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HarVest

Volume 7, 2013



Congratulations Class of 2013
Welcome to the UD Alumni Association



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Event**

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Grant Completed**

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Harvest is the official magazine of the University of Dubai. It is published annually and distributed to students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, organizations/ corporates and donors.

Thank you to all the students, staff and faculty who contributed to this year's Harvest edition with special thanks to the Student and Alumni Affairs Team for all the hard work and effort.

Editor in Chief

Dr. Eesa Bastaki

Editorial Manager

Amina El Marzak

Contributing Writers

Dr. Milton Knutson

Hasan El Mohajer

Abdulrahman Badwan

Urwa Tariq

Hiba Daghlas

Samar Kaiser

Reem Kendeel

Dena Khalili

Graphic Design

Jalal Khaboura

Ismail Ellithy

English Editor

Matthew Van Tassel

Coordinators

Redempta San Jose (ICDC)

Lama Al Faseeh (Alumni)

Mohamed Moustafa (DSS)

Farah Al Shaibani (DSS)

Laly Mathai (DSS)

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University of Dubai started as a result of an idea to establish a University to serve all the needs of the business sector. Since its inception in 1997 by Dubai Chamber, University of Dubai (UD) has strived to keep abreast of the renowned universities worldwide and accelerate wisely to be ahead of this very competitive race. UD is well known for its quality in educational outcomes and learning methods. This is where UD has had an extra edge over other academic institutions by acquiring international accreditations in every program delivered in the University. AACSB, the international accrediting body, has accredited every program in Bachelors and Masters Degrees in the College of Business Administration. Computing Accreditation

Commission of ABET has also accredited the Bachelor of Science Degree in Computing and Information Systems. Moreover, UD realized that accreditation receiving by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) is a very important step towards serving its graduates to be easily employed all over the UAE. Thus, CAA (Commission for Academic Accreditation) at the MOHESR licensed the institution and accredited all its programs. This means that the University cares about quality and cares about its students.

UD is proud to announce that the Federal Authority for Government of Human Resources (FAHR) has announced that UD is the preferred partner in delivering executive development programs to the federal governmental employees by signing an MOU with the University. Thus, government employees keen to improve their skill sets will have flexible access to UD's renowned Executive Development programs while its students will benefit from access to work placements that will materially enhance their understanding of business and administration. The University of Dubai has built its reputation through knowledge and innovation and it proudly continues to do so through this partnership with the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources.

Recently, The University of Dubai organized the 3rd Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) MENA Regional Conference on 10th and 11th of November 2013. It was the first university in the Middle East to become a PRME signatory in 2008. This is consistent with the principles of developing future leaders established when the Dubai Chamber founded the University of Dubai in 1997. This was also in recognition of the need for our students to understand the importance of responsible, sustainable business. The PRME principles to which we have signed provide us with a road map for this goal. We are proud and honored to be hosting this important event at a time when the concept of responsible management is at the forefront of business thinking in the region. Our graduates are educated in the implications of business decisions and strategy on the sustainability of their organizations and the societies in which they operate. We are committed to producing leaders who work for the benefit of all and not just the shareholders. Our programs and the links that the University of Dubai has established in our community, provide our students and graduates with unmatched opportunities.

Dr. Eesa M. Bastaki

President, University of Dubai

The Preferred Knowledge Partner

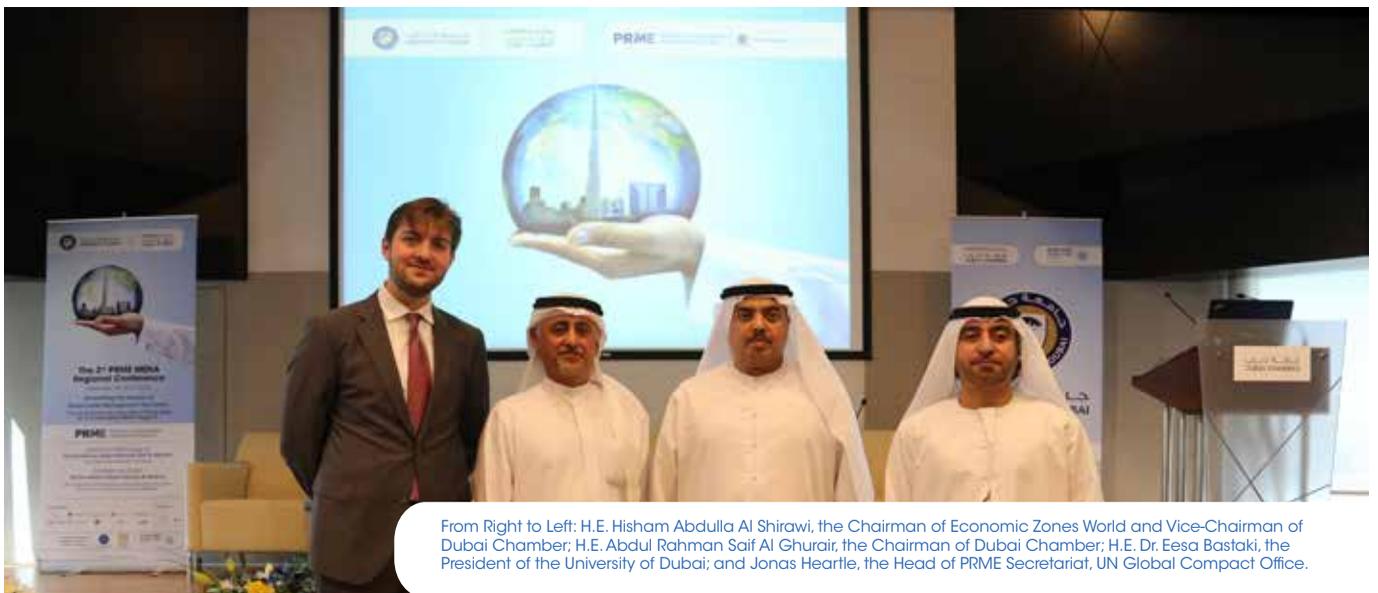
On October 3, 2013, the University of Dubai was selected by the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources (FAHR) as a preferred knowledge partner to provide professional development programs for Government employees from 46 different federal agencies. The agreement also provided a series of job placements and internship opportunities for University of Dubai students within relevant Government departments. The agreement was signed in the presence of The Minister of Education and Chairman of FAHR, His Excellency Humaid Al Qatami, by His Excellency Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awar, Director General of the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources, and His Excellency Dr. Eesa Bastaki, President of the University of Dubai.



