

Fall 2017 / Issue No. 14

# CHANCELLOR'S

N'E W S / L E T T E R

Inspiring minds, transforming lives.

# The Determined Ones

accompanied by the UAE Philharmonic Orchestra

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#### The Chancellors

#### Welcome to the Fall 2017 edition of the Chancellor's Newsletter.

Alongside our usual busy program of events, the last four months of 2017 have seen a number of important achievements at Canadian University Dubai.

A number of teams from the University have achieved notable recognition in regional and local competitions in the domains of human resources, technology, robotics, entrepreneurship and the arts.

Similarly, our faculty has excelled in various areas, having received a variety of academic awards demonstrating both the faculty and the university's commitment to providing excellence in education, research, and setting a remarkable example for others to follow suit.

The Canadian University Dubai research community continues to thrive among both faculty and students, with a number of publications helping to further advance our position in the global academic landscape, most notably the registration of one of the University's Journals in Mathematics within the internationally recognized EBSCO database.

In 2017, which was launched as the UAE year of giving, we dedicated our efforts towards supporting social progress across communities, working with the PACE Centre to launch the Determined Ones Choir with their first ever concert – a testament to our university's commitment to empowering the special needs community.

Both in the UAE and internationally, we have been developing strong networks of collaboration that aim to inspire minds and transform lives through education, bringing about wider economic and societal benefits.

In this semester, we have established a number of strategic partnerships that we look forward to growing and we hope will enable us to continually cultivate our contribution to communities across the world.

As we enter 2018, the year of Zayed, we look forward to expanding our partnerships and investing in our students and faculty with the express purpose to progressively transform lives through education.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue for Fall 2017.



Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi Chancellor



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

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# Dubai Ensenble Choir – UAE's First Determined Children's Choir held Inaugural Concert featuring UAE Philharmonic Orchestra at Canadian University Dubai



The PACE Centre (Potential Adaptive Child Education) – a specialized learning development & intervention centre in Dubai and part of Dubai Education; providing individualized educational programs and support to children with special needs announced the formation of the Dubai Ensenble Children's Choir for determined children with its first concert held on Friday November 24th 2017, accompanied by the UAE Philharmonic Orchestra and Conductor Aveline Bouquet at the helm. The concert was held at the Red Theatre, Canadian University Dubai.

The evening saw the UAE Philharmonic Orchestra led by Ms. Aveline Bouqet and The Ensenble Choir directed by Rivaan Mager join musical talent and passion in an unparalleled performance. The Choir, comprised of students with special needs from several special education centers from across the UAE, sang to an audience of over 150 including parents, teachers, students, friends, and family.



The concert opened with Beethoven's Symphony No 5, followed by several performances of Gershwin and other notable classical musicians as part of the first half of the program. The second half of the evening featured the Choir singing global classics such as "We are the World" and "Imagine" as well as an African traditional lullaby with both the Orchestra and Choir receiving several standing ovations throughout the evening for their incredible performances.

The Dubai Ensenble Choir aims to provide a safe and supportive music activity for children and students with different abilities. The choir has been designed to be respectful and sensitive to the individual needs of the members of the choir with respect to intellectual development, communication abilities, spatial needs and developmental diversities. The Choir is an opportunity to give determined children a creative outlet as well as experience in working with others, their voices, and movement.



The choir members come from a number of schools in the Emirates such as the PACE Centre, Tender Hearts, Modern Alternative Education, Icademy, GEMS Modern Academy, Rashid Paediatric Therapy Centre, Al Yasat Private School, Dovecote Green Primary, Al Noor Training Centre, and SNF Children Development Centre. The schools and choir cater to children with specific needs between the ages of 9 to 25.

The Ensenble Choir is directed by Rivaan Mager who teaches music and movement to the children at the PACE Centre in Dubai and who has been leading the determined children in their rehearsals for the past few months with the support of a number of therapists, volunteers and parents.



# "You're Dubai" – Canadian University Dubai & GEMS pen song celebrating diversity of Dubai

Written by Dr. Franziska Apprich, Assistant Professor and Head of Learning Zones and Incubation, and in collaboration with students from the Communications Program, the song was performed by "Resonance", the GEMS School Choir in the University's Red Theatre accompanied by talented musicians from Canadian University Dubai staff and under the supervision of music teacher Olivia Shields and music coordinator Danielle Boylan.



The song was written by Dr. Franziska Apprich, Assistant Professor and Head of Learning Zones and Incubation in CUD, in collaboaration with students from the Faculty of Communications.

