From the Editor’s Desk

After a month long temperate journey in the holy month of Ramadan, our body, heart and soul purges and becomes more pristine and pure. Likewise, our thoughts and vision also turn out to be more perspicuous and worthy. WCAS e-newsletter has also been refined and has improved over time and enhanced its reach and content significantly. This edition in new academic session, once again showcases various informative and interesting write-ups from eminent staff, teachers and students who have given their precious time and effort towards all round development of WCAS students. WCAS itself has grown in stature as an institute with quality and commitment.

To continue its endeavor towards maintaining highest quality of academic commitment and knowledge dissemination, the College is organizing an International Conference on Knowledge Management & Resource Sharing (ICKMARS-2011) commencing on 4th of December 2011. This conference has a unique vision to provide a common forum to Academicians, Managers, Professionals and Research Scholars on various aspects of Information Technology and Knowledge Management. Theme of the Conference is “Knowledge Management: An Application to Business Management, Information Technology and Applied Sciences Institutions.” Conceptual Papers and the Articles on such related themes are welcome.

Besides, our faculty and students have also engaged and participated in various conferences and published significant number of research articles in national and international journals.

Corporate Social responsibility and community programs initiative was also exhibited through participation in three-day exhibition at Oman International Exhibition Centre, acquainting and counselling aspiring students and their parents about the available opportunities at higher levels of learning at our college.

Our heartiest congratulations to all passing out students for a bright and successful career! Hope they shall be the brand ambassador of their Alma Mater and perpetual readers of this e-newsletter. A token of admiration and appreciation to all distinguished contributors.

Surf through this issue and enjoy! Eid Mubarak!
WCAS faculty members have published various research papers and attended international conferences and seminars:


**Short term programs/Seminars**

Mohd. Mohatram attended a one day Technical Seminar on April 13, 2011 at Hotel Crown Plaza organised by M/s. ETAP, USA.

Akhilesh K Roy of Department of ECE participated in the short term course “Summer School on VLSI Design” at Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi between June 26-30, 2011 to June 30, 2011.

Niraj Mishra and Seema Varshney of Department of Management attended a two-day Management Development Programme on "Leveraging Marketing and Sales Excellence for Profit and Growth" organized by Knowledge Initiatives, OMZEST between June 26-27, 2011. The Program was conducted by a well known academician and consultant, Prof. Sunil Sangra associated with BIMTECH, India.
Service is the finest human attribute. Selfless service is considered as supreme contribution to the community and to the country; and is the hallmark of individuals who are long remembered for this novelty. At the core of the desire to serve, remains a cause dear to one’s heart. It then has to be nurtured to a passion. The net result often, is the exceptional contribution to a mission with missionary zeal. We have numerous instances in the world’s history of patriots, preachers, educationists, social reformists, visionaries and many other outstanding individuals who have served the country with distinction and left their indelible mark for generations to emulate. They all had a noble dream to begin with.

In today’s world, when vested interest, one up-man ship and competition to survive is driving people to become more self-centered, compromising and passive towards values and ethics; we need loyal ‘servants of society’ to preserve the goodness around us. We have to contain the decay in moral values and limit the influence of materialism on social fabric. The time has come to re dedicate ourselves to build strong character, to believe in virtue of hard work and to think generously about others around us. Young men and women who will eventually guide and govern the future must take the early lessons in life, for betterment of the society.

Noted scientist, Albert Einstein once observed that ‘to give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity’. The commitment and dedication to serve the community and homeland must be inculcated early in life. The citizens should be groomed to care for and help each other to develop a compassionate society. The feature then becomes complimentary and regenerative - we receive the warmth of service and goodness what we give to others.

Social service in all sectors should be accorded priority with set objectives. In this context, premier educational institutions besides imparting quality education must ensure that they produce disciplined, hardworking and committed individuals. The spirit of social service and sharing has to be ingrained during the course to make them different from others. WCAS is aspiring hard to live up to the values, we have chosen consciously and to prepare young citizens ready to serve the country with distinction and honor. Let us all contribute our bit to realize the goal.