H.E. Humaid Al Qatami, Minister of Education and Chairman of FAHR (back right), looks on as H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awar, Director General of FAHR (right), and H.E. Dr. Eesa Bastaki, President of the University of Dubai (left), sign the preferred knowledge partner agreement.

UD Leads The Responsible and Sustainable Practices in Business Education

Hosted by the University of Dubai and held under the Patronage of His Excellency Abdul Rahman Saif Al Ghurair, the Chairman of Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the 3rd Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) MENA Regional Conference brought together prominent speakers from around the region and globe to address the question: "Could Business Schools offer a Road Map for a Sustainable MENA Region?" Chaired by His Excellency Majid Al Shamsi, the Chairman of University of Dubai Board of Trustees and 1st Vice Chairman of the Dubai Chamber, the successful event emphasized the importance of incorporating responsible and sustainable practices in business education.



From Right to Left: H.E. Hisham Abdulla Al Shirawi, the Chairman of Economic Zones World and Vice-Chairman of Dubai Chamber; H.E. Abdul Rahman Saif Al Ghurair, the Chairman of Dubai Chamber; H.E. Dr. Eesa Bastaki, the President of the University of Dubai; and Jonas Heartle, the Head of PRME Secretariat, UN Global Compact Office.

USAID-UD Grant to Help Iraqi Universities Grant Completed

The University of Dubai has completed its commitment to help improve two universities in Baghdad as part of a \$500,000 grant UD received from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). January 22nd and 23rd 2013 marked the official inauguration for two Internship and Career Development Centers at AL Mansour University College (AMUC) and the University of Baghdad (UB) and Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Baghdad by UD Team (Dr. Farouk Saleh, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim and Ms. Amina El Marzak) together with AMUC and UB and USAID representatives.



The above mentioned UD team members have been working with AMUC and UB since 2011 to help them obtain an accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business (AACSB) as well as start Internship and Career Centers. An AACSB accreditation can sometimes take 10 years to obtain and the UD team created a roadmap for the universities to obtain the grant as well as consultation.

UD earned its AACSB accreditation in 2009 and was the first university to earn the prestigious international accreditation in Dubai. UD is now 1 of only 4 universities in the entire UAE to have the accreditation, which is held by just 5% of business schools worldwide. In addition to the goals outlined by the grant, UD has also expanded on their original mission and agreed to help train some of the Iraqi professors in various teaching techniques and planning methods.



Honor Students Awarded



University of Dubai honored 80 undergraduate students from the college of Business Administration and College of Information Technology for their academic excellence for the academic year 2011-2012 in Clover Creek Hotel.

CGPA 3.2 and above and the Dean's Highest Honors List includes students achieving a CGPA of 3.8 and above. Honor Students receive their certificates from the Dean of College of Business Administration and Dean of College of IT.

The Ceremony is annually held by the Department of Student Services a division of Student & Alumni Affairs. The Dean's List regularly includes students who achieve a

Faculty & staff, and students' families were all present at the ceremony.

Beta Gamma Sigma UD Chapter Wins International Photo Contest



The UD Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) Chapter won the Centennial Photo Competition as the "Most Creative Photo Celebrating the BGS Centennial."

The contest was a worldwide photo competition launched by BGS to commemorate its 100 year

anniversary. Congratulations to all the members who participated and enjoyed the 2-day photo shoot, which was taken in various parts of Dubai to highlight its unique culture. This is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime experience as the next competition will not be for another 100 years!

