



CANADIAN  
UNIVERSITY DUBAI  
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# Chancellor's Newsletter

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CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI

## GRADUATE NAMED AMONG OUTSTANDING EMIRATI STUDENTS



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## Message from The Chancellor's Office



### Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of the Chancellor's Newsletter.

As the 2015-16 academic year draws to a close, we look back on some exceptional achievements among our faculty, student and graduate communities. Through their endeavours, Canadian University Dubai (CUD) continues to develop as a pillar of academic excellence in the UAE, dedicated to the advancement of the communities we serve.

Among the notable faculty success stories is Dr. Rommel Sergio, who has recently been named among the world's top 50 educators by the UK based business and economics publication, the Oxford Journal. Here in Dubai, we have been celebrating our diverse academic research community, with the presentation of the 2016 faculty Research Excellence Awards. Academic excellence has also been recognized among our student population, with recent graduate Amal Darwish AlZarooni being honored for her scholarly achievements at a royal reception.

**Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi**  
Chancellor

In support of the wider community, a group of CUD students from across the undergraduate schools are taking their social enterprise to the next level with a grant of AED 50,000 from Dubai Chamber, following their recent success in the Dubai Smartpreneur Competition. Meanwhile, sustainable development remains high on our agenda, as we enter a new partnership with CSR solutions experts, Provectus Middle East, to help promote Dubai's green economy.

Looking forward, we are delighted to announce that CUD is bringing one of the major conferences of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) Computer Society to the MENA region for the very first time. The prestigious IEEE International Conference on Local Computer Networks will be co-hosted by CUD this November.

As we celebrate our tenth year in Dubai, we turn our focus to strategic plans for the next phase of development at CUD. With this in mind, we are looking forward to the launch of a raft of innovative new programs that will align the University's continuing growth with the new and emerging needs of the local, regional and global labour market.

**Prof. Karim Chelli**  
President & Vice - Chancellor

## GRADUATE NAMED AMONG OUTSTANDING EMIRATI STUDENTS

**UAE students honored at royal reception**



**A**mal Darwish AlZarooni, a recent graduate of Canadian University Dubai (CUD), has been recognized among the most outstanding students from UAE universities at a reception hosted by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

Amal graduated in April with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, specializing in Public Relations, from the University's Arabic program stream. With a CGPA of 3.93, she was selected as one of the top UAE national students from universities and military colleges across the Emirates.

The top university students, along with the best four grade 12 high school students,

“It is an honor to be recognized among the top local students and it was a privilege to meet His Highness Sheikh Mohammed, who gave us all some inspiring and encouraging words.”

were greeted by Sheikh Mohammed at a special Iftar held during the holy month

of Ramadan. The reception took place in the presence of Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, and Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

Speaking at the gathering, Sheikh Mohammed congratulated the students on their outstanding performance and encouraged them to continue to strive for excellence in their future academic and professional lives.

Amal said, “It is an honor to be recognized among the top local students and it was a privilege to meet His Highness Sheikh Mohammed, who gave us all some inspiring and encouraging words.”

# HR PROFESSOR AMONG TOP 50 GLOBAL EDUCATORS

Oxford Journal reveals list of leading academics



**D**r. Rommel Sergio, Associate Professor and Chair of Human Resource Management at CUD, has been named among the top 50 educators in the world by business and economics publication, the Oxford Journal.

Dr. Sergio, who was presented with the accolade at the 2016 Cambridge Business and Economics Conference, takes his place among an esteemed group of academics from around the world who are recognized as role models for excellence in education.

Established to acknowledge outstanding professors who demonstrate dedication to the success of their students, both inside and outside of the classroom, the Top 50 Global Educators Award in Business is conferred annually by the Oxford Journal. The journal has become recognized as an important outlet for theoretical and empirical research, and has among its editorial board scholars from renowned institutions such as Harvard

University, London School of Economics, Columbia University, University of Melbourne, and the National University of Singapore.