*There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.* - Albert Schweitzer
Conference on Knowledge Management

With a view to develop understanding and co-operation and to provide a perfect opportunity to stay abreast with latest developments in the fields of information technology and knowledge management, an International Conference on “Knowledge Management & Resource Sharing” is being organized at Waljat College of Applied Sciences on December 4-5, 2011.


Participants are invited to submit papers based on research or practical experience on sub themes mentioned above for presentation at the International Conference to ickmars-2011@waljat.net.

Farewell to Outgoing Faculty

Waljat College hosted farewell reception for its outgoing faculty Dr. Neeraj Kumar Pande on Wednesday, 20th July 2011. Dr. Neeraj Pandey was In-charge, Examinations and a faculty in Department of Mathematics. The college administration thanked Dr. Pandey for his contribution to the college during his two years stay at the college and wished him success in his future endeavors.
Higher Education Institutions Exhibition

With the aim of sharing the development taking place at the college and learn from developments in other colleges and universities in the field of science, technology and management, Waljat College of Applied Sciences participated in the Higher Education Institutions Exhibition organized by the Arabian Gate Expo, Muscat at Oman International Exhibition Center. About 30 universities, colleges and government and private educational institutions from the Sultanate participated in the exhibition.

The three-day exhibition aimed at enlightening holders of secondary education certificates and their parents with available opportunities at higher universities and colleges that have experience and achievements in academic and scientific fields.

Publication in Campus Magazine

Waljat College of Applied Sciences strongly believes in sharing the knowledge with young minds in academia and industry. In line with this belief, Mr. Hamoud Al Jabry, Manager-Admin & Human Resource Development and Prof. Padmini Padmanabhan, Asst. Dean-Academic, shared their views in the Campus magazine, July 2011, Vol 2, issue 3.

In his well articulated essay on talent development and retention, Mr. Hamoud enumerates several techniques for talent development and retention. He emphasizes in his article that money is not the only motivating factor for employees to be in an organization, rather development of a good communication system between administration and employees, sensible appreciation of achievements of employees, training and development programs for employees and making them part of decision making process are some of the very important factors to be considered if any organization wants to retain its talent for a longer duration.

Prof. Padmini in her article “Biotech career with endless opportunities” highlighted the importance of Biotechnology in our daily life. She stresses that biotechnology is going to be the technology of the 21st century. She recommends the new generation talents to opt for a career in biotechnology as it will offer them not only to touch every aspect of the life of common people but also an excellent opportunity to experience high end technology in the field of DNA computing, finance, trade and other sectors. This article also informs that the scholarships facilities are available for students in Oman to pursue studies in Biotechnology and other fields. The biotech graduates from Waljat College are pursuing higher studies in prestigious institutes across the globe.
ENVIRONMENT & ITS
CONSERVATION: A PERSPECTIVE

Global warming, Ozone hole, rise in sea level, poisonous chemicals in the aquatic fauna, abrupt climatic changes. There are many more which can be included in this list.
The rapid rise in population, fast conversion of natural habitats for housing, commercial and industrial set ups is posing a threat to the natural resources and the human population in due course. Every year, there is a net loss of 22 million acres of forest area worldwide. Many of the chemicals remain in the environment for several years without any degradation which may pose chronic health hazards to life. Many environmental problems do not follow any boundaries and threaten the health, prosperity and even the economy of a nation. Contaminated food and water and polluted air directly affects the welfare of a population. Some of the prescription drugs are also responsible for the disappearing forests.
In the Arabian Peninsula, an age old traditional method of conservation of the earth and its environment, ‘Hima’ is used. Hima means “protected or preserved place” and it is practiced for over 1400 years in the Middle East (Green Prophet, 2010). In this system, a particular green area is marked as forbidden and access to it, is restricted by the owner. Types of Hima depend upon the type of natural resource being conserved such as beekeeping reserves, forest areas, regions of seasonal crops, etc. Apart from the environment conservation, the Arab nations have the potential to generate solar power which could fulfill three times the world’s power needs as reported by Khaleej Times and also published in the Environment News Network in Dec 2009.
Oman is not left behind in the race for conserving its rich natural resources and biodiversity. Oman government gives undivided attention to the conservation of its flora and fauna by protecting the environment. There are four natural reserves, one national park and one sanctuary (www.nature-worldwide.info/oman) in the country. A new Botanical garden is also coming up near the capital. Other environmental organizations present in the country include Environment Society of Oman and Council of Environment & Prevention of Pollution.
It is high time when the responsible citizens should address these problems and try to achieve sustainable management of natural resources worldwide. It simply requires the awareness and cooperation within a populace and also with the government. Even a single citizen can make a big difference by changing his/her lifestyle and acquiring an eco-friendly approach by making your surroundings greener, avoid using plastic and non degradable components, recycling the waste, reducing traffic and switching to renewable energy resources.
TALENT DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

