



**CANADIAN  
UNIVERSITY DUBAI**  
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# Chancellor's Newsletter

Spring 2016 / Issue No. 10

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI



## CUD CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONVOCATION

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## Message from The Chancellor's Office



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

At the beginning of this semester, Canadian University Dubai (CUD) started out on its 10th year of operation in the UAE. Our anniversary celebrations culminated recently at the 6th annual convocation, where His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan paid tribute to the University as an essential part of the educational landscape of this country.

This semester has seen the University convene over 200 delegates from more than 30 countries at the International Conference on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, where we welcomed former Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad to deliver a keynote speech on the subject of leadership.

We have witnessed several achievements among our student and graduate communities in external competition, social entrepreneurship and public service, while on campus we have hosted a number of events to showcase student talent and engage the wider community in university life.

Institutionally, we have been extending our strategic collaborations, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Bank of China to create opportunities for our students and graduates. We have also brought together universities from across the UAE at the first meeting of the Green Universities Council, co-founded by CUD.

We hope you enjoy reading about the highlights of Spring 2016.

**Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi**  
Chancellor

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

# CUD CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONVOCATION

**HE Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan presides over 6<sup>th</sup> annual convocation**



**H**is Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, has presided over the 6th convocation of Canadian University Dubai (CUD) in a ceremony that commemorated the 10th anniversary of the University's establishment in the UAE.

The ceremony also saw The Honorable Jean Charest, 29th Premier of Québec and former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, receive an honorary doctorate degree. Accepting the award, Mr. Charest said, "I have dedicated my political life to the idea of Canada and for this reason, I am deeply honored to receive this doctorate from CUD. On the surface, Dubai and Canada seem worlds apart, but they are moving forward in the same direction.

"Both are countries of great diversity, standing out in the move towards a knowledge based

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Both are countries of great diversity, standing out in the move towards a knowledge based economy and promoting the movement of people. CUD is the strongest symbol of the shared values between Canada and the UAE.

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University Chancellor, Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi; Vice-Chancellor and President, Dr. Karim Chelli; Canadian Ambassador to the UAE, His Excellency Dr. Arif Lalani; and the CUD Board of Trustees, also presided over the graduation ceremony, which this year saw the award of 466 degrees.

Among those graduating in front of a full-house at Sheikh Rashid Hall, Dubai World Trade Centre, were brother and sister Shaikh Abdulaziz Humaid Abdulaziz Al Qassimi and Shaikha Amna Humaid Abdulaziz Humaid Al Qassimi, both being conferred with a Master of Business Administration in General Management.

Speaking about her experience, Shaikha Amna said, "My educational journey in CUD started after a short conversation I had with a person who holds a special place in my heart;



my eldest brother Abdulaziz. By challenging ourselves and passing through this life-chapter together, we've flipped pages and made a book of memorable moments that we'll cherish for as long as we live."

Before conferring degrees upon the graduates, HE Sheikh Nahyan congratulated the entire CUD community, saying, "This year's graduation ceremony is particularly important in the history of this university as we celebrate ten successful years, during which it has established itself as an essential part of the educational structure in the United Arab Emirates. I congratulate all members of the university community, and thank them for their efforts in making this university an important part of the knowledge society."

Addressing the graduates, he said, "I would like to remind you today that graduation from university is the beginning of a new phase in your life. You are all, with the help of God, a source of pride to the university, and the city of Dubai, and the UAE, and today we express our full confidence in your high levels of qualification and initiative, outstanding performance and ethical conduct, and I pray to God Almighty to grant you success and to achieve, each one of you, all of your aspirations for success and excellence."

Speaking on behalf of the graduates at the ceremony, Bachelor of Architecture major, Reem Sultan Saeed Al Mansoori, said, "I must express what a great honour it is for us to become members of the Canadian University Dubai class of 2016. Not only do we celebrate our personal journeys to

success, but we also share in the pride of the entire university community, as we mark the tenth anniversary of this great institution."

Paying tribute to the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and the Rulers of the Emirates, she concluded, "I am ready to become a contributing member to the UAE society and pledge to represent my country and CUD in the foremost possible way that would make my family proud of me."

## \$7,000 BOOST FOR CUD STUDENTS' SIGN LANGUAGE APP

**Team takes second place in region-wide community competition**



The CUD students behind the development of new Emirati sign-language app, Efhmni, have received a major boost in their plan to support the UAE deaf community, with a \$7,000 award to scale their social enterprise from the Coca-Cola Foundation and INJAZ Al-Arab. The award follows the recent announcement of winners in the Ripples of Happiness university competition, a community initiative under which the innovation was developed.