Inspired by the diversity and beauty of Dubai, and its message of tolerance, respect, and harmony; Dr. Fran wrote the song in hopes of reaching as many listeners as possible with Dubai's message of love and inclusion.

As a result of the of the success of the University's initial collaboration with GEMS to raise anti-bullying awareness beginning in early October 2017, the partnership was extended to create a full campaign around Dubai's message of love and inclusion with the GEMS Resonance Choir performing and recording the song on the Red Theatre's stage.

Speaking on behalf of the GEMS School, Thomas Nelson, Head of Emerald House and a Physical Education teacher, said that it was important to encourage students to acquire confidence when discussing issues around bullying in the classroom. "Acquiring confidence makes it easier for students to talk about bullying issues when they happen, and also provides a better understanding of why they happen and how people are affected. We wanted to establish a link with The Canadian University of Dubai and with the help of Dr. Fran and her students, we were able to work together to deliver songwriting workshops that allowed our students to express their feelings and experiences around the theme of prejudice and discrimination. For the future, our ambition is to ensure that this awareness and message remains a focal point at the Academy throughout the academic year. As a school we know we have made a positive difference to our students in recognizing, reporting and responding to bullying."

You're Dubai is now available on Youtube and the University's website for viewing. Since it was published, the video has received wonderful praise and over 2000 views. 66

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The concern that the recognition of the need to preserve requires a more sophisticated analytical framework than that used to study urban settlements that have developed at a slower pace.

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# FACULTY LEAD EFFORTS FOR CONSERVATION OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Faculty from the Department of Architecture and the Department of Interior Design curated a conference on behalf of Dubai Design Week (DXBDW) entitled UAE MODERN on Conservation and Reuse of Architecture in the 21st century.

CUD was one of the Knowledge Partners at the event and Ms. Sophie Johnson and Mr. Joaquin Busch, Assistant Professors from CUD co-led the 'Conservation of Architecture in the 21st Century.'

The conference aimed to spread awareness of the legacy of the achievements of modern architecture during the period between the 1950s and 1980s, when the UAE and their neighbor countries had to cope with the new challenges brought on by their rapid economic growth. UAE Modern gathered together local and international experts to share experiences and exchange knowledge on modern architecture conservation and reuse.

Through their participation, Mr. Joaquin Busch, Ms. Sophie Johnson and Mr. Massimo Imparato, all faculty members at Canadian University Dubai, hoped to share ideas and experiences on the conservation of modern architecture to help broaden the discussion on a subject that already punctuates regional debates.

In his capacity as Conference Curator, Mr. Imparato referred to the rapid growth of urban settlements in the region saying that there was a concern that the recognition of the need to preserve requires a more sophisticated analytical framework than that used to study urban settlements that have developed at a slower pace. "Architectural conservation is something that has been promoted for years and years across the world and every year it grows more and more important and more widely known amongst everyone in whatever fields they may be in where we now find ourselves in the UAE attempting to employ methodologies and

analysis that can help us in preserving the country's distinct architecture."

There are many ways and forms as to how a country could possibly conserve and attempt to conserve architectural heritages such as rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction and preservation. Not all countries recognize all four and use them with some of the conference's attendees expressing concern that the region's amplified modern expansion has been conducted with total disregard for the value of historical sites in the GCC and the region. However, over the past few years, municipalities and a variety of government entities have reached out to universities to assist in raising awareness and involving the wider community in the efforts towards conserving and reusing.



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"I code in my free time and love it so much that it helps me take my mind off things. So follow your heart and passion. It could be anything, just practice and get better at it!"

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Tanmay Bakshi

### MBA STUDENTS ATTEND BEYOND BORDERS CONFERENCE

MBA Students from CUD including Sara Alami Riad, Hashim Salim, Nabil Mustafa and Ahmed Ali visited the annual SME Beyond Borders Conference.

**S** ME Beyond Borders is a gathering that celebrates the global SME sector while assessing the impact of international trends on the local SME scene and evaluating whether companies in the GCC have the potential to become world-class innovators.

This year's conference focused on the theme of Artificial Intelligence under the name 'SME 4x'. Futurists, algorithmists, entrepreneurs, digital and innovation leaders, healthcare

consultants, aerospace engineers and others gathered to discuss how the world is expected to dramatically change as soon as 4 years from today with new technology affecting all aspects of life.

Speaking after the event, Sara Alami Riad, an MBA student at CUD, said that attending the conference was an uplifting experience and taught her how the world is connected and how trends are constantly changing.

She learned that there will be a technology revolution that will have an impact on the various sectors in the region such as healthcare, banking, transport, travel and events. One of the most interesting speakers that caught her attention was Tanmay Bakshi, a 14 year old software developer who has become known for publishing a variety of applications and source codes.

