From the Editor’s Desk

Welcome to the Issue VI, volume 3, edition of WCAS e-newsletter! The WCAS team has geared itself up again with an arsenal of ammunition to conquer heights in its quest for achievement and attainment......It is aptly said ‘stop living your life by default and start living your life by design. Get back into the game and take action to create the richer reality you know deep within your heart you were destined to create.....’

A landmark event at the start of this academic year is the 'much awaited' visit of her Highness Dr. Rawya Al Busaidi, Minister of Higher Education to WCAS and it was refreshing, delighting and enlightening. Many students and staff groups were thrilled by the inspiring messages that we could gather.

WCAS participated in the First Career Fair organized by Indian School, Al-Ghurbra in September 2013. The Fair was inaugurated by Mr. Mohammed Al-Abri, Director, International Schools, MOE, Oman. The college faculty could showcase our programs at the fair and answered queries of interested students.

To increase awareness among the youth in society towards Ozone depletion, the Environment Club of WCAS celebrated the World Ozone Day on 16th September, 2013. A group of versatile students gathered to mark the day with interesting inputs such as power point presentations, which incorporated the details of Ozone layer importance, depletion and protection. This was followed by a short speech by the Dean, Dr. Mohan Varma emphasizing the importance of Kyoto Protocol. The programme was attended by the Assistant Dean, Dr. Padmini and other faculty and staff members.

A game-oriented training session for faculty members was organized by WCAS in September 2013. The expert, Dr. Abhijit Das explained that this program was aimed at providing the latest trends in education and how teachers should become trend-setters in the educational field. The faculty members acquired a hands-on training session with games based learning methods.

WCAS has always believed in serving community needs and interests, particularly protecting human life. The Department of Blood Services of Ministry of Health, Oman had organized a Blood Donation Camp at the college campus in October, 2013 and many students and staff participated in it.

WCAS celebrated EID in September, 2013 with a gala dinner at Saifeer Plaza Hotel at Al-Khuwair, amidst much warmth and camaraderie, thus enhancing the spirit of the occasion.

WCAS team is further enriched with the induction of new faculty and staff members in academic domains. We joined together in welcoming them and wish them all success in their new assignments.

Finally, let’s settle down to pleasurable reading this issue and relish the flavors that it offers! Our heartfelt thanks and acknowledgement to all our contributors for making this issue a reality.
• Mr. Arvind Hans, Assistant Professor of the Management Department is declared to have passed the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) examination in Commerce from Ranchi University, Ranchi (India) held in the month of August, 2013 on the topic titled "Problems and Prospects of Information Technology (IT) Industry in Jharkhand: A Case Study of Ranchi District", under the supervision of Dr. S.N.L. Das, Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Ranchi University, Ranchi.

• In October, 2013, Mr. Niraj Mishra, Assistant Professor of the Management Department has been awarded doctoral degree on his thesis titled “Effects of perceived service on consumer satisfaction in Indian online retail banking Industry” from B.R. Ambedkar Bihar University, India, under the guidance of Dr. H.K Roy.

• Ms. Anu Manchanda, Asst. Professor of Dept. of Computer Sciences & Engineering, WCAS, has published a paper in International Journal with following details:

• Ms. Sounak Paul, Asst. Professor of Dept. of Computer Sciences & Engineering, WCAS, has published a paper in International Journal with following details:

• Dr. Sadaf Zehra, Asst. Professor of Dept. of Biotechnology, WCAS, has published a paper in International Journal with following details:

• Ms. Nupur Sen, Asst. Professor of Dept. of Management, WCAS, has published a paper in International Journal with following details:
Ms. Hannah Manogaran has joined WCAS as Quality Controller. She has got B.E (Mechanical Engineering) and MBA. She has more than 10 years of teaching experience and more than 5 years of experience in Quality Assurance in Oman. She is one of the nine Executive Committee members of the Oman Quality Network for Higher Education (OQNHE). She is the editor of the OQNHE Newsletter and leads the OQNHE Media Team.

Mrs. Salwa Jumma Al Raisi has joined the college as Administration Clerk in Admission & Registration Department. Mrs. Salwa is well experienced in business related issues related to labor affairs, ROP, MoMP, Municipality, Housing Ministry, Ministry of Commerce and Industry & Public Authority for Social Insurance for almost five years.

Dr. Alok Kumar Kushwaha has joined as Professor and Head of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering. Dr. Kushwaha obtained B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra, MBA in Marketing Management from Department of Management Studies, Kurukshetra University, M.Tech (ECE) and Ph.D (ECE) from National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra. He has 16 years of teaching experience at UG and PG level. Dr. Kushwaha has worked with various colleges of repute as Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor and Dean positions. At present he has published about 24 research papers in International/National Journals and Conferences and has guided 18 M.Tech scholars for their project dissertation. He is guiding 7 Ph.D research scholars. Dr. Kushwaha is a Life Member of Indian Society for Electronics Engineers.