The team of students from CUD was the only group to represent the UAE in the region-wide initiative, and secured second place overall in the six-week program, attracting funding equivalent to more than AED 25,000 to help further develop and mainstream their app.

The technology was created in association with the UAE Deaf Association and the Kalimati Speech and Communication Center. It specifically aims 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 through Emirati sign language.

The app was unveiled to over 100 stakeholders at a recent public launch event. Speaking at the event, member of the

Efhmni project management team, Craig Muyambo, said, "Our aim is to contribute to the UAE in two ways: by preserving its history through the Emirati language, heritage and dialect, and by building its future by engaging all sectors of society in a single community, connected by a common language."

The financial boost comes as a result of the interest and impact the team generated for the app during the Ripples of Happiness competition. Sulaf Saleh Al Zu'bi, CEO of INJAZ UAE, said, "It was an inspiring journey giving students the opportunity to create and discover their talents applied in this program and remarkable software

“ Our aim is to contribute to the UAE in two ways: by preserving its history through the Emirati language, heritage and dialect, and by building its future by engaging all sectors of society in a single community, connected by a common language.

” Facilitated by Mr. Mohsin Harris of INJAZ UAE, the team received intensive mentoring support from two volunteers from the business community. Ms. Sveccha Kumar and Mr. Youshey Zakiuddin brought their experience of corporate social responsibility initiatives at telecoms firm, du, to help the students to identify and address a distinct community need.



The team also benefitted from the ongoing support of CUD Assistant Professor, Jeanette Teh, who said, "I am extremely proud of how much the students have accomplished in a short amount of time and how hard they have worked. Through this project, they have learned the importance of teamwork, planning, research, communication, and even diplomacy, all of which will help them in their future careers. It has been an incredible journey, full of challenging lessons, not just

for the students, but also for us the mentors.

"I would like to thank INJAZ Al Arab and Coca-Cola Foundation for organizing this wonderful competition, which has taught our students so much about launching a socially responsible business, but perhaps, more importantly, that they can make a difference."

The team has already held discussions with the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and

Scientific Research around how the app can help in promoting access to education among the deaf community. Nérinel Bessa, another member of the Efharni project management team said, "We are excited to embark upon this social enterprise and with the award from the Coca-Cola Foundation and INJAZ Al Arab, we can start to empower the deaf community by employing members to support in the ongoing development of the app."

## PRESIDENT RECEIVES EDUCATION GOLDEN GLOBE

### Pr. Karim Chelli recognized for leadership in education

President and Vice Chancellor of CUD, Pr. Karim Chelli, has received the Asian Confederation of Business Golden Globe Tiger Award for Education Leadership, at a ceremony held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Pr. Chelli joins a group of esteemed leaders who, according to chief architect of the awards, Dr R.L. Bhatia, stand out as 'Tigers' of the profession – those who believe that excellence is infinite and perfection has no limits. He revealed, "The Education Leadership Award at the Golden Globe Tigers is the most prestigious award and the highest honor which an individual can receive for his or her contribution."

The award follows a global search for nominees who set the highest standards and benchmarks in education leadership, and a rigorous evaluation of those nominees by an executive council consisting of respected international authorities in the academic and business world.

Speaking about the accolade, Pr. Chelli said, "It is an honor for me to receive this award for leadership in education, particularly as Canadian University Dubai marks its tenth anniversary year. Among the roles of a leader is to motivate a team towards a common goal, and so it is with great pride that I accept this award as we celebrate such an important milestone in the University's history."

Pr. Chelli adds the Golden Globe to a number



of other leadership honors, including the 2015 Education Leadership Award at the World Leadership Congress, and the Award

for Outstanding Contribution to Education, conferred by the World Chancellors' and Vice Chancellors' Congress.

## GRADUATE APPOINTED MIDDLE EAST DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

### Rahaf Al Saif to represent Middle East on wildlife conservation



**R**ahaf Al Saif, a graduate of Environmental Health Management at CUD, has been selected to represent the Middle East region at The Youth Forum for People and Wildlife, organized by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), in collaboration with the Disney Conservation Fund.