#### FUN AT THE COLOR RUN

As part of the Dubai Fitness Challenge, University students & faculty participated in this year's Colour Run presented by Daman's *ActiveLife*.

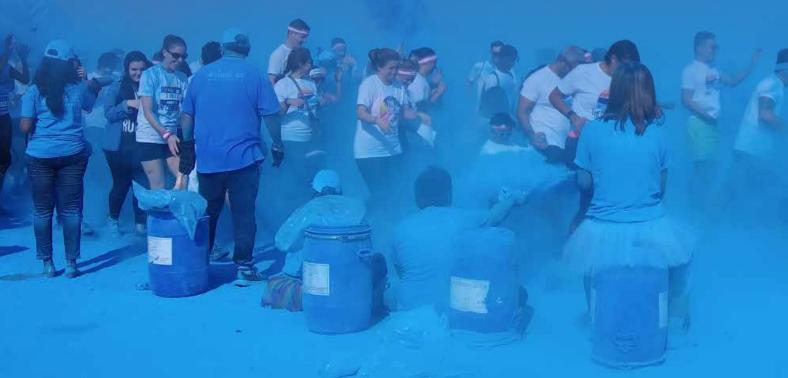
The color run was a fun-filled event promoting happiness in and around Dubai where participants ran, walked, jogged and skipped along the five kilometer course with family and friends as coloured powder rained on them as they passed each kilometer mark.

After the finish line, participants were welcomed to the Finish Festival with music, dancing, commemorative photographs, various entertainments and games.











# MBA STUDENTS FINALISTS AT REGIONAL COMPETITION

A team of MBA students from Canadian University Dubai was selected as one of the three finalist teams from amongst 16 competing universities in the MENA region to take part in the final presentation round at the Graduate Level as part of the 3rd Annual Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Middle East and North Africa Student Case Competition.

or the final round, the students were required to present their case solutions to the judges' panel at the Informa HR Summit & Expo on Tuesday, 7th November, 2017 at Dubai International Exhibition & Convention Center in a 15 minute presentation followed by a 10 minute question and answer session with the competition's distinguished judges.

The case competition is the first step towards showcasing students' understanding and

critical analysis skills as future business and strategy leaders in the workplace. In solving real-life cases students are able to demonstrate critical thinking and ethical reasoning. The team consisted of Mireille Mansour (Team Captain) supported by Abeer Al Ali, Feryal Almarzooqi, Maria Rylova, and Seydi Ababcar Ndiaye under the mentorship of Dr. Rommel Sergio, Associate Professor and Chair of the Human Resource Management Program of the Faculty of Management.

Founded in 1948, the SHRM is the world's largest HR membership organization devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 275,000 members in over 160 countries, the Society is the leading provider of resources to serve the needs of HR professionals and advance the professional practice of human resource management. SHRM has more than 575 affiliated chapters within the United States and subsidiary offices in China, India and the United Arab Emirates.



# LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER CONCLUDES OCTOBER CAMPAIGN

As part of the CUD Learning Resource Centre month celebration our CUD Family came together to celebrate the library's contribution to the university's community.

During the celebration, winners of the Centre's competitions were announced in the following categories: Best LRC users, Book Face photo contest, and Book Review writing contest.

Introducing the Event, Mr. Frederick Guerrero, assistant librarian, welcomed the university

family and shared that it was his hope that by reading, learning, and sharing books and knowledge, the university's students and faculty would continue to be inspired as they progressed through their journey of learning and education whilst attending or working at the university and hopefully beyond its walls. University President, Dr. Karim Chelli, joined the celebrations and shared a few words with attendees in which he encouraged everyone to stay focused and committed to Canadian values of excellence.

We congratulate all the winners and we look forward to the next round of LRC activities.

#### Winners of the Best LRC Users:

- Dr. Rawa Nahhas
- · Zhiqiang Huang
- Hauwa Sorondinki
- Sana Jamshed

#### Winners of Book Face Contest:

- · Tanmay Walia
- Amruta Nikte

#### Winner of Book Review Writing:

Nadine Markiz

#### Winner of Book Raffle Draw:

- Zaid AlMurshed
- Roya Laimoun





The University of New Brunswick is proud to have a transfer agreement with Canadian University Dubai. The UNB/ CUD collaboration allows students to obtain an internationally recognized degree while giving them the opportunity work in their area of discipline and live on both sides of the globe.