University of Dubai Team Takes 2nd Place in Unilever's Idea Trophy Contest

Out of 30 marketing teams, the UD team made up of MBA students Israa Shaheen, Urwa Tariq and Abdulrahman Badwan were shortlisted to the top five and ultimately earned second place in this year's Annual Unilever Idea Trophy. For this year's competition, teams presented their marketing ideas for Unilever's Lipton Chai Latte. The second place win got the team brand new Samsung Galaxy SIII smartphones. Last year, UD's team won first place and was awarded a trip to the Unilever headquarters in London.



Finalists this year were asked to develop a business strategy around Lipton Chai Latte, to help the brand further penetrate the youth market and position the product as a trendy and delicious beverage. Israa, Urwa and Abdulrahman studied the tea culture around the Middle East, looking at different flavors, popularity of the brands and even how the tea is poured and came up with the idea based around Karak Tea. The team then created an idea for an active, youthful campaign using social media in which participants make their own commercial for the tea and submit it to a contest.

Participating teams this year had to go through four phases: idea presentation and online submission, business and implementation plan submission, execution and finally the presentation during the Grand Finale phase.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Waqas Javed, Marketing Director, Unilever Gulf, said, "The Idea Trophy competition proves to us every year that we have a reservoir of high quality talent waiting to be groomed in this region. The level of passion, determination and creativity demonstrated by all teams has been extraordinary."

Emarati Club Wins 2nd Place in “Innovative Cultural Project 2012”



The Emarati Club won the 2nd place in “Innovative Cultural Project” this year from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development. The award was given for the group’s Talent Night event held last year. Congratulations to Nadia Al Akrabi, Emirati Group President, for leading the group to the award and

helping to distinguish UD among UAE universities and Farah Al Shaibani who did a great job advising the group for Talent Night.

The award was presented by H.E Bilal Al Bdour Executive Director of Culture and Arts.



Congratulations

to UD student Rim Al Jabi (center in yellow shirt) who won 1st place in the HESF 4-KM Race! Rim placed 1st among 11 participating universities from Dubai and Sharjah.

Syrian Charity Campaign



UD's Student Union held a charity campaign recently for Syrian refugees at the Jordanian border. The campaign was supervised and supported by both UAE Red Crescent and the Department of Charitable Affairs. UAE Red Crescent will ship the donations collected to the Zaateri refugees' camp located in Jordan. The camp's last population was estimated at 178,000 people and the number is increasing every day, which means that the demand for basic supplies is also increasing.

Students, faculty and staff donated money and items like food, blankets, clothing, and sanitary and first aid supplies, which successfully filled up the donation's collection box.



The donations were a clear representation of UD's team spirit and their commitment to helping those in need. All departments of UD contributed monetary donations.

Anyone interested in donating still has the chance by visiting any of the UAE Red Crescent branches located in Dubai.



International Festival



The Annual International Festival, held in May, allowed students to celebrate their heritage and share their culture with others. The festivities included song, dance, cuisine and artwork from the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Those who attended the event tasted traditional foods, learned about histories of different countries and witnessed traditional music and dance such as the Egyptian Tanoura in addition to the Palestinian, Syrian and Iraqi versions of the Dabke.





Collaboration

National Bonds Corporation

In December 2012, a team of students presented the results of a market research study on the savings behavior of UAE nationals to the National Bonds Corporation (NBC). The team, consisting of students Hamed Al Aqili, Ahmed Al Jaziri, Asia Ahmad, Haiitham Al Maani and Tamara Amad, presented a report titled, "How To Influence the Savings Behavior of UAE Nationals," to top management.



The National Bonds Corporation is a Sharia compliant financial planning service that focuses its efforts toward serving its customers better with every interaction and welcomed the insights provided by the research. The survey was conducted by the group over a three-week period targeting a diverse sample group of UAE nationals. The project revolved around a challenge posed by NBC: "Carving the way for a better financial future for UAE nationals, how National Bonds Corporation can influence the savings behavior of UAE nationals and help them plan for their financial future through regular savings." The students visited malls, universities, government offices and agencies, banks and other private offices to survey more than 300 people.

Hamed Al Aqili, who headed the presentation, said, "It was very good exposure for us and we are pleased by the support shown by the management of National

Bonds Corporation. The key element of our project is to determine the level of awareness of UAE nationals on the importance of regular savings. Now that we have gathered the facts the next step is implementation, so I hope we can work with NBC to get results that will be productive for the company."

The University continued its work with NBC in June 2013 with a second presentation. UD student Pardis Ali Pirhadi and alumni Hala Majdi Al Dawik and Mohamed Maged Shehata Elatik presented their findings to NBC on the efficiency of its services. A total of 49 students posed as mystery shoppers at five different exchange outfits that offer NBC savings plans to produce the data that was evaluated by the team of researchers. The mystery shoppers took into account waiting times for opening an account, redeeming an account and the overall customer service of the branches.

with

الصكوك الوطنية
NATIONAL BONDS



After the conclusion of the presentation, NBC Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Qasim Al Ali said, "We are proud of the association with University of Dubai because it adds value to our services. Saving is important to people's lives," he continued, "but it is often pushed aside." Colin Watt, NBC Executive Director of Distribution, said that many of the points the research brought up were currently being addressed but the presentation also gave the company some great ideas on how to further improve their services.

