



September – November 2010 Volume 2, Issue 1

## ICDC MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The onset of the autumn months with the start of September also brought about some changes, not only within the university, but also outside it. Whether inside or outside the confines of our offices, the ICDC was affected by the change of season, in regards to their workload and tasks that needed to be accomplished. The fall semester signals colder weather will be coming, but that does not mean that the ICDC cooled off from work! On the contrary, the events and activities had our computers burning up from the endless reporting and correspondence.

In UD, September also signals the start of the fall semester, bringing with it new recruits fresh from high school. The ICDC participated in the Student Orientation Program, giving freshmen students an idea of the range of career services we can provide them during their college years. We also invited some of our alumni to participate in the guest lecture series for the First Academic Success Skills classes. Later on, preparations were made for the big event, the much anticipated 4<sup>th</sup> Alumni Homecoming. Much paperwork, endless coordination and exhaustive negotiations were involved in making the event a success. Despite all these preparations, the ICDC was still able to coordinate company presentations for various business plan competitions and student leadership programs to encourage the active participation of UD students in this different form of learning

experience. Company representatives from Masdar Institute, Unilever and Al Tamimi Investments praised UD students for their enquiring minds and eagerness to participate in the programs they are promoting.

Outside the university itself, there are changes that may very well affect our daily lives. The autumn months signal the change of weather in the UAE, when easterly winds bring a cool and pleasant atmosphere. The festive month of December, coupled with all the decorations and merry-making may be reflective of how the UAE economy is performing. The ICDC in recent months has again been receiving job adverts for internships, graduate trainee programs and full-time employment from companies who were not hiring a couple of months before. Some companies have even signified their intent to participate in the UD Job Fair which is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>. These are signs that Dubai may be seeing better employment opportunities. However, the competition remains tough, especially now that the job market demands seasoned professionals with relevant work experience. Perhaps not surprisingly therefore, a common trend noted recently is that UD graduates are finding employment in the capital.

With all these developments, the ICDC stands firm in its commitment to support UD students and alumni alike in their career development. Surely with so much optimism and hope on our side, things can only get better.

*Enjoy the cool weather while it lasts!*

**Cordially,  
Amina El Marzak**

## THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI 2011 JOB FAIR

**Be prepared for a day of opportunities and possibilities.**

Meet company representatives from the banking, hospitality, airline, government, IT, retail and consulting industries.

Mark your calendars, March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Al Masaood Building**, University of Dubai

Check this link to get tips on how to prepare yourself for the Job Fair

<http://ud.ac.ae/pdf/icdc/career%20fair%20flyer.pdf>



## BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITIONS: EXPOSING UD STUDENTS TO A DIFFERENT WAY OF LEARNING



The "Idea Trophy" organized by **Unilever** saw the success of 2 UD teams in Phase 1 of the business plan competition.

The 1<sup>st</sup> group comprised Urwa Tariq, Hooria Tariq and Fatema Mohd, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> group comprised Haneen Al Tal, Yvette Madi and Hussain Muawfi who all submitted their ingenious and creative ideas on how to improve the branding and marketing initiatives of one of its brands, Rexona. Our teams competed against others from Zayed University (Abu Dhabi & Dubai), AUD and AUS.

Truly a cut above the rest and among the best and the brightest, let us all cheer for our teams to make it to the winning slot! A grand prize of a free trip to London with all expenses paid by Unilever awaits the winning team!



The "Big Start" is an entrepreneurial competition whereby graduating students are invited to send in their ideas on starting up a new business venture. The winning business proposal will be given full support by Al Tamimi Investments from the capital needed to start, sustain and lead the business to profitability to the technical, administrative and operational support needed. In other words, if you win the competition, YOU will be the CEO of your own company receiving full funding and support from Al Tamimi Investments! Interested students are requested to apply online at <http://www.thebigstart.ae/>

## COMPANIES AWARD SPONSORSHIP TO UD DESERVING STUDENTS

The Al Ghurair Group, including its subsidiaries, Al Ghurair Exchange and Raqmiyat LLC, awarded sponsorships to 3 UAE national students. Under the sponsorship program each student will receive a monthly allowance of AED 4000 and the opportunity to do their training and possibly even get a job with the group after graduation.