Having been shortlisted for the award earlier this year, Dr. Sergio went on to demonstrate his unique teaching techniques through a portfolio of evidence-based documents, and a video that captured some of his innovative approaches, which include simulations, immersion through plant visits, and student conference attendance and publication. The selection process concluded with a presentation and panel interview during the conference, where Dr. Sergio was ultimately named among the first wave of 25 educators to receive the top 50 award.

During the opening ceremony of the awards, Dr. Atul Gupta, editor of the Oxford Journal, remarked, "It is high time to recognize exemplary teaching faculty as we normally acknowledge excellent academic researchers.

“Facilitated by a pool of academic and research experts across the globe, it is indeed an honor for a teaching faculty like me to be recognized as one of the top global educators of this generation. This citation substantiates the fact that I need to continue to innovate in teaching and publish research that can assist the community to which I belong.

This year heralds a tribute to excellent academic researchers, and at the same time, brilliant academic teaching faculty.”

Dr. Sergio, who holds two PhDs and has extensive industry experience, has long been recognized as a leading academic in the field. In 2014 he was conferred with the honors of Outstanding Asian Faculty at the Education Leadership Awards, and Outstanding World Researcher at the International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research. He has also received best paper awards at international academic conferences around the world.

Speaking about his recent accolade, Dr. Sergio said, “The teaching competencies of educators in today’s global community are essential components of knowledge transfer. The challenge here is sharpening the students’ skills in preparation for the learners to be credible professionals in the near future.

“Facilitated by a pool of academic and research experts across the globe, it is indeed an honor for a teaching faculty like me to be recognized as one of the top global educators of this generation. This citation substantiates the fact that I need to continue to innovate in teaching and publish research that can assist the community to which I belong.”

# STUDENT TEAM TRIUMPHS IN DUBAI CHAMBER COMPETITION

## Sign language app wins AED 50,000 in enterprise challenge



The students behind Efharni, a new mobile app to teach Emirati sign language, have secured a second enterprise challenge success, winning AED 50,000 at the 2016 Dubai Chamber Smartpreneur Competition.

Efharni stood out among 350 original business ideas to be awarded second place in the prestigious enterprise competition, which attracts entries from new and established entrepreneurs across the UAE. The technology was originally created as part of the region-wide Ripples of Happiness university challenge, in which the team also secured the runner's up place and a \$7,000 award to scale the project.

The idea behind Efharni – Arabic for 'understand me' – is to help unite the deaf and non-deaf communities of the UAE by teaching users the fundamentals of Emirati sign-language. It also seeks to support Emiratisation among hearing impaired citizens, helping them to access better education and employment opportunities by teaching them, their family, friends and colleagues, how to communicate effectively.

The app epitomized the objectives of the inaugural Dubai Chamber Smartpreneur Competition, which sought to bring forward technology-driven innovations that can help to create a smart society in the UAE, through the dimensions of economy, living, mobility, governance, environment, people and infrastructure.

As one of just two student groups in the entire competition, the Efharni team was initially shortlisted in the top 45 entries, and then selected among ten finalists to pitch their idea to a high profile panel of judges. Team members Craig Muyambo and Siti Ahmed took up the challenge and were rewarded with a further investment in the development of the social enterprise.

Speaking about their latest success, Craig said, "It was amazing to be shortlisted in this competition among so many outstanding business ideas, and to receive an award gives us further motivation to continue with the development of Efharni and to make a difference to the hearing-impaired community in the UAE.

"We have already been able to invest in the creation of new videos to extend the catalogue of sign language lessons on offer, and we are also working on the creation of a social network within the app to make it more interactive and user-driven.

"We aim to continue this development and hope to secure further investment to create a fully-comprehensive resource that can help to make Emirati sign-language a mainstream form of communication for citizens and residents of the UAE."