Hala Majdi Al Dawik decided to work on the project even though she has already graduated from UD. "The National Bonds project gave me the chance to evaluate the performance of one of the most valuable business concepts in the UAE," she said. "I also got to see how a CEO of such a huge corporation thinks and feels about

the business and I learned to think bigger in order to achieve a business mission."

Dr. Yaprak Anadol, who supervised the project, said, "It is a great opportunity to bring academia and industry together in order to remain competitive in the market. This project is an extension of the practical teaching method of the University of Dubai. With projects like these, our students are given a chance to apply their knowledge to real life situations, which will lead them to be influential and effective business leaders in the future."

UD and NBC are currently discussing the third stage of collaboration, which will involve knowledge management of innovative initiations by NBC and several benchmarking practices.

5th Annual Alumni Homecoming

Sponsored by National Trading and Development Establishment



Under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum Juma Al Maktoum, President of the Board of Directors of the University of Dubai's Alumni Association (UDAA), UD recently celebrated its 5th Annual Alumni Homecoming at the InterContinental Dubai Festival City.

The event's primary sponsor was National Trading & Developing Establishment, one of the Gulf's leading distribution and logistics providers for international consumer brands in the region and its secondary sponsors were the Information and Communication Technology Fund (ICT Fund), Al Tadawi Medical Center and Thai Airways International.

UD alumni got the chance to reconnect with UD faculty, staff and fellow classmates as well as treat their family members to a night of dinner and entertainment,

thanks to the event's gracious sponsors. The night was filled with entertainment such as traditional dance, live music performed by UD Alumni and an award ceremony recognizing the most successful and most supportive alumni.

In his speech, Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum Juma Al Maktoum welcomed the new UD board of directors' members, who are willing to collaborate and add to this association. In addition, Sheikh Mohammed urged Alumni to continue to be engaged with the university as a way to give to the institution that helped them get to where they are now. It is important, he said, to help the university become known around the region, so students graduating from high school know that they have a local option for higher education that meets high international standards.



المؤسسة الوطنية للتجارة والإنماء
National Trading & Developing Est.



صندوق تطوير قطاع الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Information & Communication Technology Fund



Alumni-Student Mentoring Program 2013

The University of Dubai recently marked the conclusion of its fourth year of the Alumni-Student Mentoring Program (ASMP). About 30 alumni mentors and student mentees participated in the ASMP this year.

The program is intended to enhance students' educational experience, promote professional development and offer students insights into real world experience offered by alumni. For alumni, it gives them an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to students and the university by sharing their experience and advice on making the transition from university to a professional career.

"In ASMP, you learn and you teach," said Alumnus Mentor Ali Angizeh, who also has a mentor outside of the ASMP. "It's a good cycle - the passing on of knowledge." An important part of the program is the relationship that forms between the mentor and mentee, said Mohammad Abu Hasira who was Angizeh's mentee and is now friends with him.

For further enquiries email the Alumni Office at alumni@ud.ac.ae



Suhail Albastaki , Mentor

"The Alumni-Student Mentoring Program gave me a chance to help our youngsters practice the knowledge I and other mentors have gained and transform it into more a tangible/practical

experience. Over the past few months, I have even witnessed my own work standards reach higher levels of quality in comparison with others. The program was highly inspiring, energizing, and full of innovative ideas, which established a forum for substantial, in-depth knowledge sharing."



Sameera Saleh, Mentee

"It was a pleasure to be a member of the mentoring program this year as it made a big change in my personal and professional life. I have learnt many new and unique skills that helped me to overcome

some barriers which I thought I couldn't. All the thanks and appreciation goes to the mentoring program team and my mentor, Mr. Suhail Al Bastaki."

The Brain Behind the GPA Calculator

By Hasan El Mohajer



During my first semester as a Management Student, while taking an Internet Applications course with Dr. Nawfal Warqi, I began learning about HTML codes and Java scripts. While checking our UD website, I noticed that we did not have a GPA calculator as many other university sites had. The GPA calculator allows students to track their CGPA progress and allows them to see what grades they would want to achieve in order to increase, maintain or improve their CGPA. So, I put all the codes together along with our UD GPA and grading scale and produced the UD CGPA calculator hoping that it will be a helpful tool for UD students to give them an idea on the amount of

effort they need to put forth in their courses in order to achieve their desired grades. I myself used to check this page regularly at the beginning of every semester to see what grades I needed to achieve, maintain or increase my CGPA, as I wanted to ensure that I would graduate with a minimum CGPA of 3.2. This calculator always gave me a sharp answer of how I can do that. I hope that this calculator will be able to help UD students as it helped me to set a course for goals and achievements. My CGPA calculator can be found on UD's website at: <http://www.ud.ac.ae/student-service/gpa-calculator>. I hope it helps you as much as it helped me!