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# UNB INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE RECRUITER VISITS CAMPUS

Ms. Jennifer Waldshütz, International Undergraduate Recruiter from the University of New Brunswick, delivered a presentation to students interested in completing their studies in Canada.

s. Waldshütz gave an inspiring presentation supplemented by videos of the University of New Brunswick's campuses located in Fredericton and Saint John, both known for their secure environment and friendly environment for students.

The videos featured the stunning local scenery as well as the well-laid out campuses and their facilities. Included in the videos were testaments from existing students who stressed the view that this was much like their home.

There was also a separate video featuring former Canadian University Dubai student Natalia Silchenko who transferred to UNB. Ms. Waldshütz highlighted courses available to students and referred to some of the university's unique features such as UNB's tieup with IBM where IBM maintains a research and development and customer support centre in Fredericton, which provides support for more than 5,000 customers around the globe. Similarly, UNB boasts NASA as a research partner through their Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The presentation also outlined the extensive range of 75 undergraduate programs housed in the University of New Brunswick's various departments. The faculty to student ratio of 1:16 is among the lowest in Canada giving students unique access to their professors.

Students wishing to transfer to UNB have the advantage of a quick visa turnaround time due to the University's excellent reputation. Jennifer also outlined the concept of Cooperative Learning aligned with effective Internships with features such as the "Activator Program" for budding entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the end of the event Jennifer said "The University of New Brunswick is proud to have a transfer agreement with Canadian University Dubai. The UNB/ CUD collaboration allows students to obtain an internationally recognized degree while giving them the opportunity work in their area of discipline and live on both sides of the globe".

# UNIVERSITY FAMILY CELEBRATES UAE FLAG DAY

The entirety of the Canadian University Dubai family & community came together early in the morning in the presence of the University's Chancellor Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi, in a show of national pride to observe the National Flag Day for 2017. CUD joined in the nation-wide celebrations held across the country to mark the occasion.



An audience of faculty, students, and university partners stood in respect as the UAE national anthem played while the flag was raised by two of the University's students.

Several of the university's Emirati students participating in the event expressed their pride in being citizens of this country with one student saying, "This is the day that we reaffirm our loyalty to the U.A.E flag, which is a symbol of the country's greatness."

The event concluded with a word from Chancellor Mr. Buti thanking the community for their participation in

marking the day and expressing his appreciation for the country's leadership.

"Raising the flag high with love and pride for our country demonstrates our values of loyalty, belonging, and deference to the country's founding father and its message of peace and tolerance. The fantastic achievements of our country are a result of the nation's astute leadership and their firm belief in the country's human capital. This day is an opportunity for Emiratis and residents to share in the successes of our country and is a chance for everyone to come together to celebrate our achievements."





# UNIVERSITY'S JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS INCLUDED IN EBSCO

The Gulf Journal of Mathematics (GJOM) authored by Dr. Firuz Kamalov and Dr. Ho Hon Leung, both professors of mathematics at Canadian University Dubai, has been recognized by the prestigious EBSCO (Elton B. Stephens Co), a leading producer and distributor of research databases for libraries and educational institutions worldwide.

BSCO databases are available in 90% of the world's public, college and university libraries. The inclusion of the Gulf Journal of Mathematics - published since 2013 - in the EBSCO databases is another big milestone for the journal as it means that the publication will now widen its availability and exposure. Speaking of the inclusion, Dr. Firuz said that such recognition truly enhances the research reputation of our University.

Paige Larkin, Senior Publisher Relations at EBSCO praised GJOM's inclusion. "The introduction of the Gulf Journal of

Mathematics will enhance EBSCO's resources as well as benefit Canadian University Dubai through the increased visibility and usage of the journal as reference in research. Titles in EBSCO databases are accessible at an article-level, most typically as the result of a keyword search, so a licensing agreement does not compromise Canadian University Dubai's online audience, but rather provides them with an additional chance to promote readership worldwide."

A link to the University's site is included with every article. GJOM is a quarterly journal

that has published seventeen issues since its inception including two conference proceedings. It is indexed in the databases of American Mathematical Society and European Mathematical Society. Following its inclusion in EBSCO, the Gulf Journal of Mathematics has been encouraged by Scopus; the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, scientific journals, books and conference proceedings to apply for inclusion in their database. This application will be completed and submitted by September 2018.



### DUBAI POLICE RECOGNIZE UNIVERSITY FOR AUDIO VISUAL COLLABORATION

During a presentation held at the University, representatives from Dubai Police commended Canadian University Dubai's contribution to the community in a wide range of areas and in particular the University's Audio Visual Unit led by Media Specialist Mr. Stephane Chabas.

As part of an ongoing collaboration, CUD has been involved in a range of Audio Visual initiatives with Dubai Police and in particular with the Department of Forensic Science and Criminology since 2017.