# CUD ANNOUNCES NEW PLANS TO MEET EMERGING LABOUR MARKET NEEDS

## New majors planned for undergraduate and graduate programs



CUD has announced the launch of a new strategic direction to align the University's continuing growth with the new and emerging needs of the local, regional and global labour market.

As the institution marks its tenth year of operation in Dubai, the University Board and Senate have ratified a comprehensive plan to introduce over 40 new majors that will address the demand for skilled professionals in a wide range of growing business sectors, including tourism and hospitality, digital media, public health and sustainable design.

The new programs have been developed following an analysis of emerging business and economic trends and are being designed in collaboration with industry representatives, as well as the University's partner institutions in Canada.

Each of the new majors will go through the Ministry of Education – Higher Education Affairs accreditation process and their introduction will be phased, with the first new degrees to be launched for the Fall 2016 semester.

The first wave of new undergraduate programs will include majors in the growing healthcare sector, such as Health Informatics and Epidemiology. New engineering majors will include Network Security, Software Engineering & Game Development, Mechatronics and Electronics.

New Bachelor of Arts programs will include Advertising and Design, and Digital Media and Journalism, while in the business school, majors will be available in Operations and Supply Chain Management, Travel, Tourism and Event Management, and Forensic Accounting. An Executive MBA and a Master in International Trade will be introduced at graduate level.

In the second wave of programs that will be offered from 2017, there will be a host of new majors in the arts, including Media Production, Video and Film Production, Sport Media, Media Design and Art, Performing Arts, Arts in Education and Humanitarian Aid & Relief. Other new Bachelor degrees will include a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics, a BS in Smart Cities/ Systems and a BBA in Luxury Marketing.

At graduate level, 2017 will see the

introduction of programs in Sport Sciences, Sport Administration, Public Health, Construction Management, Design Management, and Architecture, with majors in Sustainable Planning, Sustainable Design, and Sustainable Interior Design. The University's MBA program will also be extended to include concentrations in Project Management, Supply Chain Management, Health Management, and IT Governance.

Speaking about the plans, University Chancellor, Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi said, "With the introduction of these new programs we aim to extend the University's undergraduate degree portfolio and also to build upon our existing flagship MBA program with a broader range of graduate study options.

"We have looked closely at the emerging sectors in the national and regional labour markets, as well as considering global economic trends, and we believe that these new programs will be able to meet many of the skills needs we will be faced with in the coming years, as well as contributing to the diversification of the higher education sector across the UAE as a whole."

# GRADUATE PHOTOGRAPHER WINS INDUSTRY ACCOLADE

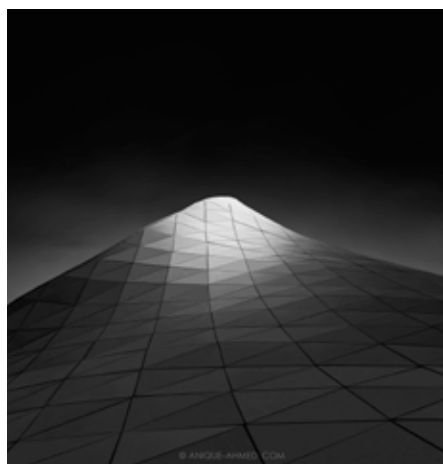
**Dubai Autodrome image attracts international recognition**



Anique Ahmed, a graduate of the Bachelor of Architecture program at CUD, has added a La Grande Photo International Photography Award to his growing portfolio of industry accolades, taking first place in the architecture category of the annual artistic photography competition.

Judged by a panel made up of some of the leading photographers, curators and publishers working in the discipline, Anique stood out among an international field of amateur and professional competitors in the contest with his image 'G', a unique depiction of the Dubai Autodrome. Anique will now see his work featured among the centerpieces of a publication that accompanies the competition.

Speaking about the inspiration for his award-winning image, Anique said, "This architectural piece caught my eye when I was driving past Dubai Autodrome and at that moment I knew I could create something of it; but it did take me a few weeks to decide how I wanted to process this image.