Once Upon a Time

By Izmi Dalhan Carrim

We fought against a crime
"Slavery vs. Oppression"
yet today we face depression
even before the recession
from an invisible tyranny
with even stronger dedication
making us live empty lives for many generations
and continuing to pass on, in succession.

From 9-5 or 8-6,
from making the coffee,
to working even when sick
the smallest mistake gets you terminated
in just one click.

We the educated follow like sheep to capitalism and its
never-ending needs
left frustrated,
no compensation
mostly likely to be received
let's be brave and learn to stand alone
and refrain from being a corporate drone
our current lives are an example of Slavery by consent
let's be free and let me live my life again from zero to
intense.

How Can Universities Fuel Entrepreneurial Innovation?

By AbdulRahman Badwan

Entrepreneurs are always on the lookout for hidden segments that support their business growth and internal change. Unlike SME business owners, entrepreneurs depend on innovation and creative strategies that distinguish them from their competitors. The main question is: which segment supports entrepreneurs to achieve their goals of innovation and allows them to have a competitive edge? The answer is the education sector.

Benefits for entrepreneurs from university collaboration:

Knowledge-based competition

Universities play a significant role in creating new information which can support entrepreneurs in introducing/ implementing alternative strategies and ideas that expand business activity. Using universities' research information to create new knowledge is what will transform an entrepreneur's strategic approach and existing products and services into an applicable innovative ones.

Organizational innovation

Obtaining new information through universities will not only expand external business activity, but also create an internal culture of innovation in entrepreneurial companies. This improves employees' creative thinking and encourages teamwork among functional departments to work on nurturing the innovation of a product or service.

Benefits for the economy from entrepreneur - university collaboration:

Economic development

Entrepreneurs seeking universities research not only develop their innovative process, but they also influence other competitors to do the same. This takes the business competition to a higher level that is based on knowledge and innovation and will support community efforts in transforming their standard economy into a knowledge-based one.

Human development

Another pillar that a knowledge-based economy relies on is human capital. Creating a culture of innovation in entrepreneurial firms develops employees' talent and



capabilities. Employees' tasks will require them to adopt new creative methods to serve the innovation goals, where their skills will be a great contribution not only to an entrepreneurial firm but also to the process of sustaining the knowledge-based economy.

Conclusion

Research practice (universities) and business practice (entrepreneurs) are inseparable. Their relationship is based on the creation of new information for innovative ideas by universities and its implementation by entrepreneurs. This collaboration will help foster a continued culture of innovation among entrepreneurial firms and the economy.

About the author

AbdulRahman Badwan is an MBA graduate and the founder and COO of RJA Consultant Service. He is also the founder and president of TDR initiative which focuses on contributing in developing communities through creativity and innovation in knowledge. For more information, visit: <http://www.rja-consultant.com>

Story of Success

By Reem Kendeel

My name is Reem Kendeel, I'm 24 years old, a proud UD 2013 BBA Management graduate and currently a Business & Management Learning Specialist at Baker Hughes.

My career journey started six years ago with a training Institute. It was a very tough start – I had to work two shifts for a very minimum salary. As a beginner, I made my share of mistakes and you can imagine the tears involved! However I had a goal in mind (acquiring my bachelor's degree while I am working) which requires a lot of hard work. So, I worked for a few other companies until I joined Baker Hughes, an oil services multinational company as a department administrator where I realized I could accomplish my dream when I came across UD which offered evening classes.

After 2 years work at Baker Hughes, I got promoted to a Training Coordinator for business acumen training for the entire eastern hemisphere (Asia, Australia, Africa and Europe) in 2010. By then things became more and more challenging. When I finished work at 5 pm, I went straight to the university and stayed until 10 pm after which I could reach home by 10:45 pm, and do it all again next day. Eventually, my family allowed me to move out to a flat near my work to avoid daily driving from Sharjah.

At work, I was so competitive and focused and I had to give up a lot of my personal life to achieve my goal. I missed so many birthdays and family and friends' gatherings.

In March 2013, I was granted the Baker Hughes Global HR Excellence Award for 2012 "for building a sustainable competitive advantage through people, globally," along with the education center team. Now this award is granted to only 5 members/teams within the organization annually from among 60,000 employees working for Baker Hughes worldwide.

Today, I am proud to say that Baker Hughes has promoted me to Learning Specialist - Business & Management for the eastern hemisphere. I now train employees (including managers). This position is definitely "older than my age." But with the experience and the academic qualification I gained,

I am able to make it happen. For that, I first thank God for the strength he gave me to make it through. I thank my family for supporting me all the way and I thank Baker Hughes management for believing in me. Not to forget to thank UD for granting me the right knowledge and qualifications to perform well in my job.

Special thanks for his highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for supporting education system and creating environment for us young people where we can work and study at the same time to become successful.

Finally, I would advise UD young students to take me for example and work hard. Never say "I can't", or "The salary is too low!" The beginnings are always tough! Success doesn't come overnight – it requires commitment, accountability, persistence, and inspiration. There were a lot of days when I wondered if it is worth it to do it my way? Today, I can definitely say yes. It was worth it and extremely rewarding!



