrowed and arbitrarily injected in the system. The general hazard of affecting major changes in organizational functions at a rapid rate is that this may involve a high risk of failure. The single major reason may be uncertainty in the minds of human resource about the necessity of change. It is, thus, essential to first build a strong team capable to carry forward the desired scheme of change. This group must have unflinching commitment and belief in the cause.

Any significant change involves some degree of uncertainty of outcome. Managing transitions and its human side remains a singular challenge for the leadership. Sometimes the ‘requirements of change’ and management of the conflicts of the ongoing operations may not be easy to handle. We, as human beings, have inherent inertia for change as this requires stepping out of the comfort zone. It is important to communicate to all concerned the necessity for positive change in today’s dynamic world to remain in the front. Equally significant is the realization by the human resource that each one of them has got a role to play in larger scheme of things.

Like all other major areas, the field of education is also going through a phenomenal transition. This impacts the human resource, the society and growth of nation at large. The teaching-learning process, leverage of technology in dissemination of knowledge, emphasis on learning by doing, innovation and ability to think beyond the apparent, skills to communicate with peers and examiners, setting goals and attaining them in specified time frame have become integral part of higher education system. The teachers and the taught both have to catch up with this change and there lies the difference between premier institutions and the rest. The top notch institutions ensure that graduating students are knowledgeable, hardworking, disciplined and willing to accept challenge. These traits are essential for them to be successful in this fiercely competitive world.

We need to continuously focus on dynamic planning and re-defining objectives for WCAS as required to maintain high quality standards in all domains of activity. The target achievement of critical elements in our strategic plan, the implementation of ERP for better resource planning, focus on research based learning, continuing education and training for faculty and staff and need based development of infrastructure are the critical areas that will surely lead to significant change, we are aiming for in near future, to achieve the set goal.
Visit of Dr. Andrew from University of Leeds

Dr. Andrew H Kemp, School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Leeds, U.K. visited WCAS on 3rd December, 2012. He delivered a lecture on “What Is Engineering?” He interacted with the students and briefed them about the facilities available at University of Leeds for higher studies. He met Heads of Departments, and senior faculty members. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen the relationship between University of Leeds and WCAS. WCAS is already availing the benefits of collaboration between Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, India, and University of Leeds. WCAS BCE Students after 4th Semester can opt for a credit transfer to the University of Leeds, and are entitled for dual degree, i.e. M.Sc. from the University of Leeds and BE from BIT. Discussions were also made to extend the facility of dual degree to the students from Biotechnology and Computer Science. Dr. Andrew stated that he would pursue this issue with the authorities at Leeds for necessary approval.

Guest Lecture by Mr. Arindam Dutta

Entrepreneurship club organized a lecture and invited Mr. Arindam Dutta, an expert in the area of Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Growth for a lecture on “Building Enterprises”, on 18th December, 2012. The lecture was attended by sixty three participants including the final year students of MBA., BBA, and BE. Dr. Mohan Varma, Dean introduced the speaker to the audience and Dr. G.P. Mishra, Professor In-Charge, Entrepreneurship club presented the vote of thanks.

Guest Lecture by Dr. Zuhar

Dr. Zuhar A. Al - Hemyari, Professor of Statistics & Expert of Research and Studies, Office of the Under Secretary, Ministry of Education visited our college on 21st December, 2012. He came to share his experiences about the research proposals which are to be submitted to The Research Council. He was welcomed by Dr. G.P. Mishra and Dr. Seema Varshney. Dr. Zuhaire being an expert of research and studies provided useful insights about the research proposal. Dr. Mohan Varma, Dean (WCAS) had detailed discussions with Dr. Zuhaire about academic research, quality process and procedures and the matters pertaining to MOHE visit to the college. Assistant Dean Dr. Padmini was also present during the meeting.

