



رابطة الخريجين
Alumni Association

Alumni Newsletter

Sept. 2012 - Aug. 2013 - Volume 5, Issue 1



جامعة دبي
UNIVERSITY of DUBAI

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Message from the UDAA President

For the past seven years, I have been proud to serve my beloved alma mater as President of the University of Dubai Alumni Association (UDAA) and I am even more proud of what has been accomplished by the UDAA in the past seven years. With dedicated alumni and the support of the Alumni Relations staff, our association has grown larger every year and has reached new heights of excellence.

The Alumni-Student Mentoring Program has helped improve the lives of dozens of students and alumni and has involved some most inspirational alumni as mentors. These alumni have excitedly passed on their knowledge to students, enriching their lives and giving them valuable insights into the professional world that would be hard to get anywhere else.

We have also been fortunate to have several excellent guest speakers this year such as Maitha Musabeh, Ahmed Falasi, Ali Angizeh, Mohammed Badwawi and Rami Saad. These speakers have returned to the classroom to act as "faculty for a day" discussing such things as setting goals, making career decisions, deciding the best major as well as other business and IT related topics.

I hope that everyone had as much fun as I did at our Alumni Homecoming this year. It was great to see old friends and their families and catch up on what has been happening in their lives since we graduated. I would especially like to thank everyone who worked hard to plan the event and obtain sponsors for funding; it was truly a great achievement.

As we were planning the event, we began to think of ways to allow more alumni to contribute to the UDAA so we can have more events like the Alumni Homecoming and also open the door to newer, more exciting events and programs. While brainstorming ideas, we came to the ultimate conclusion that it would be productive to revamp the UDAA Board of Directors (BOD) by allowing new members who have showed great interest in serving the association and the university to join. We believe that these new members, which will consist of alumni from different graduating classes with diverse backgrounds, will

enhance the UDAA by bringing in fresh ideas and a high level of commitment to the prestigious organization.

This change of the UDAA BOD coincides with the re-structuring process currently underway at UD and the appointment of the new President, Dr. Eesa Bastaki, who joined the university in July 2013. As we embark on this idea to think "out of the box," we are excited that a man of Dr. Bastaki's accomplishments has agreed to lead the university on its continuing path to provide the highest quality education in the region.

As part of our new initiative to enhance UD and the way students and alumni perceive it, we realize we need to create new ways for our alumni to connect, interact and give back to the university. Now is the perfect time to strengthen our UD alumni experience by not only supporting the alumni association but by meaningfully contributing to the welfare of current UD students by means of student scholarships and measures to help increase enrollment. I understand we all have our separate life engagements but I would like to personally encourage you to get involved, reach out and connect with us and provide your support and help. With your support and input, we will not only be able to make the UD experience better for alumni and its current and prospective students, we will be able to create a legacy that will last well into the future.

As a first step, I ask that you update your contact details so we are able to send you information about UD and UDAA news. We would also like you to share with us any suggestions you may have that will help us enhance the UD alumni experience. Email alumni@ud.ac.ae or call 04 207 2675 or 04 207 2671 to share your views, ideas or suggestions. You can also update your information via our website by clicking here.

Thank you for your contributions thus far and I look forward to working with all of you in anticipation of a new, fruitful year.

Sincerely,

Mohammed Maktoum

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Welcome to UD



The UDAA would like to congratulate **Dr. Eesa Bastaki** and welcome him as the university's new president! We are confident your experience and determination will elevate UD to the next level.

New UDAA Board of Directors Members

Ahmad K. Al Falasi ('06)

Director of Corporate Excellence
The Department of Islamic Affairs
and Charitable Activities
(Vice President)

Ali A. Angizeh ('10)

VP Cargo & Logistics
Dubai Airports
(Member)

Fawaz M. Al Qaisy ('06)

Mortgages & Payroll Manager
Arab Bank
(Member)

Ala O. Mikdadi ('12)

General Manager
Emirates Industrial Gases-Praxair

Maiitha A. Musabih ('11)

Business Improvement Controller
Emirates Airlines
(Member)

Mohammed I. Al Badwawi ('06)

Consultant
(Member)

Fatma H. Ahmad ('12)

JAFZA
Sr. Manager for Training and
Development
(Member)

Dalia F. Said ('07)

HR Business Support, Risk and
Compliance
HSBC Middle East Bank Ltd.
(Member)

Khalil A. Haddad ('12)

Senior Underwriter
Arabia Insurance Co.
(Member)

Congratulations Class of 2013 and Welcome to the UD Alumni Association!



For information about the UDAA's programs and events, please visit our Alumni homepage <http://www.ud.ac.ae/alumni/index.php>. Also, kindly contact our Alumni Office at alumni@ud.ac.ae or at 042 072675/671 to let us know what your plans are after graduation.

Alumni Continued Learning Program

The Alumni Continued Learning Program (ACLP) is an initiative of Tariq Al Najjar, a UD graduate and a member of the UDAA Board of Directors. The program was approved by UD management and announced during this year's Alumni Homecoming. The ACLP's goal is to offer an innovative continued learning system for alumni to cope with market changes by providing 20% of UD alumni the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge through courses that suit their current career requirements, in addition to establishing a continuous professional and social networking system at the University. UD alumni are eligible for both undergraduate and graduate courses offered by the university free of charge. The ACLP will begin this fall with 3 - 5 seats available for a Business or IT course on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested Alumni in the program are encouraged to contact Alumni Relations office at 04 207 2675/671 for more information.