Dr. Prashant Rastogi has joined as Associate Professor in the Department of Management. He has 16 years of rich experience in management education. He has worked at different leading management institutes and occupied senior academic and academic administrative positions in India. He has dual specialization in Marketing and HR. Dr. Rastogi has received PhD in management. Prior to joining WCAS, he was working as Director & Professor with KCC Institute of Management, Greater Noida.

Mr. David Mandepudi has joined as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biotechnology. He earned his Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) and Master of Technology (M.Tech) from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) and served as a faculty in the department of Biotechnology at various institutions like K L University, Vignan University and Sir Padampat Singhania University in India for 9 years and published his research in various journals in the areas of Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical sciences.
Ms. Shamsa Said Al-Saidi has joined as English teacher in the Department of English. She obtained a Bachelor degree in English for Educational Purposes from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). Her English Language skills and communication skills have been developed through teaching English in different schools and even at SQU during training courses. She participated in different student societies and activities. She also undertook English Language Studies program at the University of Queensland, Australia.

Mr. Salim Ali Mohammed Al Gufaily has joined as English teacher in the Department of English. He obtained a Bachelor degree in English from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and participated several courses and workshops at SQU. He attended a full-time course in General English & IELTS preparation at Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education University of Queensland, Australia.

My Study Experiences at WCAS

Before I made the decision to study the EMBA program, I defined my goals and objectives which I was looking from the study. The most valuable goal was to have something like a magical wand or a master key which will help me to open any door in any field in my career path. For that I visited all the colleges and the Universities in Oman and I found that Waljat College of Applied Sciences (WCAS) has something different and unique to offer. There were a lot of units to be studied compared to the other universities and colleges, which seemed so hard and difficult to manage. But for me it was a great place which I was looking for a long time, because that would give me an opportunity to learn more and help me to achieve my professional goals with excellence. I started my first semester from September, 2011 and for two years; I faced many difficulties related to managing the pressure and balance between the work and study. But, day after day I overcame those difficulties and enjoyed the learning and competitive environment. Really, I learnt a lot from the EMBA program, besides, I found all professors and teachers very helpful and supportive. They were the most important factor to encourage hard work and competitive learning environment in WCAS. I had many valuable experiences and wonderful memories from this college. It was truly a great decision to hone my competencies and further my career goals. I shall always cherish those wonderful experiences and memories forever in my life.

Khalaf Abdullah AL-Ma’awali
The world is getting increasingly integrated and interdependent and this has obvious fall outs in terms of intense competition, setting of higher service standards and assurance of quality in whatever we do. Quality in higher education is complex, intricate and composite in nature as it involves numerous heterogeneous elements and their resultants that influence the final outcome. However, there are several time tested approaches and methodologies that can be applied as cardinal rules to improve and monitor quality of higher education. A significantly large part of higher education management system involves dynamic personal, local, social and cultural factors. These need to be scientifically addressed to develop a requisite quality standard model closer to requirements to ensure a higher probability of its success. There can hardly be a universal fit on this count.

This is precisely the reason for high degree of non-uniformity in abilities and skills of the graduating students in different institutions within a country and in various parts of the globe. The institutions focusing on set academic standards for admission, developing a curriculum according to needs and skills of the admitted students, attending to cognitive development of learners, building attitude to take up challenges and promoting values to prepare responsible graduates, stand out from others. Needless to assert that pedagogy should be stimulating for better learning. The overall objective should strike a balance between imparting learning to acquire knowledge and preparing students to develop skills that help them to compete with peers.

Quality imperatives in HEIs should be aligned to strategic goals and operational plans. The responsibility and accountability of all stakeholders become the key components of quality monitoring. At WCAS, we have aimed to create a network of distributed leadership in various domains to meet quality objectives. The identified ‘Quality Nodes’ are encouraged to identify, analyze and solve issues related to teaching and learning, co-curricular activities and holistic development of our students. The periodic review of various plans and activities to identify challenges and progress made at all levels shall bring out the desired ‘Total Quality’ through knowledge management, team work, checks and controls.

The college has taken necessary steps to provide supportive environment to involve all in sharing, planning and implementation of best practices to achieve desired quality in our operations that are directed towards high level of student satisfaction and other stakeholders. Enhanced ICT usage, leveraging of appropriate technologies to assimilate knowledge and bridging the gaps of carried forward deficiencies of students, shall undoubtedly contribute to attain our mission. The student involvement and feedback in identifying areas of improvement will provide vital inputs to accomplish quality assurance.

We all have a task cut out of achieving excellence and must play the assigned role with responsibility and highest degree of commitment, maintaining strict time schedules.

