Welcome to the Issue -3, Volume -3, Edition of WCAS e-newsletter!

The summer has finally set in with soaring temperatures outdoors; we have once again settled ourselves for indoor comfort, cooling fruit juices, tender coconut water and not to forget the plethora of ice-cream flavors to tempt us to indulge ourselves, not withstanding, expanding waist lines ……!

“Achievements” have been the mainstay of the WCAS family, faculty, staff, students and alumni alike. How we deal with adversity shapes our lives more than almost anything else. Achievers usually see problems as transitory, while those who fail, usually see even the smallest problem as everlasting.

WCAS is infinitely proud of the achievements of its alumni, Ms. Greeshma Unnikrishnan for bagging a score of 555 in Biotechnology in GATE 2013. She stands proud with an All India Rank of 22 in this highly challenging and prestigious examination. Well done Greeshma! You have raised the flag of WCAS high!

The participation of WCAS students and staff in the BITOTSAV, the Annual Spring Festival held in Ranchi, India in March 2013, organized by Birla Institute of Technology (Parent University), marked a significant path breaker in the annals of WCAS! The students were highly appreciated for showcasing traditional Omani culture, including Omani Wedding and Omani Fashion Show among other events at this techno-cultural festival of BIT Mesra. “This scintillating event was covered by the Indian print and electronic media, which enthused our student participants greatly. This step forward would be greatly beneficial in further strengthening the relationship between WCAS and BIT,” opined Dr. Mohan Varma, Dean, WCAS.

Another feather in the cap of WCAS was the official launch of the new WCAS Website during March 2013, in the presence of visiting Academic dignitaries from BIT, the parent university at Ranchi, India apart from the Dean, Assistant Dean and faculty members.

Educational trips and industrial visits form an integral part of the academic programme offered at WCAS. These endeavors serve to enhance the students’ knowledge and experience, and expose them to the wide gamut of real life situations.

WCAS has announced the Best Student Project Award from the academic year 2012-13, to encourage innovation and spirit of quality research among undergraduate students. This would promote academic excellence and take it several notches ahead.

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” A memorable day was the college picnic at Al Sawadi beach, organized by the social club of WCAS. Faculty and students had a fun-filled day of games, music, rock climbing and a hearty meal of “biryani”.

Bidding goodbye is never easy and so was attending the farewell organized for Mr. G. Y. Khan, the oldest employee who served WCAS devotedly for about 12 years. We will miss you, Mr. Khan!

Let us wrap up here and get set for a short bout of enjoyable reading.

Our sincere thanks and acknowledgement to all our contributors who have served to make this issue possible.
ACHIEVEMENT

Publication Details

Mr. Jyoti Kumar Chandel, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Management, WCAS has been appointed as Reviewer for Journal of Reliability and Statistical Studies (JRSS).

JRSS aims at the bi-annual peer reviewed publication and dissemination of original research, reviews and discussions on the latest developments in the fields of reliability, life-testing, risk analysis, operations research and almost all branches of applied statistics.

Mr. Sounak Paul, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, WCAS has published a paper in International Refereed Journal with following details:

Ms. Srilckha Goveas, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Management, WCAS published a paper in March 2013 in the Sultan Qaboos University with following details:
"Women Outshine in Medical Labour force in Oman" Published in Horizont, Department of Public Relation and Information, Sultan Qaboos University, issue 264, March 2013.

Mr. Arvind Hans, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Management, WCAS published a paper in an International Journal with following details:

Dr. G.P. Mishra, Associate Professor, Dept. of Management, WCAS made a research paper presentation on “Establishing relationship between “Stress” and “Eating” leading to overweight among college students in Sultanate of Oman” in the 12th International Business and Economy Conference held at France from 9th – 12th Jan 2013

Conference Attended

Dr. G.P. Mishra, Professor In Charge – Entrepreneurship Club, attended the 5th Small & Medium Enterprises Exhibition & conference from 11 – 13th Feb 2013 organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Directorate General for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Sultanate of Oman. The theme of the conference was “How to create initiative generation”.