Most managements experience difficulties in keeping their employees happy. Because of this reason frequent disruption of production and proper operation is seen as the talented and creative workforce is constantly in the process of changing.

To keep a workforce in a satisfied state is not an easy task. When the unhappiness reigns, it can cause many problems within an organization, creating massive loss. Unhappy workers take time to finish work. They ponder over dissatisfaction and become lazy to do the job in hand.

Then more and more discipline are forced on them making them further frustrated. Eventually, rumors, unrest, turmoil followed by work stoppage are inevitable. The money is not the only thing a worker expects from his or her job. Understanding this is the first step to keep employees in happy mood. Whether it is a small business or huge one where there are many employees, the above rule is applicable.

To understand the real situation in the working force, there should be viable information system. Good communications is vital for this respect. The ladder to get good communication from the lower steps of the working force has to be implemented. The fear of punishment over revealing information has to be curtailed and honest views should be encouraged, analyzed and acted upon accordingly and promptly.

A good management grabs the opportunities where it has space to recognize achievements. When there is a system of rewarding for achievements, the workers feel that there is a motive to stay on. When the management is willing to appreciate and congratulate, even with a word or two, the gap between the management and the workers will be narrowed to a stage where they feel the place as their second home. Then even for big money, they would think twice before changing the place.

Everyone has a personal life. The employees also work for the benefits of their loved ones other than themselves. The effective management always knows details of their workers. They provide a good IT source to gather this information. The chance to give any kind of little bonanza on special days of their workers would give big difference for their shifting decision.

Most companies provide flexible hours for the workers to finish their work on targets. They are even given chances to attend to special events and functions with their families without being asked to submit leave forms. The environment of their working stations can make lot of change for their decision of going to some other place. Newspapers, TV and internet access if he or she is working on a computer as well as an adjustment of a seat will make a big difference without spending anything, or not much in the process.

The vision and goal of the work has to be defined to the workers. The discipline they have to follow has to be enforced without bias. When the employees know their duty well and when they are goal oriented, they try to work better and more efficiently to achieve their work objectives. One important factor is training. If employees can see further improvement and training courses in their job, they endeavor to grab that, as everyone likes advancement. When they are in the process of improving, their productivity goes up automatically without forcing them to achieve their targets.

Effective management encourages and empowers employees to make decisions and accept responsibilities. Employees like to have responsibilities and show the management that they are in the process of improving. A good system to recognize suitable people, to empower them to make decisions and have control, encourages workers to go forward in their relevant fields productively.

The qualification and qualities of a new employee should be matched with those already in the same boat. If an unsuitable is selected and hired, the boat will rock so fast and turn over drowning everyone in it.

Most of these steps are not based on money. They are just gestures of appreciations and satisfaction. But they can make big differences. If they are implemented, the next time any one of your good talents is in the process of shifting, he or she will stop for a while and think twice.
The rain was pouring heavily with thunderstorms. She knew she must hurry or else what she had witnessed would get buried along with her. For one moment, her heart stopped dead with her feet. Scenes from the past were haunting her. She had to get back home, if not to save her life, at least for her daughter who was with her.

Zahra, aged forty, and a mother of two, used to stay in Mumbai. Her husband gave his life for the country in the 1998 Indo-Pak war. Ever since, she had to be both, mother and father to her two children, Sameera and Sameer.

It was during the time of the Mumbai floods in the year 2006. Sameer was just discharged from the hospital after recovering from a brain ailment. The entire family of Sameer, his sister and their mother had been through tough times, both mentally and financially, and alas, this was a big day, a day when Sameer would be back home, hale and hearty.