Exam-O-Phobia Drama

By Urwa Mohammad Tariq

The saying goes that university is the best time of your life. That may be the whole year round except when it comes to the dreaded exam days. After an entire night of non-stop cramming, we set out on the dawn of this dreaded day filled with an anxious feeling about what the day might bring. Here's how the cycle of events unfolds:

Exam Session

The skywalk: The best place to soak up last minute details. For a change there is complete silence as everyone is trying to cram as much as possible into the already overloaded brain. The confident ones who try a conversation are silenced by the rude "shut up, we're studying".

Library: As you enter the library at such a time, the groaning and grumbling begins as the students realize that time is running out and the pile of work to be accomplished is too much to handle. At this point, some opt for creative ways (i.e. writing on hands, chits, inside a cap and the list goes on). Some even resort to studying on the way to their respective classes. I'm sure they feel time is of the essence... Pity they realize it a little too late.

Classroom: Desperate attempts are underway to solve last minute doubts with the help of mobile. All the foreheads are creased as the invigilator enters and panic-stricken students trudge unwillingly to their seats.

Invigilator: The invigilator tries to pry the books and bags off students who hope in vain that the inspection finishes soon. Also "A friend in need is a friend indeed" concept begins as the majorities seat themselves close to their pals, but the plan flops as the professor uses his random placement strategy!

After Exam

The after-exam period is the time where many students are heartbroken. As the professor enters, carrying a very prominent envelope, a sinking feeling begins to work its way. The package is opened and the papers are



carefully removed. Ah... the suspense is unbearable. The expressions are of 3 types.

- The student flashes a billion dollar smile and then whoops, "Yes I did it!"
- The student quickly crumples the paper in her fist, bites her lower lip, embarrassed.
- The student sighs, "I don't care" and returns the paper back.

Some students rush to the professor shooting million queries "Why I lost marks, I wrote exactly from the book", but the bustling bee scenario is always concluded by "You get what you deserve"!

The melodramatic exam fever act takes place every semester. It would seem that after so much practice the entire process would be a piece of cake but it turns out even more nerve racking each semester.

My Journey at University of Dubai

By Dena Al Khalili

After 3 years, the university chapter in my life has been closed. I started my degree in Marketing in the Fall of 2009 as I was fortunate to work in the morning and study evening courses at the University of Dubai (UD).

I then began the great feat of juggling work, meetings, classes, studying and my personal life. Occasionally I would panic and think tasks to be impossible, but because I would plan everything in advance, I managed quite well. At the start of each semester I would always set plans for myself to start studying right off the bat and aim for an A, but every semester, I would falter on my goals and end up procrastinating. Nevertheless, I still managed to maintain an excellent GPA which has proven to be an asset in my whole university life.

I had decided from the start of my studies that I would finish as quickly as possible because of my work commitments. Working and studying at the same time was a big challenge for me to equally balance the time and attention to maximize being productive at both.

Luckily, I did a good job at not only balancing work and studies but also my finances. I was taking five or six courses per semester and I was paying for everything myself. When compared to other universities in the Emirates, the fees at UD are very reasonable, which made the load I had to take more bearable. Aside for the money for value strength of UD, another strong factor is its flexibility to offer night classes suitable for working students like me. This enabled me to finish my studies in a short period of time.

The different outing experiences I had with the university were great! I went on several planned activities where

I got the chance to meet my fellow colleagues and classmates and eventually made lasting friendships. In my senior year, I got two golden opportunities, which UD gave me. One was the chance to participate in a world-renowned summit on environmental issues in Abu Dhabi where I took part as a Young Future Energy Leader, and the other was a memorable and educational trip funded by the Royal Thai Consulate to Thailand. Both these experiences were the cherry-on-top of my time at UD and the whole experience has definitely helped propel me into a better working world.

As a requirement of graduation, I also had to complete a two-month internship program, which through connections and with the help of the Internship and Career Development Center, I was able to do at Ogilvy, one of the most prestigious advertising companies in the world. It was a good learning opportunity and a great way to get exposure and a good idea of what my degree could be applied to. At the commencement of the two months, I was offered a position. Although I chose not to take it due to a prior commitment elsewhere, it was good to know that the opportunity was there for me. The end of my internship signaled my successful completion of all my academic requirements. When I finally walked at the stage during the graduation ceremony a great sense of fulfillment and happiness soared through me. Alas a tap on my shoulder for a job well done!

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Omar Hefni, the faculty, staff, colleagues and friends for the 3 most exciting, challenging and intellectually fulfilling years in my life. Truly, the University of Dubai is ideal for working students and those who are looking to enhance their career with knowledge and quality education.

How to Give a Good University Presentation (Problems & Solutions)

By Hiba A. Daghlas



Presentations are a good way of encouraging students to participate in classes, and also of judging their knowledge and skills. Everyone worries about doing presentations especially when they are doing it for the first time. You can try to overcome your presentation problems through the following solutions;

Classic Problems with Presentations!!

1. Student listeners get bored!
2. Over-use of/reliance on PowerPoint
3. Nervousness
4. Talking too fast
5. Don't talk loud enough!
6. Don't look at audience!
7. Poor timing!