“Quality means doing it right when no one is looking.”

Henry Ford
Farewell

Mr. Khalaf Abdullah Khalaf Al Ma’awali joined in the Registration Department as Admission & Registration In-Charge with effect from 29th May 2012; subsequently he was promoted as head of the same department. Prior to joining the department he was known to us as a student of EMBA program. His level of sincerity and integrity was commendable. He has set up many benchmarks for the fellow members. With him he brought a wave of new ideas and concepts to the college. Whether it was the framing of Strategic Plan for the college or the annual marketing plan or day to day routine activities of the college, he participated actively and put valuable suggestions and views. On 22nd August 2013 he moved out of WCAS for better prospects. In his farewell speech, the Dean presented a memento wishing him bright and successful future.

Industrial Relation Seminar

Three faculty members from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, WCAS, Ms. Vijaya P, Mr. Satish Chander and Mr. Arbind Choudhry and Two faculty members from the Department of Management Mr. Jyoti Chandel and Dr. Srilekha Goveas attended a seminar on Industrial Relation organized by Oman Manufacturing Group on 20th August, 2013 at Grand Hyatt, Muscat.

Ramadan-2013 Contribution and Donation
by WCAS Staff & Faculty

Ramadan is the month of generosity, giving charity and benevolence. Hence, WCAS Staff and Faculty Members contributed food items/clothes for needy people. The contributions collected was handed over to Faraiq Al-Rahma, Al-Khoud, a charity organization on August 6 2013, towards the end of Ramadan. Faraiq Al-Rahma distributes the contributions donated to them to people in and around Muscat. Community Service Program Committee sincerely thanks all those who have contributed in this noble social cause of helping the people in need.

ARE THERE YET NEEDY? WE SEARCH, FIND AND HELP!
CUSTOMISED TRAINING SESSION – DELIVERED BY DR. ABHIJIT DAS

A game-oriented training session for the faculty members was organized by Waljat College of Applied Sciences on 19th September, 2013. Mr. Sayed Aulia, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Management introduced the resource person Dr. Abhijit Das, the facilitator of the training programme. This programme aimed at providing the latest trends in education and how the teachers should become trend setters in the educational field. The programme highlighted on the methodology to acquire any skill, how to process the information, the VAK inputs and the information. The faculty members acquired hands-on training session with various games based learning methods. The programme ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Blossom Christina, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Management.

Faculty get-together

Faculty and Staff of Waljat College Celebrated Eid with a gala dinner organised on 6th September 2013 at Safeer Plaza Hotel.
Visit of Minister of Higher Education

Waljat College of Applied Sciences was privileged to welcome H.E. Dr. Rawya Al Busaidi, Minister of Higher Education, Sultanate of Oman, on 9th October 2013. She was accompanied by Ms. Jokha Al Shukaili, Director General of Private Universities and Colleges, Ministry of Higher Education, Sultanate of Oman.

Ms. Zuhoor Al Khanjari, Chairperson, Dr. Abdullah Al Zawani, Vice Chairman of Trustee Council, Dr. Mohan Varma, Dean with other officials and student representatives welcomed the dignitaries. The Minister met with representatives from the student council of the college. Her Excellency met the officials of WCAS and was informed about the new initiatives, infrastructure development, scholarships awarded and focus on holistic development of the students at WCAS. The outstanding performance of our students at national level competitions in Engineering and Management was also intimated.

H.E Dr. Rawya also had a meeting with the members of the college council, where a presentation of the salient college performance indicators was made. The Minister was kind enough to recognize the all round efforts made and appreciated the arrangement done for the visit at WCAS.

H.E. conveyed her best wishes to each member of WCAS family.
**Ozone Day**

To increase the awareness among the youth of the society towards the ozone depletion, the Environment Club of Waljat College celebrated the World Ozone Day on 16th September 2013. The staff members and students gathered to mark this day. The program was anchored by Hend Ghanim.

Shazia Ansari gave a speech on the importance of ozone layer. Some College students of BE Biotech semester 5(Sidra Waheed, Rifah Rafi Khatib, Ameera Jusab, Kruti Sunil Shah and Khushbu Bharat Bhatt) put together a presentation, which incorporated the details of the ozone layer importance, depletion and protection. This was followed by a speech by the Dean Dr. Mohan Varma emphasizing the importance of Kyoto protocol and appreciating the students for their participation. The program was attended by Assistant Dean Dr. Padmini, faculty members, engineering as well as management students. Professor Incharge of the Environment club, Dr. Sadaf Zehra organized the event. The programme ended with a small photography session.

**Blood Donation Camp**

The Department of Blood Services of Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman had organized a Blood Donation Camp at the College Campus on October 1-2, 2013. Many students donated the life saving fluid.