"As an architect and an architectural photographer, I am always drawn towards details in design. Ever since I shifted focus to black and white fine art photography, I see things from a different perspective. I am able to express what I feel and see by processing the image in a certain way, and using light and shadows I can create a 3-dimensional feel."

As well as taking the architecture photography title, another of Anique's photographs was also honored in the La Grande competition. His image 'Vertex', which features the UAE Pavilion created for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo – a building that Anique describes as architectural masterpiece – won him the High Distinction accolade in the same category.

Having only taken up fine art photography around a year ago, Anique has already won eight international awards for his image, 'G'. He has also won an International Fine Art Photography Award for his striking photograph of the Dubai skyline, entitled 'Glacial Storm' and has seen his work exhibited at the Fotoloft Gallery in Moscow.

Speaking about his latest accolade, Anique concluded, "It is an absolute honor. I am titled the Architectural Category Winner of these awards and I could not ask for anything more."

# CUD BRINGS PRESTIGIOUS IEEE CONFERENCE TO MENA

## Leading industry event to be co-hosted by CUD



The School of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology at CUD has succeeded in bringing one of the major conferences of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) Computer Society to the MENA region for the very first time. Despite fierce competition and bids from international universities in Singapore and Germany, the prestigious IEEE International Conference on Local Computer Networks (LCN) will be coming to Dubai in Fall 2016.

Widely regarded as one of the premier forums on theoretical and practical aspects of computer networking, the annual conference promotes an effective exchange of results and ideas among researchers, users, and product developers. Co-hosted by CUD, the 41st edition of IEEE LCN will take place at The Address, Dubai Mall, from November 7th to 10th, 2016.

The IEEE Computer Society is the world's leading membership organization dedicated to computer science and technology. Serving more than 60,000 members worldwide, the organization is the trusted information, networking, and career-development source for a global community of technology leaders that includes researchers, educators, software engineers, IT professionals, employers, and students.

Having had a longstanding involvement with the LCN conference since 2005, Associate Professor Dr. Adel Ben Mnaouer, has successfully earned the confidence of the steering committee of the LCN to bring this flagship conference to the region. Dr. Mnaouer has strong academic credentials in the field of networking, including a portfolio of \$3 million in funded research projects.



General Chair of the conference committee, Dr. Salil Kanhere, said, "This will be the first journey of IEEE LCN to Asia and the Middle East and North African region. LCN is one of the flagship conferences of the IEEE Computer Society; major developments from high-speed networks, to the global Internet, to specialized sensor networks have been reported at past LCNs.

"The 2016 conference has received a record number of submissions from all across the world and it is expected that the event will be a huge success with over 150 international delegates expected to attend from academia and industry. The committee would like to thank Canadian University Dubai for its support and hosting of this event."

“

With a growing research and innovation agenda, the UAE is well-positioned to host this group of eminent scientists from across the globe, to share their research, network, and to set the agenda for future technological development. We are also honored that IEEE LCN has trusted in the partnership with CUD on this flagship event, which reflects the importance of higher education in advancing the innovation agenda.

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Dr. Mnaouer, who is leading the conference hosting on behalf of CUD and is acting as General Co-Chair of the LCN 2016, said, "We are delighted that IEEE LCN has decided to bring this major conference to the MENA region for the first time, and in particular, to Dubai.

"With a growing research and innovation agenda, the UAE is well-positioned to host this group of eminent scientists from across the globe, to share their research, network, and to set the agenda for future technological development. We are also honored that IEEE LCN has trusted in the partnership with CUD on this flagship event, which reflects the importance of higher education in advancing the innovation agenda."

# ARCHITECTURE STUDENT WINS DUSIT THANI DUBAI RE-DESIGN COMPETITION

Thai-inspired creativity transforms employee cafeteria



Architecture student Faisal U-K has been awarded the top prize in the recently concluded Employee Cafeteria Re-Design Competition sponsored by Dusit Thani Dubai in partnership with CUD.