Dr. G.P. Mishra with Mr. Tim van Leipaig
Waljat College of Applied Sciences feels proud of the achievement of its alumna Ms. Gresema Unnikrishnan. The alumna has stated her feelings on her achievement to e-newsletter in the following words:

“My name is Gresema Unnikrishnan. I graduated from Waljat College of Applied Sciences (WCAS) in 2012 after completing BE in Biotechnology. I appeared for GATE 2013, for the purpose of pursuing my higher studies in India. I am proud to say that I obtained a score of 555, and an All India Rank of 22, in Biotechnology. Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is an all-India examination administered and conducted jointly by the Indian Institute of Science and seven Indian Institutes of Technology on behalf of the National Coordinating Board - GATE, Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. It is the qualifying exam for most Indian colleges in public and private sector, for admission to M Tech and ME courses. Its difficulty level can be estimated from the fact that only 13.88% of the candidates qualified in GATE 2013. GATE tests not only the knowledge and understanding of the candidates in their area of specialization, but also their mathematical abilities, general aptitude and logical reasoning.

I am extremely grateful to WCAS for making me capable of this achievement, preparing me to cross all the hurdles that lie ahead and building my confidence. I would also like to mention the guidance and support I have received from all the staff members of the Department of Biotechnology, headed by Prof. Padmini Padmanabhan. Their hard work, patience and in-depth knowledge have brought me a long way from where I was when I first joined the college.”

The Dean and faculty members of WCAS congratulate Gresema on her success and wish that she raises the flag of WCAS high in future in a similar way. We wish her a bright and prosperous future.

Announcement

Waljat College of Applied Sciences Award for Best Student Project

Waljat College of Applied Sciences Award for Best Student Project has been announced to encourage innovation and spirit of quality research among the undergraduate students of Waljat College of Applied Sciences, Muscat. The award will be effective from the academic year 2012-13.

Students of final year of Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) and Bachelor of Engineering (BE) are eligible for this prestigious award. The eligible students of final year, in a team of maximum four members, minimum two of whom shall be Omani Nationals, have to submit their project work in the prescribed format. Two projects in each category; BBA, BCA and BE; will be selected for first and second prize. The prize winning candidate/team will be awarded a Certificate of Merit and a cash prize. The prizes will be distributed during the Convocation Ceremony of WCAS every year.
Teamwork is essential to produce outstanding results and to achieve set institutional goals. Organizations do face tough challenges and competitions in today’s dynamic environment. The strengths of the past do not remain an advantage due to recurring changes in the rules of the game.

New competitors enter monopoly areas of business activities; advanced technology replaces the old and obsolete, and stagnant management practices lead to attrition and cost escalations. The quality of human resource and their attitude and approach towards work is the single largest factor that contributes towards making a difference. Top establishments consciously promote an organization culture of committed ownership and deep sense of responsibility in the team to successfully overcome the adversity and challenges.

The regular review and change of strategy to remain in the lead or to bridge the gap with the front runner, is a necessary component for mitigating the business risks and their effective management. This process should be inclusive, intense and progressive. Collective wisdom, shared vision, bold execution of assigned task and persistent questioning for improving the processes make the teamwork effective. The assignment of a task to a particular group must be carried out after ensuring that it has situational leaders and persons with core competency.

The basics that are taught to students to manage their academic projects effectively and efficiently revolve around innovation, fusion of ideas to generate new ones, novel approach and methodology, analysis of results and related learnings, do hold good in advanced project management. The formation of groups also ensures that required skills are duly represented by individual members and the collective output provides a rich learning experience for each member. Individual brilliance most of the time gets accentuated in teamwork. There are numerous examples in various fields where a person becomes a rallying point and a centre of inspiration for other team mates. Exceptional managers turn around companies with available work force, brilliant scientists and engineers transform a concept into reality in laboratories and outstanding sportsmen prove to be a catalyst in converting their teams into an invincible unit.