Barclays, one of the top financial institutions in the world also renewed its contract to last year's student sponsorship beneficiaries. Aside from renewing the contracts, Barclays has generously added more slots to accommodate more UD students in the program. You may contact the ICDC office if you are interested in applying for Barclays' student sponsorship program.



**BNP PARIBAS**

For the third consecutive year, **BNP Paribas** is to run an online contest in 2011, which is intended to increase global brand awareness in universities worldwide. Entitled 'Ace Manager - The Third Set', this international contest is open to all Bachelors' and Masters' degree holders who are under 26 years old.

During the online phase of the contest, participating teams, each composed of three students, will test their ability to perform various banking jobs as part of an overall business task linked to the world of tennis.

This international competition will be run in English, beginning with an initial online phase, from 15<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 on a dedicated website:

[www.acemanager.bnpparibas.com](http://www.acemanager.bnpparibas.com)

It will conclude with a grand final between the five best teams in Paris in mid - April 2011. Teams will have to meet the final challenge in front of an expert jury composed of former teachers from participating universities and members of BNP Paribas top management.

All finalists will receive cash prizes as follows:

- ▶ Winning team: €9,000
- ▶ Runners-up: €3,000
- ▶ Third-placed team: €1,500
- ▶ Every member of the three top-placed teams will be awarded abroad choice of international internships within the Group's three core business areas.

## PROCTER & GAMBLE'S IDS CHALLENGE - GET READY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!



**Procter & Gamble**, the world leader in the FMCG industry, is inviting UD students to participate in their International IDS Challenge - a course designed for students from across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

This 5-day course will be held in London from April 10<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, during which students will gain insight into how information technology is used to commercial advantage in a global business environment. Students will also work in a challenging, practical, but fun learning environment attempting to decide on a company's business priorities. The five days include a series of case studies and lectures that will help you to grow professionally as well as develop your leadership skills. All expenses will be paid by Procter & Gamble for students who are selected to attend the seminar.

Interested students may apply on - line at

[www.joinpg.com/idsc](http://www.joinpg.com/idsc)

## ENOC AND UD SIGN MOU



The University of Dubai (UD) and Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in training and employing UAE nationals.

The signing parties agreed on enhancing the partnership by:

- ▶ Encouraging UD students and alumni to apply for ENOC employment opportunities;
- ▶ UD informing ENOC of forthcoming career-related events being held that it can participate in;
- ▶ ENOC assisting UD students in their internship, field visits, report and graduation projects.

## ICDC AND ALUMNI MAJOR EVENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2011

No.	Event /Activity	Date
1	Launch of the Alumni-Student Mentoring Program (ASMP)	November 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2010
2	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Homecoming	December 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2010
3	UD Job Fair	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
4	ASMP Participant's Networking Lunch	March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
5	Introducing Senior Students to the UDAA	May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
6	Alumni-Student Mentoring Program (ASMP) Closing Ceremony	June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2011

## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING

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), the University of Dubai in collaboration with its Alumni Association celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Homecoming at the Inter-Continental Hotel. The Alumni Homecoming, which aims to build a stronger relationship with its graduates as well as encourage networking among them, had an astounding 400+ attendees at the event, including UD alumni and their families, faculty, staff and members of the business community. The most anticipated event of the year culminated in various fun-filled activities such as poetry, cultural dancing, recognition awards and a raffle.

Abdulla Bel Khair, UAE's renowned star graciously sang traditional songs, which was greatly appreciated and applauded by the attendees. Praising the role of the UDAA, Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum Juma Al Maktoum, outlined the various successful activities the association has embarked



on, such as the Alumni - Student Mentoring Program, the UDAA and Friends Scholarship Fund and the Alumni Guest Lecture Series. Sheikh Maktoum said "All of these programs were developed as a means of serving and assisting UD students in their educational journey, and contributing to the development and advancement of our university." He added that "It is through the active involvement and participation in the UDAA organized events that UD alumni are able to contribute to the achievement of the association's goals and objectives".