Faisal triumphed over 14 other interior design and architecture students who accepted the challenge to re-design the hotel's employee cafeteria, otherwise known as Lumpini. His direct and elaborately presented concept, which was inspired by Dusit Thani Dubai's origins, impressed the competition judges, who were captivated by his transformation of the cafeteria walls to display famous scenic spots and beaches in Thailand.

Alongside the aesthetics were the underlying concepts of sustainability and biophilia, which sealed the 23-year-old Nigerian student's success. Biophilia is a scientific term described as the connection of humans to nature and it has been confirmed by research to improve

human psychological and physiological well-being. In creating a biophilic environment, Faisal's design proposed improvements in set-up, air quality and light quality.

The use of *justicia hereto carpa*, a type of plant from Zimbabwe, was selected to improve the air quality of the space. A chimney hood that cleans air while cooking was also proposed to help enhance air quality, while lighting solutions included the use of LED lights and a mineral fiber ceiling, which is a great light reflector.

Faisal revealed, "My aim was to create an atmosphere that would simulate an experience of natural ventilation, lighting and vegetation – hence the plants, the kitchen hood, the light fixtures, and the wallpaper."

Another noticeable change to the layout was the arrangement of chairs and tables. In the original set-up, most of the chairs face

the wall, limiting staff interaction. However, Faisal's design created a layout wherein the

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”

chairs and tables were grouped for staff to comfortably mingle with each other.

Faisal continued, "I placed myself in the staff's shoes, those who access the cafeteria



regularly; I imagined what I would want to improve, to make the place conducive every lunch break.”

The winning design also proposed the reupholstering of tables and chairs using hardy organic hemp, a recycled and biodegradable material produced by green manufacturing processes but without harmful chemical by-products.

“For sustainability, I made sure that instead of buying brand new pieces of furniture, the chairs and tables would be re-painted with eco paint, and reupholstered with organic hemp”, said Faisal.

A systematic sequencing of the space was also proposed to make sure that every area of the cafeteria could be maximized. Faisal re-worked the layout to give staff an organized route, from the entrance, to the buffet area, to the seating arrangements, through to segregating their trash before leaving the cafeteria.

Faisal concluded “I noticed that the area is quite congested in some parts, hence I proposed having two doors, one for the entrance and one for the exit. The trash bins are placed near the exit so they will not forget to segregate before they leave.”



The esteemed panel of judges comprised of Dusit Thani Dubai’s Executive Chef Antonello Manca, F&B Manager Subarna Thapa, HR Director Vagelyn Federico alongside CUD

Chair of Architecture, Mr. Steve Denyer and Associate Professor Dr. Hamoud Dekkiche.

# CUD COLLABORATES WITH INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ON CORPORATE ETIQUETTE TRAINING

## Italian Marchioness to deliver lessons in professional protocol



CUD has joined together with leading international etiquette expert, Marchioness Mita Luciani Ranier, to develop a unique suite of corporate training programs that will teach protocol and diplomacy in a business context.

A descendent from Italian nobility, Marchioness Mita is head of the Galateo International Etiquette and Protocol School in Rome. Having acquired extensive experience of delivering custom-made programs to a diverse range of clients around the world, Marchioness Mita will now bring her unique expertise to help organizations in the UAE to understand the principles and practices of general and corporate etiquette in a globalized business environment.

The new programs are built upon the Galateo concept – a blueprint for good manners that was published in the 16th century by Monsignore Giovanni della Casa, a Venetian ambassador, renowned for his refinement.

“Knowing the rules of etiquette is a universal language. Learning this language empowers you to gain self-confidence in all situations of your life, either private or professional.”

The first of the training sessions will be held on October 17th and 18th 2016, with registration open until September 28th. Each session will be dedicated to a specific topic, which will be taught through a combination of lectures, workshops, and even role-plays.