As they were heading back, the heavens opened and it started to rain cats and dogs. Sameer and his mom who were in the car had not the slightest idea of what was written in their fate.

The rain was severe and their car skidded off the road and bumped into a tree. Luckily, no one was hurt, but the car suffered damage, it would not move.

The rain was intense, people were stranded everywhere. Airports, trains were shut. Traffic jams were widespread. People decided to walk back, leaving their cars. Sameer and his mom also eventually decided to do so.

They walked for miles. Zahra was praying that she reached home quickly. Her son had just got well and her daughter was alone at home. Phone networks too wouldn’t work. She had many scary thoughts passing through her mind. She was shaking with fear but had to be strong. She had to get back as fast as she could, for her children.

They had been out for about a day now, tired and hungry. Sameer managed well and didn’t seem to trouble his mother. But she knew that her son needed attention. He had to eat something and had to take rest.

The shops were closed, water to the knees, mud and insects and slush, scenes were terrible. Zahra had also seen some floating bodies and covered Sameer’s eyes when they passed by. Zahra’s worries increased with time. There were no signs of any help. The only consolation was that they were with a group of people, helpless like them.

As they continued on their never ending journey, Sameer suddenly let out a cry. Zahra’s heart skipped a beat and thought he had gone into a relapse. But it was not that. Sameer was pointing downwards, to his leg. He described what felt like getting an injection. Zahra cried, she cried like a baby. Being a zoologist, she could very well
tell that her son was bitten by a water snake. Zahra knew everything about snakes and venom. She had administered antidotes to many patients who came to their centre. But here she was helpless. She was useless without the antidote, like a gun without a bullet. There was absolutely nowhere from where she could get the antidote. She asked people around, but all were in their own worries and why not? She had tied her shawl on his leg to prevent the venom from spreading rapidly, but then they had to get help as fast as possible. Here, it was not to be. The antidote was the only way out. She saw her son turn blue and it was like a sword piercing her heart. Prayers were the only thing that came out of her mouth. She couldn’t lose her son now. He was just eight and had successfully recovered from his brain ailment, and now this! Zahra carried her son. He could barely walk. She carried him and he seemed heavier than usual, because he was sinking.

There in the distance, Zahra saw her house, and what joy was hers. She knew only one thing, ‘Get into the house, get the antidote and administer it to her son’.

Every centimeter seemed a mile. Her house was near, yet so far. Zahra herself was tired and above that she was carrying her son, bitten by a snake.

Zahra could hear her son say ‘Mom…Mom…” Zahra didn’t wait to think of the worst. She walked and walked and finally reached her house. She lay her son down on the ground and ran to the refrigerator where she had the antidotes stored. She didn’t even bother to check on her daughter and why would she? The situation was such.

She got the antidote and rushed to her son only to find out the bitter truth. Sameer was no more. Zahra fell to the ground. Sameera was confused. No one spoke for five minutes. It was just tears and the rain. Zahra wept over her son. She blamed herself for not getting home in time. She had lost her son.

Now, here in 2011, she was once again in the same situation. It was just that instead of Sameer, it was Sameera. The bitter past which she had tried to bury, rose from the grave. Zahra couldn’t lose this time.

‘I can’t lose…I can’t lose…” were all she said. She could feel someone nudging her in the side and she saw her daughter asking her, ‘Mom, what’s wrong?’

Zahra saw the reality; she was in her room, her daughter beside her. She had just seen a nightmare of a dream. She was sweating and was happy that it was not again!!

She kissed her daughter and said, ‘I will not lose you Sweety…” She saw the date, 15th March, 2011. It was exactly five years now since she lost Sameer.

‘I love you Sameer and I am really sorry’, was what she said. Just then, a gentle breeze passed by, which she felt, although inside a closed room. She could sense her son saying, ‘I am here mom…I love you too…”

Zahra smiled and went back to sleep. It will take long by the time Zahra likes the rain again. It will till then remain ‘black pearls’ for her.