**WCAS in Career Fair**

Waljat College of Applied Sciences participated in First Career Fair organized by Indian School Al Ghubra on 12th and 13th September 2013. The Career Fair was inaugurated by Mr. Mohammed Al Abri - Director International Schools, MOE, Oman. The Honorable speaker at the event was Prof. V. S. Mallela of Caledonian College, Muscat.
DIGITAL SANITATION

The term “cyber” comes from the word cybernetics—originally the study of biological and artificial systems. There have been a numerous occasion the biological experiences are used to study computer and communication security. In fact most of the computer virus propagations are similar in nature to biological virus propagation. Various biological terms like “virus”, “worms”, “vaccination”, “immunization” has been uses extensively in the literature of computer networks and security. Whether the infection is biological or digital, it is originated from the weakness of the system. When a system or its surrounding is not clean, it brings weakness. Such systems are vulnerable to different kind of attacks. Therefore digital sanitation is very much important to improve the general health of digital systems.

Active effort should come from every stake holder of cyberspace—Individual, community, Vendors and Service providers, Government and Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs).

Individual must protect his/her personal/community computing resources by practicing safe computing behavior, regular maintenance(Such as regular scanning for malware, installing regular Operating system patches, software and OS updates), on its software, hardware and network devices . Sanitizing ones personal environment helps contributing in bigger way to strengthen the health of cyberspace.

Community has a bigger role in establishing policies for safe installation, operation and maintenance and disposal of computing resources. Community should closely monitor such policies are followed. Vendors and service providers must use the trusted and robust components in order to avoid any “Security holes” in the system.

Government has a massive role in creating a healthy cyberspace similar to its effort to improve public health. Government should take proactive role by sponsoring public education initiative to enforce individual, community, vendors and service provider to sanitize the digital space.

Nongovernmental organization should come forward to actively work with individual, community and government to make a healthy, disease free cyberspace. There should be cyberspace equivalent of WHO, Red-Cross like societies.

Basic security steps:
- Use anti-virus software and keep it up-to-date
- Keep all your operating system and other software up-to-date
- Check your security settings
- Be careful opening email attachments
- Don’t install unfamiliar programs
- Be wary of pop-up and email warnings

References:

By Arnie Levin
Academic Accreditation in Oman

Accreditation is a quality assurance process where a Higher Education Institution (HEI) is evaluated against set standards by an external body. In Oman, the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAA) was established by Royal Decree No. 54/2010, to accredit all private / public Universities and Colleges.

To receive this accreditation, HEI’s have to undergo two stages of audit. Stage 1 is a self study audit where a HEI evaluates itself against the nine standards set by OAAA. In Stage 2, HEI’s are expected to undergo an institutional audit and a program audit. Stage 2 Audit will be a summative assessment which means it is a pass or fail assessment. HEI’s will be given a template and asked to rate their performance (0 to 4) against each standard, criterion and indicator. There are 9 standards, 75 indicators and 279 criteria each of which have to be rated.

Waljat College of Applied Sciences (WCAS) underwent the Stage 1 audit in the year 2008 and is preparing to go for the Stage 2 Institutional Audit. Preparing for the audit according to ADRI cycle requires a huge amount of documentation. Hard work and cooperation from all staff is essential to meet the audit requirements. And when we receive the accreditation status, all efforts will be made worthwhile and will prove beneficial to all of us working and studying in WCAS.

Accreditation

- confidence that a HEI has achieved its own goals
- choice of choosing the best HEI according to their needs
- confidence in the curriculum and the skills gained by the student
- attracting and retaining highly qualified staff

We appreciate and value your feedback. Please send your suggestions and feedback to Hannah Manogaran, Quality Controller
qc@waljat.net, Phone:24449194, Extn 194
A strong foundation for a bright tomorrow

Specializing in Engineering, IT and Business Administration, Waljat College of Applied Sciences offers world-class University Education in Oman.

WCAS adopts academic programs in line with programs offered around the world, focusing on the significance of academic research and practical laboratory work. This guarantees that, you as a graduate have a head start in building a bright career path.

WCAS strategic partnership with the Birla institute of Technology, Ranchi, India - one of the most respected universities, specializing in Information Technology and Engineering would add tremendous value and enrich your academic pursuits.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Engineering Programs
- Undergraduate Level
  - Bachelor of Engineering in:
    - Biotechnology
    - Computer Science
    - Electronics & Communication

Applied Sciences and Management Programs
- Postgraduate Level
  - Executive Master of Business Administration
  - Master of Business Administration
- Undergraduate Level
  - Bachelor of Business Administration
  - Bachelor of Computer Applications

Application forms are available at Admission & Registration Department or can be downloaded from our website: www.waljatcollege.edu.om

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