Trekking cum clean up programme of C38 path

Adventure Club of the college organised a trekking cum clean up programme of C38 path for students, staff and staff’s family members on December 19th, 2012 to inculcate habit of active living and cleanliness. Seventy trekkers participated in this trekking programme. This activity also included path clean up activity to highlight the importance of eco-friendly activities for preservation of our environment.
In Honor of the Dean

The Faculty of Waljat College organized a dinner on 29th December, 2012 at Grill House, Al-Khuwair, in honour of the Dean, Dr. Mohan Varma, who has been conferred with a Certificate of Recognition by the Govt. of Korea.

Annual BIT Merit Scholarship 2011-12

The prestigious Annual BIT Scholarship awarding ceremony was held on Wednesday, 26th December 2012 at the college premises. Ms. Indrani Basu welcomed the recipients, their parents and other guests. Dean Dr. Mohan Varma felicitated the topper of the academic year 2011-12 in the presence of guests and Heads of the Departments. Addressing the gathering, the Dean congratulated the recipients and reminded them not to be complacent and set even higher goals for themselves.

Speaking on the occasion, parents acknowledged the efforts of teachers in shaping the future of their wards. The recipients expressed their gratitude to their parents and teachers and promised to carry on the good work in future as well. BIT Merit Scholarship was instituted in the academic year 2008-09. The main objective behind this scholarship is to recognize the meritorious students and encourage them to aim for higher goals in their chosen field of study. This year 25 students qualified for the scholarship. Best academic performers in an academic year from various programs BBA, BCA and BE programs are eligible for this scholarship. They are awarded with a cash prize and a certificate of merit. Till date, 96 students have been honored with this Scholarship.

WCAS Football Team is the champion of Al Wehdah Football Tournament

The Waljat College Football Team was crowned the champion of the football tournament among the 8 teams that had competed. The final was played between Muscat team and Waljat College team and ended in a cut throat draw of 2/2 on 7th January, finally bringing glory to the college with the penalty kicks. The college team made everyone proud by playing with zeal and enthusiasm.
Traditional Day

Traditional Day was organized in the college premises on 26th November 2012. Students from various nationalities dressed up in their traditional attires.

A Cultural programme was organized showcasing traditional arts, folk dances and music. The event included Rangoli, Henna, Western and Indian singing competitions, Traditional Indian and Omani dances and folk songs. There was Omani traditional corner showcasing Omani traditional hospitality by serving Kahwa, dates and Omani halwa.

The day brought out a great deal of fun and exhibited traditions of diversified cultures. There was a good participation by both our Omani and Indian students and this cultural mix was appreciated by our respected Dean. He extended his appreciation to all members of the organizing team and distributed the prizes to the winners of the competitions. This event was enjoyed by the audience and we hope to have more and more participation for such events in future.

Singing Competition

The Music Club organised a Singing Competition for students on the occasion of “Traditional Day”. The competition was categorised into Bollywood category and Western category. The competition was adjudged by Dr. Nutan Lata Nath, Mr. Praveen Sanga and Mr. Sounak Paul. Criteria for judging the performances were vocal quality, vocal range, stage presence and overall performance. The students belted out popular songs to a packed audience.

The Bollywood category was won by Reham, with Devina finishing runners-up. Nivedita won the western category, with Vrinda taking the second spot.

Beat Diabetes Walkathon

Students and faculties from WCAS took part in the ‘Beat Diabetes- Walkathon’ on November 16th, 2012 organized by Landmark Group. People from all spheres of life, participated in the walk voicing their concern over rising diabetes rate and thus creating awareness.

Participants were provided with free check up and refreshments.
**WCAS Business Quiz 2012**

As part of academic events of the Department of Management, a Business Quiz was organized for all students of BBA, BCA and BE of Waljat College of Applied Sciences on the 26th November 2012. This Quiz aimed at bringing out the students' general awareness of current affairs and of business and management related areas, besides sharpening their academic skills. The Quiz had a preliminary written round to choose four teams for the Final round. Each team comprised 3 members. The Final round of the Quiz had a buzzer and a visual round of taglines, logos and famous personalities. There were questions on the specific academic areas of the students and questions related to Sultanate of Oman as well as “Around the World”. Rapid Fire and Lateral Thinking rounds brought about a great excitement among the participants. There was excitement in the audience when questions unanswered by the participants were passed on to the audience. Special prizes were given away to those who answered correctly in the Audience Round.