There is a good old saying that ‘one can accomplish a task with his left hand if the right hand of the teammate joins in’. We need to appreciate that there is no problem or challenge in a workplace specific to individuals or section, eventually if left unresolved it affects larger functions. Good teams develop a common sense of concern and purpose. An organizational problem is everybody’s problem and an optimum solution may come from any quarter. We should involve and discuss with colleagues to encourage participation of all. Another key element in trouble-shooting is to be calm and composed and to try something different. To work to your strengths, to learn from external environment and to support your team mates whenever and wherever required, is the mantra of organizational success. Together we surely succeed.

Let us build a stronger ‘TEAM WCAS’.
PARTICIPATION OF WCAS STUDENTS IN BITOTOSAV’13

A team of 12 students and 3 staff members from Waljat College of Applied Sciences participated in the annual spring festival BITOTOSAV 2013; organized at the parent University - Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, India during March 13 – 17, 2013. The Dean, Dr. Mohan Varma and other senior faculty members were present at Muscat Airport to wish them good luck and a safe journey. On the inaugural day, the students from Waljat College of Applied Sciences presented the traditional Omani Dance and Omani Wedding. The students also participated in dramatics, dance, music and other cultural activities. They performed a kind of traditional dance called Al-Burah, Omani traditional fashion show and Omani traditional wedding ceremony, which were viewed with great interest and fascination and enjoyed by the students and teachers of Birla Institute of Technology and the invited guests. Ms. Amna Rashid Ali Al-Farsi, President Student Council and Mr. Khalid Khalfan Salim AL-Khalidi were part of the team. The print and electronic media provided a wide coverage to the participation of WCAS students. At the end of the event, students received cash prizes in addition to certificate of appreciation for their active participation in this event. When the students were asked to express their feelings about their participation in this event at Birla Institute of Technology, majority of them felt that this participation was a great opportunity to show their abilities and talents, though it is the first step to their advancement and exposure to a larger competition, they are now ready to participate in other competitions and events.
The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit from the moment their team reached Ranchi airport. They took photographs of various events. The performances and visit of the students of WCAS were widely covered in Indian newspapers with detailed reports, which gave the students the attention and the desire to give their best in the events.

Apart from taking part in cultural programs, students visited the Zoo, Dasham Falls and the main market at Ranchi.

BITOTSAV 2013 (Festival of BIT) is the annual inter-college techno-cultural festival of Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, India. It is a 5 day extravaganza featuring a plethora of technical and cultural events during the days, with the nights reserved for letting the students perform and showcase their talent. The technical section includes events ranging from brainstorming sessions of Coding, Sudoku and Robotics which compel the participants to twist their brains, to Debating, Sensex, and Graffiti, which test not only their talent but also allow them to have an amazing amount of fun. An array of Fine Arts, Music, Dance, Literary and Oratory events comprised the cultural section, sparking the creative spirits in every individual, while sparing more than enough time for everyone to socialize and have a unique experience of their student life. The nights were an invigorating and enthralling mélange of scintillating Dance Performances, mind numbing Band Concerts and thought provoking Dramatics, coupled with guest performances from some of the most talented and popular artists in the country.

The events were broadly classified under the following categories:


Cultural and Gaming: Groovalose, Flicks, Acoustic Alchemy, Battle of Bands, Treasure Hunt, Float it, Defense of the Ancients, Need For Speed Most Wanted, FIFA 11, Counter Strike 1.6

This is the first time that WCAS students participated in this event. “The exposure to the students and accompanying staff would be highly beneficial in further strengthening the relationship between WCAS and BIT,” said Dr. Mohan Varma, Dean of Waljat College of Applied Sciences.
Educational trip to 
Bayt Ar Riyadaydah Castle

Department of Management organized an educational trip for final year M.B.A. students to Bayt Al Riyadhah Castle on 27th February, 2013. This trip gave the students an opportunity to explore the components of Tourism Management practically, which is a part of the subject of specialization in the final year M.B.A. curriculum. The students were accompanied by Dr. G.P. Mishra and Ms. Kusum Lata Mishra, faculty in the Department of Management.