Hurry up and get your Alumni Membership Card!

Benefits:

- Take advantage of the UD Alumni Continued Learning Program
- Access to the UD Library and other facilities
- Use of the UD Career services
- Access/contribute to faculty research database
- Benefit from the UD business partner discounts
- Participate in UD events and functions
- Get 10% discount on UD Graduate programs

To apply for your card, please email our Alumni Relations Office at alumni@ud.ac.ae.



Alumni-Student Mentoring Program 2012 - 13

The UD Alumni Student Mentoring Program (ASMP) is running on a good track. Last May, we celebrated the closing ceremony of the ASMP fourth batch, which was comprised of 30 alumni-mentors and student-mentees. Some pairs have enjoyed very successful mentoring relationships based on mutual understanding of the program objectives and expected achievements, trust in each other and the quality of their support.

We are always looking for new mentors and mentees to join the program so contact the SAA office for information on how to participate in the upcoming ASMP. Here is what a mentor-mentee pair recently said

about participating in the program: "ASMP has had a great impact on my personal and professional growth," alumnus Ali Angizeh said. "Not only do you give to students but you learn a great deal through the process."

"It's a good cycle - the passing on of knowledge," said student Mohammad Abu Hasira. "My mentor, Mr. Angizeh, became a good friend of mine to whom I can always turn to for good advice."

Email our Alumni Relations Office at alumni@ud.ac.ae to participate in the mentioned program.



Another Successful Alumni Homecoming!



The 5th Annual Alumni Homecoming was celebrated on May 2nd at the InterContinental in Dubai Festival City thanks in large part to some wonderful sponsors. The National Trading & Developing Establishment was the main sponsor for the event and contributed greatly to a memorable evening. We would also like to thank The Information and Communication Technology Fund (ICT Fund), Al Tadawi Medical Center and Thai Airways International for their gracious support.

It was great to see so many alumni attend this year's homecoming and enjoying reuniting with faculty and friends and making new ones. We hope

everyone enjoyed the live performances and "Successful Alumni" awards. In his speech, Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum Juma Al Maktoum urged Alumni to engage with the university as a way to give back 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.

[Some great photos were taken during the event, which you can see on UD's website by clicking here.](#)

Class Notes



Sandra Al Ammari ('07) has been working as a communication professional with Landmark Group, one of the largest conglomerates in the GCC & Middle East for the past 3 years. She started her Masters of Arts in Marketing Communications at Middlesex University in January 2013. She enjoys playing beach volleyball at least 3 times a week and she likes watching movies.



Hassan Karam ('11) has opened his own business called Sky Power through which he became the sole representative of Russian International Airlines in UAE with the quarterly publication of "Shopping & Leisure Guide." The guide includes useful information about the UAE for Russian-speaking tourists. Hassan started his business with an idea inventing his own source of his inspirational quotes: "Believe in the Unbelievable to Achieve the Impossible" and "Turn Every Opportunity into a Success Story."



Samar Mubder ('06) has been very busy since graduating. She is starting her own Iraqi sweets business. As talented writer, Samar is on the final step of publishing her first short story called "Illusion Beauty." She is also working on her first collection of abstract painting that will be presented in next year's Lotus Exhibition in Knowledge Village. Be sure to stop by and see her artwork!



Zayed Alshebli ('12) has been working for Dubai Duty Free since 2001 as Manager of Corporate Security. During the 8th "Ideas Arabia International Conference" held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation in 2013, Zayed won the "Idea of the Year" competition under the Customer Service Category for the very positive development of establishing a border shop at the Hatta-Oman border. Zayed has been an innovative marketer for some time - in 2003 he won a Guinness World Record for the World's Largest Abaya while promoting the opening of his wife's abaya shop.



Suhail Alkaabi ('06) was recently promoted to Branch Manager after seven years of employment at the Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank. After receiving his BBA degree in Management at UD in 2006, he earned an MBA in HR from the American University of London. Suhail has been a member of the Sharjah Tatweer Forum Board of Directors since 2010 and he recently joined the Sharjah Sports and Culture Club.



Qais Al Saeedi ('05) completed his Master Degree in Quality Management at Wollongong Dubai. He has been working at ADCB as IT Risk & Control Manager since 2010. Qais is currently nominated as an assessor for the Sheikh Khalifa Government Excellence Program (SKGEP).



Sultan Alshamsi ('11) graduated with a BBA in Management and immediately joined the UD MBA program for a degree in Leadership and Human Resources. Sultan is currently working for DU as a Lease and License Specialist but he has plans to open his own business in the near future. He likes to spend his free time playing football and going bowling.



Hiba Daghlas ('11) recently joined UD as a Registration Administrator. Hiba is the happy mother of two little boys (Yousef and Ahmed) and is thinking of doing her MBA when her youngest son joins kindergarten.