The Forum, which will take place in Johannesburg in September this year, aims to provide a platform for young leaders from around the world to share their experiences and connect with the international animal welfare community to discuss wildlife conservation and global commercial trade issues.

Rahaf has been selected among 34 delegates from 25 countries, from a pool of nearly 1,000 candidates worldwide, for demonstrating extraordinary leadership in conservation and welfare. She will be the sole representative from the region at the event, as well as taking on a role as ambassador and mentor for the Forum's online community.

Having completed her undergraduate internship with IFAW in Dubai, Rahaf has spent a lot of time working on and researching conservation issues in the UAE, and is now keen to share her experience and

find out more about the concerns affecting communities in different parts of the world.

Rahaf said, "I am honoured to be selected to represent this region in a global movement to promote positive changes towards conservation. I have been involved locally in campaigns such as the ivory crush, and I am looking forward joining the conversation about the challenges that other young people are facing in their communities, and how we can work together to find global solutions."



Having graduated from CUD in 2015, Rahaf cites the lessons and faculty she encountered at the University as a major inspiration in

taking on this high-profile leadership role.

Among those faculty members was Mr. Ryan Sisson, Lecturer in the School of Environment and Health Sciences, who said, "At CUD, we encourage students to go beyond the curriculum and use their skills to make a difference in wider society, so we are very proud to see one of our graduates involved in this global Forum. Rahaf's success with her internship through IFAW, alongside her research in the field, has placed her in a strong position to contribute to this important debate."

Rahaf will be joining her fellow delegates to convene directly before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES - the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The group of 18-25 year olds will discuss some of the world's most challenging wildlife issues, share their diverse experiences, and take part in a range of professional development workshops.

It is anticipated that the Forum will be the launch pad for a new global youth community, focussing on the creation of ideas, partnerships and networks that empower tomorrow's leaders.

Rahaf concluded, "The Forum will not only offer opportunities to learn from likeminded people from around the world, but also to

connect with important decision-makers in the field, which will help us to play an active role in shaping our future conservation efforts."

# CUD CONVENES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## H.E. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad delivers keynote speech on leadership



CUD has brought together speakers from over 30 countries to debate the emerging challenges and long-term solutions to some of the key business challenges arising in the globalized economy, at a two-day international conference hosted at Atlantis – The Palm, Dubai.

The International Conference on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ICLIE'16) was opened with a keynote address on the subject of leadership from former Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. Citing Dubai as the 'perfect example of what leadership means and what leadership can do' Dr. Mahathir reflected on his own experience of leading the transformation of Malaysia during his 22 years as Prime Minister, saying that the foundations of good leadership were to unite a population and to know what your followers expect from you.

Following the keynote addresses from Dr. Mahathir and Mr. David Wang, CEO of ICLIE'16 chief sponsor, Huawei UAE, the conference set out to stimulate a transnational debate around five headline themes: International Entrepreneurship and Small Business; Contemporary Leadership and Management; Technology, Innovations, and Sustainability; New Trends in Global Economics, Finance, and Management; and Islamic Banking and Finance.

Day two of the conference opened with a keynote speech from Professor Benoit Montreuil, of Georgia Tech Institute, USA, who is leading the International Physical Internet Initiative. Professor Montreuil discussed his research on the paradigm-shifting innovation towards worldwide sustainable hyperconnected logistics and supply chains.

A second keynote address from Dr. Margaret Dalziel of the University of Waterloo, Canada, discussed the outcomes of large and small bets in relation to entrepreneurship policy, illustrating the benefits and pitfalls of both transformational and small-scale business creation strategies.



Parallel sessions exploring different aspects of the five conference themes continued into the afternoon, with workshops covering issues including sustainable innovation, the opportunities and challenges for Islamic

Banking, spiritual tourism, responsible leadership, and the growth in e-learning in the region.

Professor Rachid Benlamri, General Chair of the Conference and Vice President of Academic Affairs at CUD, said, "Our goal at this conference is to stimulate a multi-disciplinary debate that will promote a better understanding of current issues and solutions to the challenges facing the globalized economy.

"We aim to bring forward new ideas and focus upon the principles and practices that characterise effective innovation leadership. We want to support the journey towards an economy driven by entrepreneurs in a business-friendly environment, where public and private sectors form effective partnerships for growth."