Industrial visit to NMWC, Nizwa

Under Industry Institute Interface Program (IIIP), the students of M.B.A. visited National Mineral Water Co. (NMWC) on 27th February, 2013 which is situated in the Wilayat of Nizwa. The students were accompanied by Dr. G.P. Mishra and Ms. Kusum Lata Mishra, Faculty in the Department of Management. The company manufactures mineral water under the brand name of Tanuf, El – Jabal El – Akhdar, Salsabeel and Assaha. Mr. Nadeem Khawar, Factory Manager guided the students in the manufacturing plant through various production and processing units. Mr. Roshan Rawat, Manager – Quality Assurance gave information about the quality standards of the mineral water as the company has ISO 22000 certification.

Industrial visit: Haya water plant

A group of 18 BE Biotech semester IV, VI, VIII students of Waljat College along with Dr. Arvneesh Pareek, Ms. Sharmila Quecnetly, and Ms. Akhila Rajan, faculty in Department of Biotech were taken on an industrial visit to the Haya waste water treatment plant on 8th April, 2013. One of the company employees gave the students a brief description on the working of the plant, after which they were taken to see the various machinery used in the plant.

Oman Textile Mills

A group 29 IV Semester BE-EC students of Waljat College visited Oman Textile Mills on March 18th 2013. They were accompanied by Mr. Akhilesh Kumar Roy and Mr. Vikash Sharma, faculty in the department of Electronics and Communication Engineering. The Students were made aware about the electronics applications and process involved in the making of different fabrics. According to the visiting team, the visit was knowledgeable and satisfactory.
Waljat College of Applied Sciences (WCAS) proudly announces the official launch of its newly designed website on March 25, 2013, at 9.30 a.m. in the presence of Visiting Academic Dignitaries - Prof. Nisha Gupta, Prof. S.K. Jain and Prof. Manju Bhagat from the Parent University, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, India, Dean, Asst Dean and faculty members of WCAS.

The new website, which boasts of the latest technologies, vibrant design, and easy navigation, is a part of the College’s ongoing efforts to offer quick and easy access to essential information on WCAS and its activities. The revamped site, designed & developed by Adventz, Muscat, provides expanded content, improved usability, and added features. “We believe that our updated website, with its completely new layout, reflects our current outlook and vision; we trust that the students, faculty members, parents and the public will find it perfectly suited to their needs”, says Dr. Mohan Varma, Dean, WCAS, who inaugurated the website. From the admission process to the academic calendar & exam results, to student clubs & activities, the site provides comprehensive information to the students in a concise and effective manner. The Head, Department of Computer Science, organizer of the launch of the new website says, “It gives a new dimension to the student fraternity as well as to the Alumni, Parents and Prospective Students. It is also in line with the latest trends, featuring social media integration as well as a portal for members to log in and access their data.”

For more information, check out the website at http://www.waljatcollege.edu.om/

Farewell

Having served the College for about 12 years, a farewell was organized by the college for Mr. G. Y. Khan, the oldest employee of WCAS on Wednesday, 27th March 2013. It was attended by the Dean, Dr. Mohan Varma, Asst. Dean, Dr. Padmini Padmanabhan, faculty members and staff members of the college, which was followed by sumptuous tea.

Faculty Get-Together

Faculty and staff of Waljat College celebrated Holi with a gala lunch organized on 29th March, 2013.
Mother’s Day

Mother’s day was celebrated on 12th March 2013 in Waljat College of Applied Sciences. The Chief Guest for this event was Ms Laila Al Shaksy, Students Affairs Department, Ministry of Higher Education. Dean, Dr. Mohan Varma and Assistant Dean Dr Padmini Padmanabhan graced the occasion. The ‘Mother’s Day Special Event’ was held in the auditorium. Students expressed their love and respect for their Mothers through songs, poems, videos and skits. There were Cookery, Card Making, Poetry Writing, Story Writing and Skit competitions with the Theme of ‘Mother’s Love’. Prizes were distributed to all the winners of the competitions by Ms Indrani Basu Prof in Charge, Students Activity and Ms Srilekha Goveas Prof In Charge, Cultural Club.