The collaboration has included Canadian University Dubai providing guidance and technical support to Dubai Police when producing and showcasing the work of their Forensics Department.

At the end of the presentation Colonel Khaled Taqi Al Sumaiti of Dubai Police presented the University with an award in recognition of the University's support which was received by Mr. Chabas on behalf of Canadian University Dubai.

In his speech, Colonel Al Sumaiti highlighted the support that the University had given enabling the Forensics Department to produce professional Audio Visual content both for internal and external purposes. "Canadian University Dubai's studio and production facilities are state of the art and were instrumental in allowing our students to learn more about film-making and photography techniques including in depth training in editing suites. The education received at the University's studio also helped our students and teams to acquire the skills needed to better showcase their work and production."

During the Presentation it was announced that as a continuance of the ongoing

agreement, Canadian University Dubai would provide further training with video-editing courses designed specifically for Dubai Police personnel and also assist with the filming and production of a professional video shot at the General Department of Forensic Science and Criminology at Dubai Police headquarters in the coming weeks.







We need to care for our students and inspire them, mentoring rather than teaching, stimulating rather than grading and believing in our students rather than seeing them as a number. To be a professor is a privilege, a huge responsibility and a good professor can change the world for the better.

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# CUD PROFESSOR GAINS FURTHER RECOGNITION

In addition to her nomination for "Best Academic Professor Award" by the Association of Scientists, Developers and Faculties (ASDF), Dr. Franziska Apprich has also been recognized as an "Outstanding Scientist" by the Venus International Foundation; an organization dedicated to celebrating creative minds in the world and recognizing exceedingly qualified and highly cited research professionals who are committed to finding solutions to the daunting challenges that we face in an ever-changing world.

The award was established in 2015 to recognize contribution to fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights which have had an impact a wide array of disciplines.

Having been recognized for her research, publications and various contributions, Dr. Franziska Apprich's award highlights her pioneering work in the field of Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR).

Some of her research work includes: a method to overcome exam anxiety using gaming platforms as part of learning, implementation of artificial intelligence as part of classroom

learning, identifying space awareness and creative use of space for commercial opportunities, social entrepreneurship, and employing methods of stimulation of all five senses as part of her teaching methods.

The latter includes a proposal for Expo2020 for the creation of an "all senses class-room chair" in collaboration with her students. The chair is designed to stimulate students via seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling with the objective to overcome various learning problems encountered by different types of learners and incorporating special needs stimuli to succeed.

"We all are talented and we just need to find access to these talents and bring them all together. As Aristotle claimed 'educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all'. It is our responsibility to care for our students and inspire them through mentoring rather than teaching, stimulating rather than grading and believing in our students rather than seeing them as a number. To be a professor is a privilege, a huge responsibility and a good professor can change the world for the better."



# CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI HOSTS FIRST TEDX EVENT TO RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Motivated by the University's code "Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives" Canadian University Dubai held its first TEDx event in the Red Theatre on Thursday Oct. 26, 2017.

n attendance were His Excellency Mr. Buti Saeed El Ghandi, University Chancellor and Dr. Karim Chelli, President and Vice Chancellor, alongside other notable guests. The event included a diverse selection of speakers chosen for their motivational speaking skills and ability to inspire young audiences.

Mohamed Luqman, in addition to his day job, is a writer by heart. He runs a blog where he expresses himself through creative writing and is working on his first book. Luqman's focus is to inspire the youth to persevere through any hardship, particularly when dealing with personal issues such as a loss in the family. He uses his personal experiences to help his audience relate to his message and his writing. He describes himself as a fillmmaker, writer and story-teller.

**Grayson Bass** is an Instructor at the University of Toronto and an advocate for innovation. Grayson has also formed and leads strategy initiatives for start-ups to established multinationals around the world. His research focus is on networks and social economic measurement, and he has a passion for social justice and economic empowerment. He describes himself as a teacher, leader and inventor.

Amira Khatib has 20 years of regional and global experience in the education sector. Amira's focus is to support the private and public sectors in developing workforce supply through advising on strategy and solutions that span the education trajectory of citizens. She specializes in education and human capital in the Middle East. She describes herself as a leader, educator and social citizen.

Hamza Hawsawi, also known as Ayzee, is the Winner of X Factor 2015 Middle East. Hamza is a well-respected artist within the music industry. He has performed covers as well as originals on stages worldwide and aims to inspire his audience with each performance. He describes himself as a student of life, art and business.