The event concluded with a gala dinner at the Atlantis Ballroom, which saw the presentation of the conference awards, including the Best Paper Award, which went to Pia Hautamäki for her paper 'Business to Business Buyer-Seller Interactions from the perspectives of Personality Theory and Transformational Leadership Theory'; and the Best Student Paper Award, which went to Angelika Dankert for her paper 'Clustering Countries According to their Cultural Proximity and Similarity'.



Proceedings from the event will be published by Springer. Canadian University Dubai is grateful for the support of conference sponsors, Huawei UAE and Air Canada.

# ENGINEERING STUDENTS LAUNCH AWARD-WINNING EDUTAINMENT APP

## Team collaborates with DEWA to promote environmental awareness



A new mobile edutainment application that aims to help children understand and engage with environmental sustainability has recently been launched by a pair of engineering students from CUD, in collaboration with the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA).

Pedram Parvaz, a member of the University's innovation community, Lighten Up, along with his friend Bezhan Odinaev, came up with the idea for the game-based app, DEWA RUN, in response to last year's DEWA App Master contest.

The competition called upon university students to develop a smart, entertaining application for seven-year-olds and older, to help instill environmental values and promote a culture of rational energy and water use, in a fun and engaging way. The pair went on to take fifth place in the competition, winning AED 10,000 from DEWA to help further develop the app.

Pedram explained, "It was quite a challenge to create and develop a concept that was both educational and entertaining in just one month. The idea we came up with involves players helping to keep their city clean by

running as fast as possible, collecting water drops and trash along the way, while dodging different obstacles. The aim is to teach children to conserve water and energy and to illustrate the impact this would have on our environment."

After some fine-tuning with the support of the DEWA marketing team, the app was unveiled during last year's GITEX Technology exhibition,



and was officially launched to app stores for public download earlier this month.

Finding the time to develop the app was a challenge for Pedram, who also works alongside his studies, but he was determined to take part and contribute to the campaign. He revealed, "Bezhan and I could only work during the weekends; we would start a Skype call at 10am and before we knew it, it was dark outside and we were still working on something we started early in the morning."

Nevertheless, it was a rewarding experience from which they both learnt a great deal. Pedram concluded, "I managed to learn the basics of the new Apple programming language, SWIFT. Aside from that, I believe the biggest achievement for me in this project was all the things I learned that are now helping me in my professional life – teamwork, being resourceful, time and project management to name a few."

Pedram and Bezhan are now hoping that children across the UAE and beyond will be learning valuable lessons from their creation, and in turn, contributing to positive actions for environmental sustainability.

## CUD EXTENDS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH BANK OF CHINA MOU

Partners to collaborate on education, research and professional development initiatives



CUD and Bank of China (Dubai) Branch (BOC) have joined forces to support a series of education, research and professional development initiatives for students and employees in Dubai's banking sector. The collaboration was sealed with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at a ceremony presided over by Her Excellency Lingbing Li, Consul General of China, and Chancellor of CUD, Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi.

The agreement will provide undergraduate students with exposure to the banking industry through job search support and internship opportunities, while sharing business research and intelligence through BOC guest lectures on campus at CUD. The partnership will also facilitate higher learning amongst BOC employees and promote Chinese cultural events across the university community.

China is one of the UAE's largest trade partners and CUD has welcomed a growing Chinese student population in recent years. During her address at the MoU ceremony, Her Excellency Mrs. Li said, "The implementation of this agreement not only combines the strengths of both entities, but also tightens the relationship of both countries."

She continued, "Dubai was not a conventional,

preferred destination for overseas student in the past. However, with the maturity of the academic environment, the booming demand for talent, and job opportunities generated by EXPO 2020, it attracts an increasing number of overseas students, specially the group from China. I trust that the 100 Chinese students currently studying in CUD are just the beginning of a new stage for both countries and their people to tighten friendship and civilian intercourse."

In his remarks, Mr. Al Ghandi referred to the strengthening ties between China and the UAE, demonstrated through the recent visit to the country by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Of the agreement, Mr. Al Ghandi said, "On behalf of CUD, I would like to express how proud we are to be part of the portfolio of such a prestigious organization as Bank of China and we look forward to a long and successful collaboration."

Established over a century ago, BOC is China's most internationalized and diversified bank, having extended its operation across more than 40 countries and regions around the world. Representing the Bank to sign the MoU

was Mr. Chunyan Cai, General Manager of Bank of China (Dubai Branch) and Regional Head (MENA).

Mr. Cai said, "Bank of China is delighted to be able to assist graduates by sharing information and making use of our extensive research capabilities. We are also excited about offering internships within our organisation where all-important experience and crucial knowledge of the Banking world is gained.