The courses will cover topics such as personal communication, verbal and body language, the dynamics of cultural diversity, and international protocol and diplomatic

etiquette. The training will also adapt age-old principles to modern times, covering subjects such as communication with phones, email and social media.

The new programs will complement CUD's current corporate training curriculum, which includes courses such as International Trade & Corporate Diplomacy, and Building Competence in a Cross-Cultural Environment.

It is also anticipated that there will be opportunities for undergraduate students in the School of Communication and Media Studies to benefit from Marchioness Mita's expertise, through dedicated workshops around specific etiquette and protocol-related themes.

Speaking about the importance of the subject matter, Marchioness Mita said, “Knowing the rules of etiquette is a universal language. Learning this language empowers you to gain self-confidence in all situations of your life, either private or professional.”

# STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR SCORES COMPETITION SUCCESSSES WITH LATEST BUSINESS VENTURE

## Property app takes top three spot in two enterprise events



**A**bzal Assembekov, a communications major at CUD, has been placed among the top three teams in two recent enterprise competitions with his newest business venture Propertyin360.co.

Along with his business partners, Abzal, who has a number of enterprises to his name, was among the top three finalists in the growth stage of the Step Conference 2016, and also took third place in the Impact Hub CrowdFunDxb Pitch Competition.

Abzal's latest start-up was born out of another of his successful firms, Heptagon Multimedia, which is a digital agency that provides marketing solutions and products. His new venture, Propertyin360.co, is a mobile application that can create virtual tours using a smartphone camera for free. The app is designed for real estate agencies and property owners, and is available through subscription for users who want to create several tours on a regular basis.

Abzal explained, "The inspiration for this app came from the fact that the real estate market is one of the best and fastest to grow within. We started thinking about how to make life easier for real estate agencies and at the same time make something that they would really want to use. Classified ads are not a

new thing for them, so we had to come up with something that nobody had developed before – we are actually the first in the world to launch this kind of technology."

Having grown up in an entrepreneurial environment – both of his parents are



entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan – Abzal was always passionate about making it in business, yet admits to having learnt some valuable lessons along the way.

He said, "Setting up a new business and finding investors is not an easy process at all. When you are the one who should lead in the company you have to learn to do everything. I had to learn by myself by reading books, listening to podcasts, reading articles, watching YouTube business lessons and interviewing some other entrepreneurs with vast experience about the ways to find clients and the ways to make sales, as hiring sales people wasn't even in my investments budget."

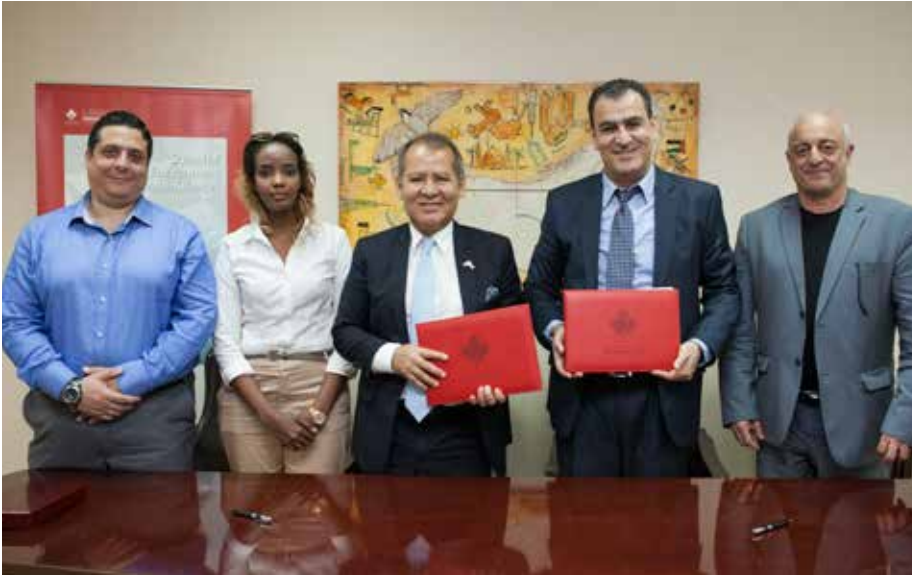
Alongside his numerous business ventures, Abzal also uses his entrepreneurial spirit to support the local community. He revealed, "I am always keen to do something new and to create things that make life easier and better for people. We are currently sponsoring the Al Ihsan Charity Association in Ajman, by developing a mobile application and website for them for free, and are also supporters of MOAS – the Migrant Offshore Aid Station charity – having provided complimentary services to translate their website into Arabic."