**Nada Faris** is a Kuwaiti writer and performance poet known as 'Kuwait's Finest.' Her book 'Fountain of Youth' is the 2016 Vine Leaves Vignette Collection Award Semi Finalist. She is a self-employed spoken word poet and a promoter of innovation amongst the youth. Nada has inspired her audience through her works and is a proud active feminist. She describes herself as a writer, creator and influencer.

Saif Chilmiran began a journey exploring and creating visual art initially as a street artist. Over a decade later, through ongoing artistic metamorphosis, he continues to use his art work as a contemporary medium to raise questions and initiate debate to improve and defend the sanctity of life and our world. He describes himself as an observer, questioner and creator.

**Dana Nashawati** is a Canadian University Dubai alumni and a manager at Emirates Airlines. Despite being visually impaired, she has overcome many challenges and uses her journey to inspire people within her community. Dana describes herself as an inspirer, motivator and giver.



During the event there were two musical items, one from staff and faculty and one from the student body. Speaking after the event, Dr. Efthymios Papatzikis, Faculty Supervisor and Conference Coordinator stated "We chose the theme 'Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives' because we passionately believe that meaningful stories and insights nourish the mind allowing it to evolve and to grow and as a consequence changing our lives for the better."

Dr. Papatzikis continued with the theme that stories grew to give hope to future generations. "These stories inspire us to think and act in ways different to what we may have become accustomed to. The talks presented by our immensely talented speakers will hopefully plant the seed of greatness giving us a new perspective from which to effect change: something that we are in dire need

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We chose the theme 'Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives' because we passionately believe that meaningful stories and insights nourish the mind allowing it to evolve and to grow and as a consequence changing our lives for the better.

of as a global community. When we are stimulated by the inherent goodness within our spirits we are inspired to not only do good but to spread good as well, to be a beam of light wherever we go thereby rekindling a passion for life and a passion for change. This is the inspiration we seek at #TEDxCUD."

Dr. Papatzikis expressed his appreciation to the hard working team of students who were responsible for the entire organization of the event under his guidance including Mahum Riaz (President), Elvina Elizabeth (Vice President), Mehak Fatima Ashfaq (Technical Design), Mohammed Ali (Stage Manager), Maryam Bin Dakhan (Social Media) and Omar Sayadi (Resources). With the first event having been registered with the main Ted Talks licensing body, Canadian University Dubai will now be looking towards organizing and hosting more TEDx events in the near future.



# CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI HOLDS FASHION SHOW TO PROMOTE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Canadian University Dubai in partnership with the Canadian Ambassador's wife Ms. Laila Al Fenne held a Silk Scarf Fashion in the University's Red Theatre on Wednesday October 18th, 2017.

The event was attended by the University's Chancellor Mr Buti Saeed Al Ghandi, Dr. Karim Chelli, President & Vice Chancellor, and a number of other high-profile guests including His Excellency Mr. Masud Husain, Canadian Ambassador to the UAE, His Excellency Patrizio Fondi, EU Ambassador to the UAE, Dr. Sawsan Al Mahdi, Director General of Friends of Cancer Patients.

Ms. Laila Elfenne; a recognized artist in the field of silk scarf artwork demonstrated how to apply classical color theory to the soft and shiny texture of silk using liquid dyes during a workshop for women on campus. As she was applying the dyes, Ms. Alfenne, spoke of how she expresses her joy and happiness through the colors she incorporates in her silk scarves and how that art in her view was

an expression of her own enthusiasm and life experiences.

Born in Morocco and married to the Canadian Ambassador to the UAE, Laila synthesizes multiple influences into her designs and colors and she is inspired by the notable abstract artist; Kandinsky and more personally her brother Simo Elfenne, whose passion for



wood sculpture was the original inspiration that led Laila to pursue her own art.

The workshop was followed by a speech from the University's Chancellor who welcomed the esteemed guests and spoke of his personal experience with the disease and how many of us know someone affected. Similarly, Ms. Elfenne echoed his sentiments and considered the event to be a tribute to all those affected by the disease.

She also said that the fashion show was a demonstration of how to creatively conceal the side effect of losing your hair as a result of cancer treatment through the imaginative use of headscarves.

Similarly, Mr Masud Husain, expressed that he and his family were delighted to be a part of the event at Canadian University Dubai particularly since this was such a worthy cause to support and that most everyone has experienced loss brought on by the disease. He reiterated that the Canadian Embassy and

he and his wife would always be willing to support in any way they could. Ms. Elfenne also showcased her paintings at the workshop which was then followed by a fashion show at the Canadian University Dubai's Red Theatre. She is also set to exhibit her work at Gallery Two Four54 in Abu Dhabi from October the 23rd till 29th. Both, the workshop and the event were held on Wednesday the 18th of October and were open to the general public.









