



'Falconcity of Wonders' firms up UD alumni-student ties

University of Dubai (UD) organized the 3rd Annual Meeting of its alumni held at Shangri-La Hotel in Dubai, under the sponsorship of "Falconcity of Wonders" project developed by Salem Ahmad Almoosa Enterprises, one of the biggest construction projects in the UAE and is a symbol of the UAE's heritage. The event was an educational and community-oriented occasion where the university management participated along with the sponsor. It was attended by nearly 300 alumni of various nationalities.

The Annual Meeting held out a set of goals for the UD Alumni, most notably in the renovation and consolidation of the university's relationship with its graduates of different ages and faculties. The meeting started with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a speech from the President of UD, Dr. Omar Hefni, and then by another speech from the President of University of Dubai Alumni Association (UDAA), alumnus Mohammed Shael Al-Saadi.

The sponsors were then honored, led by "Falconcity of Wonders" project represented by its Vice President of Operations, Sales and Marketing, Mr. Al-Harith bin Salem Al-Moosa, followed by the Department of Economic Development, Epson, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank and Mirage (construction materials company), in addition to all those who contributed and supported UD in general and its Alumni Association in particular. Entertainment events like poetry recital, short comedy film, popular folk dances and theatrical performances, all produced by the UD students and alumni, added spice to the occasion.

On the occasion, UDAA took the opportunity to announce the transfer of the presidency of the Association from Alumnus Mohammed Shael Al-Saadi to Alumnus Sheikh Mohammed bin Maktoum bin Juma Al Maktoum. Al-Saadi was thanked for his remarkable efforts in the establishment of the UDAA in 2007 and his constant and ongoing endeavors to achieve its objectives. Alumnus Al-Saadi will remain an Association member.

The Internship and Career Development Center (ICDC) also took the opportunity to launch a new and innovative program called "Alumni Guidance to Students." The Director of the Center, Mrs. Amna Al-Marzaq, said that the program aims to build common and useful relationships between students and alumni of the UD, as well as to enhance the educational experience of the students. It also aims to tell the university students about their professional development and real life practices and to give the alumni an opportunity to be in touch with the students and the university.

As per the mandate of this new program, all university alumni are entitled and welcome to participate in it, so as to achieve a set of specific benefits for themselves and current students.

Aspects of the program allow students to discover issues related to their future careers corresponding to their academic studies, such as job opportunities available in certain fields, the importance of post-graduate studies that have an impact on the professional development of the individual, the successes in a desired career and the expected salary for a new graduate.

Through this program, the alumni provide the students with some guiding tips on how to strike a balance between education, career and activities that are not curriculum specific. It will also guide them on how to establish a network of business relationships and how to develop self-confidence through leadership and personal initiatives, focusing on the preliminary period of the transition from university to the workplace.