Dr. Mohan Varma, Dean of the College and Mr. Jyoti K. Chandel Head, Department of Management gave away Trophies to the Winning team of Mary Jose Pattara, Roshni Sethumadhavan and Shabnam Aslam and the Runners up team of Aman Jawed, Kirk D' Costa and Swathy Shankar. Ms Srilekha Goveas, In-Charge, Academic Events, organized the event.

A special appreciation is extended to the organizing team of Final Year MBA students Ms. Chandan Mahajani, Ms. Aafreen J Hasib and Mr. Arvind Pinto who took the initiative to conduct the Quiz. This event helped them to develop skills of planning, organizing, management, leadership and team work.

The College plans to have such Academic Events regularly to encourage the students.

**Paper Recycling Event**

The Environment Club of WCAS held the paper recycling event in association with Muscat Daily on 3rd Dec, 2012. The recycling campaign was started one month before and cartons were kept in all the buildings for keeping the waste paper. The staff members and students had contributed actively for collecting the waste paper.

On the day of the recycling event, Dean Dr. Mohan Varma and Asst. Dean Dr. Padmini Padmanabhan were presented with Recycled paper which was recycled in the Biotechnology Lab of WCAS. Dr. Varma and all the staff members were pleased to see the efforts of the Biotechnology Department towards paper recycling.

Environment Club also took initiative to replace the plastic cups used for serving tea by paper cups and this is achieved with the support of the college administration.

**Visit of Mr. Kirumira Henry Julius**

Mr. Kirumira Henry Julius, Country Head – Audit, Standard Chartered Bank visited college on 9th Dec, 2012 and gave a lecture to the M.B.A. student on “Introduction to Internal Auditing”. He spoke on the following topics- Definition of internal auditing, Evolution of internal auditing, External Audit vs. Internal Audit, Importance to an organization, Internal auditing -Why a good career choice to make?, Qualities of a successful internal auditor and How to qualify as an internal auditor.
Mohammed Khalifa Al-Riyami

It's really a great honor to be a member of Waljat college fraternity. It's one of the most distinguished private colleges in Oman. Honestly, I preferred to study in this college than other private colleges, because many of my friends who are studying here encouraged me to enroll here. Actually they found Waljat College very interesting and more beneficial destination for career growth and development. I have been studying in this college for three years and really feeling very proud because I've achieved a noticeable development in my cognitive skills as well as my own personality. Frankly, the big change that happens to my personality is now I'm fairly educated, smarter and can handle relatively difficult issues related to my specialization. Also I become more patient, more determined and more helpful with my point of view, these changes are due to the many good factors related to this wonderful college. It is mainly because of the well educated and sincere teachers.

The teachers again are very cooperative and appreciative. Actually I've learned from them more than I've expected. I have really gained the actual knowledge from these excellent teachers. In addition, the Courses that are taught in this college are considered at par with the international standards. It can compete well with the courses being taught in famous colleges and universities around the world.

Finally, the administration staff who are very skillful in managing the whole affairs of this college contribute greatly in leading Waljat to be at the same base as the highest and successful college in the world.

In summary, it would be a great opportunity to those who are aiming to gain the valuable and precious knowledge to enroll in Waljat College. They can trust me and benefit from my experience, so don't miss the chance to bring significant change in your educational career.
Together We Can

WALJAT COLLEGE

Mission
Wisdom
Achievement

Vision
Commitment
Service

It’s time for change!

Change means action, innovation and commitment. Change is the very essence of life. Let’s work hard to make our college a better place by the day. Every step we take, every effort we make, contributes to overall improvement in our lives.

Be the change that you want to see in the world!

“Mahatma Gandhi”
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