"This partnership allows Bank of China to understand more easily the youth of other cultures, and how cultural diversification in the region actually forms the bedrock of its success. I would like to thank CUD for giving the Bank of China Dubai access to the future treasure of our region – young, intelligent people from all cultures."

Signing the MoU on behalf of CUD was President, Dr. Karim Chelli, who said that the University recognizes the value and significance of collaboration with China and its institutions, and this agreement will open the door to a range of unique opportunities.

The ceremony concluded with a special performance of Chinese calligraphy by Mr. Yuan Yongjia.

# STUDENTS DISPLAY CREATIVE TALENT AT INNOVATION EXPO

**Inaugural two-day event showcases creativity across six undergraduate schools**



Students from across CUD have been showcasing their creative and enterprising talents during the University's inaugural Innovation Expo, held recently on campus.

The two-day event saw a wide-ranging exhibition of art, design and technology-based projects, demonstrating the best examples of imagination and innovation among the University's six undergraduate schools.

From the School of Engineering, Applied Science and Technology, telecom engineering student, Omar Sherif, showcased his own innovation created especially for the CUD community. His new mobile application combines a number of features including event notifications, course resources and a messaging platform to support student life on the University campus. There was also a robotics display from members of the CUD Robotics Club.

Among the showpieces on display from the School of Communication and Media Studies were original exhibits from students' work in digital advertising, print advertising, media campaigns, digital photography and corporate publications design.

Representing the School of Business

Administration, e-business student Soheil Sharafat demonstrated his portfolio of creative websites, including one designed specifically for the Dubai Customs Intellectual Property Awards.

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I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and personal expression that the students have displayed through their efforts in this exhibition, and particularly in their sculpting, as many of them were trying it for the very first time.

”

**Pierre Kauffmann**  
French sculptor

Students from the School of Environment and Health Sciences took an innovative approach to showcasing its two core disciplines, as they exhibited models and collages of the body's vital organs, created out of recycled materials.

An impressive display of designs, models and laser cuttings were on display from the School of Architecture and Interior Design, while the

School of Liberal Arts and Sciences put on an exhibition of sketches and paintings inspired by iconic artist, Leonardo da Vinci. Along the same theme, students from the CUD Art Club delivered a series of lectures, providing their own insights into the renowned painter, scientist and inventor.

One of the main attractions throughout the exhibition was a workshop by French sculptor, Pierre Kauffmann, who was on campus to provide students and guests with hands-on tips for working with clay to create innovative sculptures.

Speaking about the event, Mr. Kauffmann said, "I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and personal expression that the students have displayed through their efforts in this exhibition, and particularly in their sculpting, as many of them were trying it for the very first time."

The exhibition was opened by University President and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Karim Chelli, who praised the students for their work in showcasing innovation from such a broad range of perspectives. Day two of the event saw CUD Chancellor, Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi, take a tour of the exhibition, which was also opened up to members of the public.

# CUD LEADS SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA THROUGH GREEN UNIVERSITIES COUNCIL

## Higher education institutions convene to promote sustainability

CUD has convened the first meeting of the Green Universities Council, an associated initiative by the University in collaboration with the Environmental Center for Arab Towns, to promote sustainability across higher education institutions and other related sectors in the UAE.

Representatives from Masdar Institute, Higher Colleges of Technology, and the British University in Dubai met with counterparts from CUD and the Environmental Center for Arab Towns to set an agenda for action at the inaugural gathering of the newly-established group.

The Council has received the backing of Dubai Municipality, with an AED 80,000 grant to initiate a program of activities aimed at securing a green future through innovation and creativity. The group plans to work on collaborative projects that build students' skills and knowledge, whilst also tackling sustainability at an institutional level, through the development of environmental strategies and policies.

Established following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CUD and the Environmental Center for Arab Towns, the Council will be extending its current membership to bring on board higher education institutions from across the Emirates. With the Environmental Center for Arab Towns, it is also hoped that the initiative will spread to other countries in the region.

Dr. Hoshier Nooraddin, associate professor in CUD's School of Architecture and Interior Design and one of the founders of the Green Universities Council, said, "We all have a responsibility for sustainability, and universities can take a leading role by educating the next generation about the environment, as well as conducting research and creating knowledge that could contribute to a greener future. The purpose of the Green Universities Council is to coordinate our efforts and so create a greater impact that will be felt across UAE society."