The winners are as follows:

Cookery competition:
Sweet category: 1st: Aysha Jasla 2nd: Ameera Jusab
Veg category: Samyukta

Poetry competition:
1st: Khushbu Bharat Bhatt, 2nd: Seemab Sultana

Story writing competition:
1st: Devika, 2nd: Khushbu Bharat Bhatt

Skit competition: 1st: Rifah Rafi, Khushbu Bharat Bhatt, Ameera Jusab, Kruti Sunil Shah
2nd: Adeeba Siddique, John Joshua, Nimmy Shaji, Abhishek Rajan, Anirban Kund

Card making competition:
1st: Reshma Krishnan, Gilda D’Costa, Jisha Najeem,
2nd: Dhira Mahesh, Mary Jose Pattara, Roshni Sethumadavan, Struthi Mohan.

MEMORABLE WALJAT COLLEGE PICNIC AT AL-SAWADI

A College picnic was organized by the Social club of Waljat College of Applied Sciences on 20th Feb, 2013. About 265 students took a day off from their routine in classrooms to enjoy enthusiastically at Al-Sawadi Beach. They had a fun filled day with boating, playing beach ball, football match, rock climbing, music, antakshari etc. The day concluded with a sumptuous meal of Biriyani and the group was back to college by 4 P.M.
MUSCAT FESTIVAL 2013 is an awesome opportunity for citizens and residents to have a glimpse of what Oman is about and what it has to offer. This magnificent festival features the history and achievements of modern Oman. Roads leading to the magnificent world of Muscat festival warmly welcome the visitors with sparkling red,yellow and amber lighting decorations.

With each passing moment in the jam packed traffic, excitement rises and the adrenaline rush is high. Visitors ranging from all age groups come together with full zeal and enthusiasm.

The amusement park rides attract large crowds of tiny tots eager for a good scream. The wide array of stalls selling a huge plethora of different goodies, knick knacks, garments, confectionery, cosmetics..........uh, the list is infinite, pull huge number of people to buy them. The way these items are arranged in a fancy way are an eye candy to the people. The need for women to linger at the stalls selling bags, sandals, fashion accessories and even wedding gowns is very apparent. Young men are seen engrossed in the wallets, entertainment arcades and mobile accessories kiosks.

Children are seen toyng around with teddies, dolls, guns, vibrant balloons, and pink sugar candies pleading their parents to buy more of precious little tit bits for them. Seeing the atmosphere filled with flamboyant display of people and stalls brought a wave of nostalgia over me as I began to reminisce of the "Bazaars" or stalls selling different types of commodities back home in India.

The Muscat festival draws huge crowds especially at night when the dancers and street fair performers steal the limelight with their stunning talents. The pyrotechnics and fireworks under the ethereal blanket of night sky looks enchanting and leaves everyone bewitched. As one strolls through the sprawling Omani culture and heritage village at the Amerat Park, looking at the colours and textures of beautifully woven fabrics, inhaling the tantalizing aroma of slow cooked Omani Halwa makes you feel like soaking yourself in the traditional colours forever. The traditional Omani music and dance adds the final touch and completes the entire ensemble of the cultural village. The laser shows later in the evening will promise a complete package of entertainment and leaves you wanting it encore. Leaving the festival sans visiting the food stalls is impossible.

Mouth watering dishes from spicy tangy mixture to the Omani Miskak are all a must try.

We must appreciate the efforts of ROP for their commendable efforts in organising the public and traffic in a systematic manner. They have done an excellent job in making the festival a huge success. During the weekends, huge crowds of people come to enjoy the spirit of Muscat festival as they get a respite from their busy schedules.

To put it briefly, Muscat festival is a magic, a potpourri of entertainment, food and music. A channel to learn about the history and culture, a canvas with the beautiful portrait of the youthful Oman interspersed with the colours of International standards with a master stroke of its natural identity and grace.

“It is better to learn late than never”. Publius Syrus
Together We Can

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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