Following the success of the Alumni Homecoming, the UDAA is determined to embark on new activities and implement on-going projects, which aim to assist and serve the UD community.



# THE TOP 10 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR IN 2011

According to the survey conducted by the "Great Place to Work Institute", the top 10 best companies to work for in 2011 are headed by Microsoft Gulf, Pepsico, Fedex and Marriott. The rankings were based on questionnaires administered to a random set of employees touching on topics such as company culture, communication and perks.

The questionnaire results were also audited side-by-side based on the company's pay scale, benefits and hiring policies.

See why these companies were voted as the best places to work:

## 1 MICROSOFT GULF

Bursting with perks, which includes 3 days off every year to do volunteer community service, it is ranked top by its employees for trust and team work.

## 2 FEDEX

True to its philosophy of "People – Work – Service" it is ranked by its employees as the best in corporate culture and communication. "At the peak of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico – FedEx shipped thousands of turtle eggs to the unaffected Atlantic coast for free.

## 3 PEPSICO

Its value, which promises to back diversity and to "to speak truth and candor", is what makes it one of the best companies to work for.

## 4 MARRIOTT

It's "spirit to serve" philosophy and its belief that its people are its most important asset landed Marriott the number 4 position.

## 5 MERCK SERONO

A conglomeration of German-Swiss corporations, Merck Serono prides itself on teamwork and on rewarding its staff for exemplary service and hard work.

## 6 THE ONE

Known for its "Oneunderworld Programme", "a one-on-one store village adoption programme which provides villages in underdeveloped countries with healthcare services and alternative income projects," makes it one of the strongest advocates of corporate social responsibility.

## 7 SHUAA CAPITAL

Ranked highly by its staff for employee satisfaction, SHUAA investment bank believes in internal promotion for deserving staff possessing the relevant skills.

## 8 BAYT.COM

Bayt.com believes that employee suggestions are its "reservoir of business ideas" and thus gives each and every one access to internal sites.

## 9 ZAYED UNIVERSITY

Fostering a culture of appreciation and recognition puts Zayed University in 9th position. It is the only university which recognizes an individual in the way they want to be recognized and appreciated.

## 10 DULSCO

To celebrate its 75 years, DulSCO has had a year-long celebration marking its successes and accomplishments. No wonder employee morale is high.

"MASDAR'S YFEL PROGRAM CONTRIBUTING TO A WORLD OF RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY"

Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, the pioneering institute which, advocates research work and supports innovation in the realms of renewable and sustainable energy, recently conducted a presentation on their Young Future Energy Leader's (YFEL) Program.

The YFEL Program which will be held on January 17-20, 2011 aims to provide talented young professionals with the opportunity to debate, network and share ideas and knowledge about tackling the world's most serious environmental and energy challenges. More details about the program can be found at [www.masdar.ac.ae](http://www.masdar.ac.ae)

## ALUMNI-STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM 2011

Under the patronage of the UD Alumni Association, the Internship and Career Development Center (ICDC) brought together its most supportive and prominent alumni and eager enthusiastic students to begin the successful launch of the 2010-2011 Alumni Student Mentoring Program (ASMP). The Orientation for the ASMP was held on the 25th of November in the Dubai Chamber, and was presented by one of the alumni mentors, Feras Alswellam, who enthusiastically introduced the components, benefits and regulations of the program to its participants. Furthermore, the event was a perfect set up for the initial introductory meeting for all pairs, to finally become acquainted with and get to know each other. The program currently consists of 21 pairs, with some mentoring relationships consisting of more than one student mentee allocated to one alumni mentor. The ASMP participants are meeting in the middle of the program, for a "Networking Luncheon" to share experiences and practices. The program ends on the 9th of June 2011, with a closing ceremony to award the best mentoring relationship.