1- Make it Clear!

- Put yourself in the position of your listeners. What is the best way to get your message across?
- Get something transferred clearly from your mind to the mind of your listeners.

2- Preparation:

- Identify your topic
- Choose small number of points.
- Explain each point in a simple way carefully, with examples
- The conclusion must be short & summary of whole presentation.

3- Reading from note OR speaking it out??

- Speaking from notes is more effective than reading them
- Reading from text can be "totally deadly"

4- Nervousness

Your feelings of nervousness will not be evident to your audience; examples

- Increased heart rate
- Sweaty palms
- Shaky hands

So,

- Fight your nervousness through preparation; before a day from the presentation.
- Act naturally; speak the way you would normally.
- If after all this you are still nervous, seek help from your instructors. They will give you wonderful advices to help you make good & simple presentations.

5- Eye Contact

- Look directly at your audience when you want to emphasize particular points
- Add unprepared comments as if they just came to you and were not part of your prepared presentation that you practiced on. (Good Tip!!)

6- Movements and signs

- Don't focus or think about what to do with your hands, or facial expressions; these will come naturally if you focus on your talk.
- Don't play with your hair or your jewelry, but holding a pin can hide your Nervousness!

7- Answering Questions

- Tell your audience whether you will accept questions during your presentation, or prefer to hold them to the end.
- Make sure you understand a question before answering it.
- If you do not know the answer to a question, say so. Your audience does not expect you to know everything. Ask your audience whether they have the answer.

8- Practicing, Practicing & Practicing:

- Time yourself; Better to be too short than too long presentation
- Do your practicing in advance, not 10 minutes before your presentation
- Write expecting questions, and how you might answer them

Have A Successful Presentation!



Did You Know?



Students beat Faculty in the Football tournament this year

To join this year's UD football team email us at: dss@ud.ac.ae

Marketing student Salem Bin Shahdoor ('13) has been an avid race endurance rider for the past couple of years. He is actively engaged in the sport, which gives him a tremendous amount of joy, especially when he wins. Who knows, we might just see Salem winning in one of the International Horse Endurance Competitions. Good luck!



UD Alumnus Zayed Alshebli ('12) won a Guinness World Record in 2003 for the World's Largest Abaya. He won the award in an effort to promote the opening of his abaya shop.

Life - Beauty & the Beast

By Samar Kaiser Hussein

Life is like the sea, it's a beauty but a threat; each wave strikes and hits but still accompanies each other just like the happiness and sadness of life and that's why everything and anything around us has two sides.

Beauty is not what you see, it's what you feel! Today's generation considers unnecessary issues to be a major problem, but how many actually consider those who are born abnormal, orphans, those who can't afford a drop of water or suffer from serious health problems? It's a simple fact - Not Many! We human beings are the biggest problem for ourselves since our knowledge is limited and thus, we take life to be unfair, but we should know how to make it fair and just and we should not let it degrade us.

What do you think is the reason for our existence when God knows the end of it? Every mind is a gift from God and no gift is the same, so do whatever you want with your gift because no one can interfere with it. There's no harm in crying, after all we are just human beings who always try to be the strongest creatures, but actually we are the weakest. Tears are nothing other than an instinct expression of our inner feelings, anyway, life is a game but you don't have to be a professional in it.

Just because we get a 50% or a 90% on an exam, it is not the criteria for describing the person we are. Where can we find the beauty in our lives; maybe in its simple colors, blooming nature or simply a positive attitude? No one can influence us without our approval, so never blame anyone for it other than oneself.

No beast is empty of beauty; if we only learn how to appreciate our blessings like our parents, friends, pets and everything around us then automatically beauty overcomes the beast, which doesn't really exist. Do we ever make an attempt to look into the

depth of our lives? It's simply the way we absorb things. It's a fact that life is full of ups and downs, so "We," as God's incredible creations, should learn to judge and control ourselves before others.

Always pause before you do anything because understanding the meaning of your actions and thoughts makes you realize the definition of life.



A Royal Encounter

By Dr. Milton Knutson

A Royal Encounter

Princess Diana emerges from the administration building. She begins her farewells at the far end of the queue, so I relax, knowing it would take some time before she gets to me.

I glance in the direction of the Princess, and notice she is progressing quickly. My colleague Soha and I look into each other's eyes, conveying nervousness without speaking. She is minutes away. And then Diana does something extraordinary. She skips eight people in the line, and walks directly to me.

Why is she skipping the other people in the line to come up to me so suddenly? She

extends her hand and asks me: "You must be Canadian, as well?"

The answer "Yes, your Royal Highness," passes through my mind, yet I cannot say that – I am not Canadian.

"No, your Royal Highness," comes the answer. "Actually, I am American."

"You must be one of the few," she responds.

My heart punches at my ribs as I peer into her angelic face. Her two front teeth are not perfectly straight! They sit at an angle to each other, making her face even more captivating.

"Yes, one of the few," I hear myself say.

I pause as she pauses and a moment of mutual contemplation passes between us.