Abzal also remains committed to his university education and says he is thankful to CUD for providing the flexibility for him to work alongside his studies. He said, "I love that I can spend all day at the office and come to lectures in the evenings, where I am well educated by professors who understand their students and have a good approach to education, which helps me combine study and work."

Looking to the future, Abzal is hoping to consolidate his growing business empire by securing further investment, and also aims to partner with some of the major websites in the property industry. He concluded, "The competitions were extremely useful for networking with investors and as we continue to develop the app my plan is to find more venture capital investments and perhaps publish Propertyin360.co into Eureeca.com to gather investments from the crowd."

# CUD PARTNERS WITH PROVECTUS MIDDLE EAST TO LEAD SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

## Alliance set to support growth in the green economy



CUD is set to build upon its pioneering work in environmental development and the green economy through a new partnership with sustainable solutions experts, Provectus Middle East.

CUD has established itself as a sector leader in the sustainability agenda, becoming the first higher education institution in the UAE to host a Sustainability Day event, and co-founding the Green Universities Council, established in partnership with the Environmental Center for Arab Towns.

The new alliance with Provectus Middle East will see the two organizations collaborate on education and training initiatives to support the sustainable human resource needs of the green economy and the green jobs initiative.

The partnership was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pr. Karim Chelli, President and Vice Chancellor of CUD, and Mr. Zack H. Abdi, Managing Director of Provectus Middle East.

“The partnership with Provectus Middle East will enable us to leverage the expertise of practitioners in this field, to further enhance our programs, to meet the emerging needs of this vital sector of our economy, and to produce graduates that will have the skills and competencies to secure our future.”

The collaboration will now build upon a number of existing synergies between the two organizations. Provectus Middle East is leading a national campaign for the ethical disposal of used cooking oils and food waste recycling, while CUD's School of Environment and Health Sciences has established the UAE's

first associate degree program in food safety.

Furthermore, CUD has been recognized for its efforts in the field of energy management, with a conservation award from the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority. Meanwhile, Provectus is leading the way in initiatives such as hazardous aerosol cans recycling, water treatment, energy storage systems, energy efficiency solutions, and sustainability courses endorsed by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

Speaking at the MoU signing, Pr. Chelli said, “Sustainability is no longer a choice, it is a matter of survival. It is something that we are very aware of through our Canadian culture, which is why CUD took the lead by establishing the Bachelor of Environment and Health Sciences among its first degree programs ten years ago.

“The partnership with Provectus Middle East will enable us to leverage the expertise of practitioners in this field, to further enhance our programs, to meet the emerging needs of this vital sector of our economy, and to produce graduates that will have the skills and competencies to secure our future.”

Commenting on the collaboration, Mr. Abdi said, “As the UAE looks to shift away from an oil-based economy, it is becoming clear that sustainable HR is required to meet the sustainability agenda. I am pleased that CUD is taking the lead in this field and providing courses that will be of benefit to both the business community and wider society.”

The agreement is set in the context of the UAE national strategy to create 160,000 ‘green collar’ jobs in the renewable energy sector by 2030. The partnership will result in a portfolio of education, training and professional development programs that will help in the growth of this human capital.