This story won a prize in Intra-college Story Writing Competition in WCAS organized by English club on March, 2011.
Waljat College is considered as one of the leading colleges in Oman, I would like to thank WCAS because it changed my career plans in my life to the best level that I wanted.

Before I joined WCAS I had no idea about business administration and management because I used to work in Royal Air Force of Oman as an operator. When I joined my BBA program I started to gain knowledge about administration and management, and I graduated from my BBA program with distinction and I stood first in my course. I then realized that opportunities are easy to find in WCAS, but surely they would not come to find you. The person has to work hard to get his desired goals and ambitions.

One of the most important points that I gained from my degree is self confidence, because when the person has all information and knowledge he will be confident in taking decisions in his life. All the knowledge and experience I have gained from our qualified teachers who cooperated with us and their office was opened to the students all the time, and we should not forget the subject which we learned because it is very helpful to us. Because of WCAS, I have now joined a company as an Administration Manager, therefore I decided to continue my EMBA in same college. Actually I like to study in this college because I feel that I gained much knowledge and I am sure that when I graduate from this college I'll find myself having more knowledge in management as well as administration aspects.

I would suggest to all students who desire to complete their diploma, degree or master’s degree to join WCAS because I’m sure that they will have excellent opportunity to acquire knowledge and experience.

Finally, I would like to thank WCAS for giving me a platform to say my word through this newsletter. I would also like to extend my thanks to the management, teaching staff and all people who provided me a chance to learn more and more in business management.
The Window

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning when they are eating breakfast the young woman sees her neighbor hang the wash outside. She said “That laundry is not very clear. She doesn’t know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap.” Her husband looked but remained silent. Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments. About one month later the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband “Look she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this”. The husband said “I got up early morning and cleaned our windows”.

And so it is with life: What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window thru’ which we look. Before we give any criticism, it might be a good idea to check our state of mind and ask ourselves if we are ready to see the good rather than to be looking for something in the person we are about to judge.

And oh yes! I almost forgot …I see you today much clearer than I did yesterday…… And you?"  

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed He was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from His life. For each scene He noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonging to Him and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of His life flashed before Him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of His life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of His life. This really bothered Him and He questioned the LORD about it. LORD you said that once I decided to follow you, you’d walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don’t understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The LORD replied, my precious, precious child, I Love you and I would never leave you! During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

http://www.wowzone.com/jprints.htm

For your kind information......

1. 2nd June 1883: The first U.S. electric elevated train makes its inaugural journey in Chicago.
2. 8th June 1832: Birth date of Sir Charles Tilston Bright, the telegraph engineer in charge of laying the first transatlantic cable.
3. 9th June 1891: Thomas Edison is issued a patent for a phonograph improvement.
4. 16th June 1949: The first gas turbine-electric locomotive is demonstrated in Pennsylvania, USA.
5. 21st June 1781: Birth date of Simen Denis Possion, who came up with one of the first mathematical theories of electrostatics and magnetism.
6. 30th June 1948: Bell Telephone Labs announces the invention of the transistor.
7. 4th July 1968: Explorer 38, an unmanned U.S. spacecraft, launched and studied low frequencies in space.
8. 10th July 1962: Telstar 1, the first active communications satellite, is launched.
9. 13th July 1977: A New York City – area blackout lasting nearly 25 hours affected millions of residents and led to more than US $100 million in estimated losses from looting.
10. 17th July 1850: The Harvard Observatory takes the first photography of a star.
11. 21st July 1970: The Aswan High Dam in Egypt is completed.
12. 31st July 1964: Ranger 7, an 8 foot high unmanned spacecraft carrying six TV cameras, transmits more than 4000 pictures of the moon before as planned, crashing into its surface.

Source: IEEE
Waljat College of Applied Sciences
In Academic Partnership with Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi – India

Program Offered

Foundation

Advanced Diploma Program 3 years
- Computer Science Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering

Diploma Program 2 years
- Computer Science Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Business Administration
- Computer Application

Degree Program 3 years
- Business Administration
- Computer Application

Degree Program 4 years
- Business Administration & IT, Business Administration & Finance,
- Business Administration & HRD
- Computer Science Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Biotechnology

Master Degree 2 years
- Master in Business Administration
- Executive Master in Business Administration