It is the role of the research panel to produce a shortlist of individuals who are doing extraordinary work and can demonstrate an authenticated track record of their achievements

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### PROFESSOR DEKKICHE RECOGNIZED AS BEST PROFESSOR IN ARCHITECTURE

Dr. Hamoud Dekkiche, Associate Professor and Chair of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering & Architecture, has been awarded the highest degree of recognition from the Middle East Education Leadership Awards, part of the World Sustainability Congress.

These highly recognized awards are presented to individuals and institutions that have surpassed several levels of excellence by being highly respectable role models and have demonstrated exemplary leadership.

The awards also recognize individuals who have consistently contributed to the process of building institutions through leadership, innovation, academic and industry interface while maintaining the objective of building and nurturing future leaders.

In conferring the award, Dr. R. L. Bhatia, Founder of the World Sustainability Congress, stated he was pleased to recognize Dr. Dekkiche with the award for "BEST PROFESSOR IN ARCHITECTURE" as it underscored his commitment to excellence in the application of leadership principles to business situations.

Dr. Hamoud was chosen as someone who consistently made a difference to the lives of his students as well as for the extraordinary quality to his work, his outlook towards longevity in teaching alongside his ability to contribute to the values of social change.

On receipt of this award Dr. Hamoud said that it gave him great pride as he always strives to ensure excellence. "I consider this award to not only be in recognition of my work but a reflection on the distinguished level of excellence within the Department of Architecture."

Granting these awards is an intense process of examination undertaken by a research panel which consists of post graduates in history & management with over 5 years of research experience. It is the role of the research panel to produce a shortlist of individuals who are doing extraordinary work and can demonstrate an authenticated track record of their achievements. The shortlist is then reviewed by a jury comprising senior professionals from across the globe.





The boom in the e-comerce market is showing no sign of slowing down but rather will continue to grow at an exponential rate."

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# CUD PROFESSOR DISCUSSES BOOMING e-COMMERCE MARKET IN UAE

In an extensive interview with Al-Arabia News, Dr. Anas Najdawi, Chair of CUD's e-Business program, was called upon to provide his expert opinion on the explosive boom e-commerce is currently experiencing in the region.

During his appearance, Dr. Najdawi provided valuable insight into the continuing development of this market segment highlighting Amazon's recent acquisition of Souq.com and the recent launch of Al Abbar's undertaking with NOON. com – a joint venture between Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

He went on to iterate that he expected the value of the e-business market to grow considerably from \$3 billion to \$60 billion over the next ten years, citing the enormous impact this will have on the economy overall.

With the continued accelerated pace at which the industry is undergoing growth it has become increasingly clear that the market shows no signs of slowing down but rather further integrating across the spectrum of services in all segments. Referring to Canadian University Dubai, Dr. Najdawi said he was pleased that there was an increase in the number of students applying to and being accepted into the University's cutting-edge E-business program which reflects the current market trends & demand for well-trained graduates with exposure to the various aspects of e-business in the region and internationally.

He further noted that these students were ideally placed to take full advantage of this expanding market and would be prepared to enter the employment market equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed.

This was Dr. Najdawi's second interview in a series with the first being a discussion on the historical emergence of this market and its evolution.





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### MOU SIGNED WITH CANADIAN IMMIGRATION LAWYER

Canadian University Dubai recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Beeton & Co, FZ LLC to provide students with expertise in regards to Canadian immigration and transferring to Canadian universities. The MOU was signed by Dr. Karim Chelli, President and Vice Chancellor of Canadian University Dubai and Julie Beeton, Managing Director of Beeton & Co.

Canadian University Dubai boasts
an extensive network of strategic
partnerships with leading universities across
Canada which provides students with the
ability to transfer to Canada during or after
their studies at CUD. The expertise provided
by Beeton & Co will help students obtain visas
to study in Canada. In addition, both CUD and
Beeton & Co have agreed to work together on
training schemes and knowledge sharing.

"Our transfer to Canada program is central to our overall strategic vision and mission," said Dr. Chelli. "For many students the opportunity to study in Canada is a huge draw, and we help them achieve their goal through our strategic partners and Canadian accredited courses. A partnership with Beeton & Co will help us extend this program to more students and assist them to get visas faster and easier."

Beeton & Co helps families and students from across the globe immigrate and study in Canada. Julie Beeton said "I am looking forward to helping CUD students get their Canadian study permits and advising them on how to stay and work in Canada after they complete their studies. It is very important for students to get their applications right the first time so they can arrive at their new Canadian university on time and ready to start this exciting stage in their life."