# FACULTY HONORED AT ANNUAL RESEARCH AWARDS

Professors recognized for contribution to the academic community



**Dr. Hamoud Dekkiche**  
Architecture & Design



**Dr. Ikhlās Gurrib**  
Business Administration



**Dr. Louise Lambert**  
Liberal Arts & Sciences



**Dr. Adel Ben Mnaouer**  
Engineering, Applied Science  
& Technology

Members of faculty have been honored for their contribution to the academic community and wider society at a recent ceremony to confer the annual CUD research awards.

This year's recipients were Dr. Hamoud Dekkiche from the School of Architecture & Interior Design; Dr. Ikhlās Gurrib from the School of Business Administration; Dr. Louise Lambert from the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences; and Dr. Adel Ben Mnaouer from the School of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology.

The award ceremony was opened by Provost, Dr. Muhammed Kabir, who spoke about the growing significance of research and the progress made by CUD towards this agenda during its first decade of operation.

The CUD research awards were established in 2013 to promote excellence in research and to reward faculty members who make

an outstanding contribution in this field. The fourth edition of the annual awards recognized those faculty who demonstrated distinction in research engagement, quality and outputs during the 2015-16 academic year.

A second-time recipient of the award, Dr. Ikhlās Gurrib has a number of international journal publications to his name and was among those selected to present at the recent CUD-hosted International Conference on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, with his paper, 'Cross Market Price Mechanism between the US Copper Futures Market and a newly proposed Chinese Dollar Index.'

Fellow second-time awardee, Dr. Louise Lambert, is the academic behind the Middle East's first Journal of Positive Psychology, having launched the publication in 2015, and her research has featured in psychology and healthcare journals internationally.

Receiving a research awards for the first time, Dr. Hamoud Dekkiche was recognized for his work on sustainable design, including his studies relating to green buildings, recently presented at the International Conference on Sustainable Design, Engineering and Construction held at Arizona State University, and published in the Procedia Engineering Journal.

With a portfolio that includes three Qatar National Research Fund projects worth US\$ 3 million, Dr. Adel Ben Mnaouer was also recognized at this year's awards for his pioneering work in sensor technology. His recent work has involved the creation of a prototype device to enable high-efficiency air quality monitoring to help promote a cleaner environment.

The awards were presented by University President and Vice Chancellor, Pr. Karim Chelli, who paid tribute to the endeavors and achievements of each of the recipients.

# CUD EXTENDS TIES WITH MALAYSIAN COUNTERPARTS

## Further collaborations planned with MMU and UNITEN



CUD has broadened its ties with counterpart institutions in Malaysia during a recent visit to the country by senior University personnel.

A delegation led by CUD President and Vice Chancellor, Pr. Karim Chelli, and including Dr. Faridah Maarof, Executive Director of Research and Planning, and Mr. Anuar Ebrahim, Corporate Training Manager, met with the leaders of Multimedia University (MMU) and Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) to consolidate existing partnerships and explore future opportunities for collaboration, as CUD embarks upon its plans for expansion into Malaysia.

CUD and MMU signed a memorandum of understanding in 2014, and since then have collaborated on two comparative research studies in the field of management and leadership, as well as various corporate training initiatives.

During the visit, hosted by newly appointed President and CEO, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Rafi Mohamed Eshaq, the two parties agreed to explore further joint research projects, student and staff exchange, and a joint conference

to be held in 2017. Discussions were also held on the development of more corporate training courses in the areas of management, leadership and multimedia and animation.

The delegation then went on to meet with UNITEN Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ir. Dr. Kamal Nasharuddin, following the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between CUD and the institution. During the visit, both parties agreed to explore joint exercises in the areas of program development,

student mobility, staff exchange, research and publications, quality assurance and professional development.

The recent visits are a further extension of CUD's ties with education institutions in the Southeast Asian country. Earlier this year, the University joined forces with the Innovative International College (IIC) in Kuala Lumpur to collaborate on plans to take the Canadian University Dubai model to the Malaysian capital.



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