The Council plans to engage students from the outset with a competition to design the

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We all have a responsibility for sustainability, and universities can take a leading role by educating the next generation about the environment, as well as conducting research and creating knowledge that could contribute to a greener future. The purpose of the Green Universities Council is to coordinate our efforts and so create a greater impact that will be felt across UAE society.

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logo of the new alliance. Future activities will include scientific visits and experience exchanges, student projects and exhibitions, as well as research and the creation of curricula that promotes sustainability. At institution level the group will explore how universities can transition to green buildings and infrastructure.

CUD Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Rachid Benlamri, opened the inaugural meeting, welcoming all representatives and showing the University's support for the Council. In attendance was Dr. Nooraddin and Dr. Stefan Mostafa, Dean of the School of Environment and Health Sciences and Director of Postgraduate Studies at CUD; Mr. Hussain Al Fardan from ECAT, Prof. Hasim Altan from the British University in Dubai; Prof Basim Al Lami from Higher Colleges of Technology; and Prof. Elie Azer from Masdar Institute.

# PRESIDENT PRESENTS AT WORLD EDUCATION SUMMIT

## Pr. Karim Chelli shares Canadian perspectives in learning



President and Vice Chancellor of Canadian University Dubai, Pr. Karim Chelli, has been sharing his expert insights into the Canadian system of higher education at the sixth annual World Education Summit, held recently in Dubai.

Speaking under the theme 'Learning from the Big Four global education destinations', Pr. Chelli shared his experience of working in Canada, a country that is widely regarded as one of the world's leading nations in the higher education ecosystem.

Pr. Chelli's prepared address focused on the key elements that define Canadian higher education, including the regulatory, legislative and quality assurance frameworks that set the standards for the system.

His presentation to the audience of senior policy makers and practitioners ultimately concentrated on the factors that distinguish Canadian higher education on the international stage, including how the methodology for learning validation is central to the success of graduates of the Canadian system.

“The Canadian model is built upon outputs, rather than inputs. Learning outcomes are the backbone of the system, meaning that students must demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies against a verified matrix.”

“Graduates are therefore better equipped for employment as job-related capabilities have already been assessed during their higher education. This system supports validation and accountability, and promotes recognition, advancement and lifelong learning.”

Pr. Chelli went on to draw upon the policy context in which this approach is set. Referencing the 2015 publication from the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer, 'Learning Outcomes in Credit Transfer: A Key Tool for Innovation in Student Mobility', Pr. Chelli said, "The Canadian model is built upon outputs, rather than inputs. Learning outcomes are the backbone of the system, meaning that students must demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies against a verified matrix.

"Graduates are therefore better equipped for employment as job-related capabilities have already been assessed during their higher education. This system supports validation and accountability, and promotes recognition, advancement and lifelong learning."

Pr. Chelli was among a lineup of distinguished speakers invited to address the Summit, which brought together government officials and senior representatives from top institutions to exchange ideas on the future of global higher education.

## ALUMNI NAMED INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

### MBA graduate recognized by annual maritime industry awards

CUD graduate, Suha Obaid, has been named Inspirational Young Personality of the Year for 2015 at the Seatrade Middle East Awards, hosted in Dubai.

MBA graduate Suha was recognized by the annual maritime industry awards for her impressive rise through the ranks of Dubai-based marine company, Folk Shipping. Starting out as a trainee in the business, she quickly advanced to a coordinator role, and with the support of WISTA – the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association – Suha grew in confidence to take on the position of Operations Manager, before achieving her current post of Strategic Planning Director.

Explaining her passage into the shipping trade, Suha said, "The marine industry isn't really the kind of sector young girls dream to grow into, however, that wasn't the case for me. I never thought about pink ribbons and pretty dresses, as a matter of fact, I was more intrigued by the smell of heavy oil covering my father's overalls when he came home from a hectic day at work. Being so young, I didn't acknowledge gender, or any sort of limitations, instead I developed the urge to be a part of it."

Facing up to the challenge of operating in what remains a male-dominated environment, Suha has succeeded to represent the face of the younger generation in the maritime sector. She continued, "At first it was very much a challenge, but I have learned to flex with the situation, and work it to my advantage.

"Networking was my number one challenge, and though I lacked confidence, I learned that being a GCC female in this sector sparked people's curiosity, and I used that to stand out. As my work was acknowledged and appreciated, and with more experience and exposure to the business, my confidence level increased."