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### PROFESSOR DONATES HIS SERVICES AS COUNSELOR AND PSYCHOLOGIST

Dubai based Filipinos who find themselves struck down with feelings of being home sick, worried about their jobs, or suffering from debt-related stress can now turn to their Consulate for help and psychological support.

Pr. Rommel Sergio, a counseling psychologist and Professor at Canadian University Dubai, started a series of seminars and workshops at the consulate in March 2016 in order to train Consulate staff to psychologically support their fellow citizens in the UAE.

Up to fifty Filipinos visit the consulate each week for problems such as clarification of the labour law, dealing with unfair work practices, problems adjusting to a new country and financial problems relating to non-payment of credit cards or bank loans. However, when they come for labour advice, they also find themselves having to deal with other mentalhealth related issues.

As a result, Dr. Rommel began donating his services for free, hoping that positive counseling and therapy would help his

countrymen. In addition, he began training a group of in-house counselors at the Philippine's Consulate General (PCG) to deliver counseling to Overseas Filipino Workers. Dr. Rommel has trained the counselors at the PCG to encourage their clients to take steps to resolve their issues by informing, explaining, interpreting, and advising while being empathetic and allowing the client to express his or her feelings freely in a safe and supportive environment.

"The educators of today must not just be confined to being excellent in teaching and research alone" says Dr. Rommel. "The cornerstone of the educational arena calls for service, particularly community engagement. We are living in a 'humanistic age' where helping others through counseling can make a lot of difference. Helping others is indeed an excellent way to share your time and

expertise and training people to help others through counseling is for a bigger cause. Do not think twice. Help unconditionally if you think you have what it takes to be in this kind of initiative."

Looking to the future, the team is currently conceptualizing a well-being program for the counselors at PCG and for those in need (some of whom are eventually housed in a specific space at the PCG if they have escaped their employers due to maltreatment).

This will not be limited to providing occasional counseling but other activities such as recreational programs. Dr. Rommel has also involved experts from other institutions who are also engaged in community counseling work, so now there is a core group on call.



#### CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI & RYERSON DEVELOP UNIQUE NEW PROGRAM

Canadian University Dubai, in partnership with Ryerson University's Faculty of Communication and Design (FCAD) will be working together to develop an exciting new program focused on leadership in the creative industries.



The "Creative Industries" refers to a distinctive group of creative fields pertaining to media, design, entertainment and the visual and performing arts. While these fields have long been recognized for their cultural value, they are also an important economic driver and key to urban development and renewal.

The Bachelor in Creative Industries will combine creativity with business acumen in order to create a cadre of highly qualified graduates capable of leading the quickly expanding arts and culture industry in the UAE and abroad.

The program will be officially launched once it attains accreditation from the UAE's Ministry of Education. The new program will be the University's first offering as part of the newly established FCAD at Canadian University Dubai which has been developed in collaboration with Ryerson University, Canada, who currently run their own successful FCAD in Toronto boasting programs in the Creative Industries, Fashion, Graphic Communications, Image Arts, Interior Design, Journalism, Professional Communication and Performance.

"This will be the first program in the UAE targeted at preparing students for an entrepreneurial career in media, entertainment, design or the visual and performing arts," said Dr. Karim Chelli, Canadian University Dubai's President and Vice Chancellor.

"By combining solid business, communication and management skills with in-depth knowledge of these industries we will be creating the future leaders of the UAE's entertainment, arts and culture scene. This program aligns with Dubai's and the UAE's strategies for future economic growth and offers students an advantage in the job market here and abroad. Furthermore, by establishing FCAD here at Canadian University Dubai, we are laying the ground work for future programs designed with the countries strategic goals and labor needs in mind, which is a bonus for the UAE and our students."

"This is an exciting partnership for us in a global city known for its innovation and creativity," says FCAD's Dean Charles Falzon. "This collaboration represents an opportunity for us to mobilize talent, ideas and global connections in order to advance cultural industries in both countries. As a rapidly expanding economy and cultural hub in the Middle East, Dubai offers opportunities for new ideas and creative people, as well as a rich historical tradition. The Creative Industries program will capitalize on this by offering students classes in the art and business of film, the business and practice of news, printing and publishing, the music industry and the fashion industry."

As part of the collaboration with Ryerson and in order to capitalize on their established and highly popular programs, the Toronto based university will provide ongoing technical and curricular expertise and will assist in the recruitment of scholars from around the world. The new FCAD will offer Canadian University Dubai degrees and is expected to attract students from over 100 countries in the Middle East and Africa, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

#### **CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI**

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