"How did you happen to come here to the UAE?"

Oh dear, it's a long story. What can I say?

"Well," I begin, "I was in Saudi Arabia and I heard about the HCT colleges opening in the Emirates. I applied and they hired me, so I came directly here."

Princess Diana has put me at ease. I realize that what people say is true. She really is interested in me...



"How do you like working with these students at the college?"

"It's great, something new for me! It's exciting – I've always worked with the men."

A knowing look comes over her face.

"The college is a great opportunity for these women."

"Yes, Ma'am, it is."

I have remembered the "Ma'am."

"Good luck to you here," she says.

She is like an angel. A halo of good feeling surrounds her, an aura of ready wit and lovingkindness.

"How do you feel," asks Soha.

"I'm in Heaven," I say.

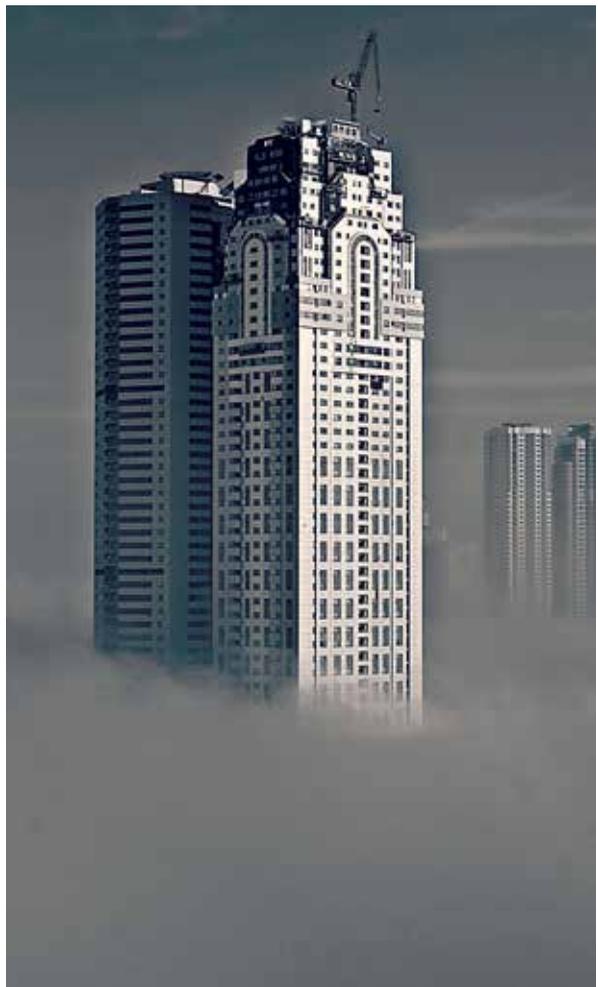
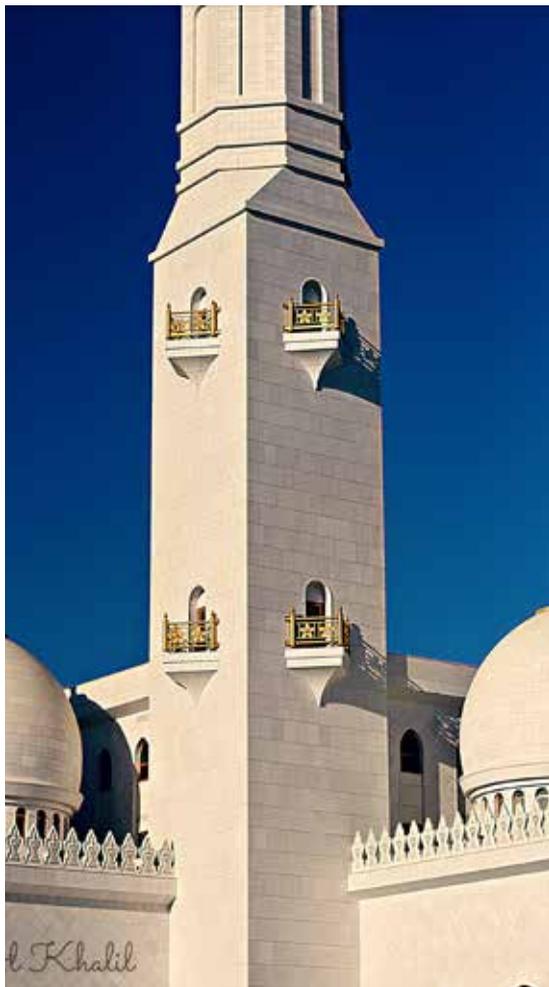
We keep looking as the Princess goes on. Before departing, she turns and smiles to us all, waving broadly.

In 1989, Princess Diana and Prince Charles visited the UAE. Princess Diana asked to visit Al Ain Women's College. It was Dr. Milton Knutson's first year in the UAE. He was lucky to meet the Princess during her visit.



By Khalil Alsammari

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By Samar Kaiser Hussein



By Hossein Abdolrahman



HarVest

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Student & Alumni Affairs Dept. | University of Dubai
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