“ At first it was very much a challenge, but I have learned to flex with the situation, and work it to my advantage.

With the accolade of inspirational personality of the year comes the responsibility of encouraging and nurturing the next generation of young maritime professionals,

which Suha acknowledges is a challenging role.

She said, "The shipping industry is unfortunately an industry that lacks the younger generation, especially those from the GCC. I would urge young people to direct their attention to maritime and manufacturing industries; they are very exciting and dynamic sectors – certainly not the 'routine' kind of business environment – where they will learn, be stimulated, and be part of a team that will make a big difference in creating a self-sufficient nation with its people as its strength."

## ILOVEMYBRAIN CAMPAIGN COMES TO CUD

Experts reveal health and lifestyle changes that could help combat Alzheimer's disease



**A**lzheimer's disease, currently the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and spreading alarmingly across the globe, can be combated through nutrition, lifestyle changes, music and art, according to experts who spoke at an 'I Love My Brain' forum organised by 4get-me-not Alzheimer's Organisation in collaboration with CUD.

Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia among older adults related to loss of cognitive functioning—thinking, remembering, and reasoning—and behavioural abilities to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life. Recent estimates indicate that the Alzheimer's disease may rank third, just behind heart diseases and cancer, as a cause of death for older people.

Dr. Graham Simpson, Medical Director, Intelligent Health Centre, Dubai, squarely blamed the rising incidence of Alzheimer's on faulty diet and lack of exercise. According to him, most diseases start in the gut, and if we control our diet, most of them could be eliminated.

Terming Alzheimer's as Type 3 Diabetes, Dr Graham blamed processed foods (which he described as toxins for the brain) for the rising

incidence of diseases like Alzheimer's, along with a diet packed with sugars, fatty foods and lack of exercise.

"The best way to combat Alzheimer's is to educate mothers and kitchen hands," said Dr. Graham. "Half the world's diseases would disappear if we followed this simple rule. Drugs cannot cure Alzheimer's or most modern diseases; but diet and nutrition can."

Dr. Efthymios Papatzikis, Assistant Professor in Educational Neuroscience, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, CUD, who is also a musician, referred to the growing evidence of the role of music in the fight against Alzheimer's. Acknowledging that Alzheimer's has no cure, he urged people not to wait until they are 70 to take steps to prevent it.

Quoting research on how music can possibly slow Alzheimer's, he provided insights into how music activates the whole brain. However, he admitted that the brain remains a complex organ and more research needs to be done to understand its complexity.

Ahmed Mohamed Ali Nassar, Training Manager, Bin Sina Pharmacy, speaking on Nutrition and Alzheimer's referred to the relatively low research funding for Alzheimer's

vis-à-vis disease like cancer. Cancer research gets ten times more, whereas the cost of cancer care in US is \$100 billion, against \$200 billion for Alzheimer's. In 2015, 40 million people died of Alzheimer's, and it is projected that the number will rise to 70 million by 2030.

He agreed that the source of many diseases is the gut, and recommended reduced intake of saturated and trans fats, increased consumption of plant-based foods and regular exercise. His remedy for preventing Alzheimer's – Vitamin B (B9 and B12), Omega 3 fatty acids, antioxidants, herbs (Ginkgo biloba) and probiotics.

Desirée Vlekken, founder and CEO of 4get-me-not Alzheimer's Organization, UAE, stressed the role of art, music and nutrition in the fight against Alzheimer's and underlined the need to spread the word regarding preventive measures that need to be taken to halt its alarming spread. She thanked Canadian University Dubai for its role in raising awareness through this event.

Dr. Toba Elegbe - Consultant Internal Medicine, Mediclinic City Hospital, spoke on the Geriatric Medicine and line of treatment for Alzheimer patients. He stressed the importance of developing a plan with the family for treating and handling patients.

In his welcome speech, Dr. Stefane Moustafa, Dean School of Environment and Health Sciences, CUD, remarked that CUD was pleased to be involved in supporting the campaign and called for greater research into preventive measures and role of music, art and social aspects in slowing the incidence of Alzheimer's.

Appropriately, students from Emirates Youth Orchestra played classical music on string instruments to drive home the message that music has a role to play in keeping Alzheimer's at bay.

The program ended with a group discussion among the experts, and a question and answer session. The audience showed keen interest in knowing more about Alzheimer's during the event.

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