



CANADIAN  
UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI

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CHANCELLOR'S

# Newsletter

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CANADIAN UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI

## SYLVAIN TREMBLAY PAINTS LARGEST PAINTING OF HH SHEIKH ZAYED IN THE DUBAI DESERT



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## Message from The Chancellors' Office



Welcome to the Summer 2014 edition of the Chancellor's Newsletter.

This season traditionally gives us the opportunity to consolidate our activities and achievements over the past academic year and look forward to the opportunities of the new term ahead.

Looking back on 2013-2014, we reflect on the successful completion of our first five-year strategic plan, the accreditation and launch of the new Masters-level program in Information Technology Management and Governance, and the successful staging of our fourth graduation ceremony, which saw 405 students receive their degree certificates.

**Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi**  
Chancellor



Looking forward, we are excited to welcome a new intake of students for the 2014-15 academic year and we anticipate a busy program of on and off-campus events that will engage both our student and academic communities in activities that continue to raise the profile of Canadian University of Dubai, across the UAE and beyond.

This year, however, the Summer has also been an eventful season in itself, with the launch of an academic scholarship scheme to coincide with Canada Day, and the outstanding feat of lecturer Sylvain Tremblay in creating the largest ever portrait of His Highness Sheikh Zayed. We hope you enjoy reading about these and other achievements in the pages that follow.

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

## SYLVAIN TREMBLAY PAINTS LARGEST PAINTING OF HH SHEIKH ZAYED IN THE DUBAI DESERT

### Largest ever portrait of the late HH Sheikh Zayed created out of sand



“I feel honored to have been able to do this and I am delighted with the result,” he said. “The wind made it tough and I had to finish a lot quicker than expected, but I had so many supporters and students and they helped me finish it.”

Internationally renowned artist and Canadian University of Dubai lecturer Sylvain Tremblay has created the largest ever portrait of the late His Highness Sheikh Zayed out of sand. The painting was created in the desert just outside Dubai on May 12th when Tremblay, who specializes in creating artworks that celebrate culture and traditions around the world, dropped sand collected from the desert onto a 10m by 10m canvass to create a high contrast image.

The technique is one invented by Tremblay himself, a style he developed and honed at Canadian University of Dubai. Using the University's roof as a preparation space, he practiced many times on smaller canvases to ensure everything went according to plan. “This is the most inspiring thing I have done and definitely the most technically difficult,” he said.

“We're dealing with the elements of the desert and floating between 10 and 20m above the ground, so there was plenty of opportunity for things to work

against us. “The technique is one I first tried at an inventor's convention in Abu Dhabi, but Canadian University of Dubai has supported me as I perfected it. “It's a great honour for me to be able to produce the biggest painted portrait of the great Sheikh Zayed. It was important to me when planning the performance that everything was natural and that it paid tribute to the UAE's natural elements. The desert was the natural place to do this and using sand from the desert made the perfect choice.”

Sylvain Tremblay created the picture in the early hours of the morning and although wind affected the performance – he planned to do the performance from a hot air balloon – it



did not affect the stunning results.

“I feel honored to have been able to do this and I am delighted with the result,” he said. “The wind made it tough and I had to finish a lot quicker than expected, but I had so many supporters and students and they helped me finish it.”

The public's first opportunity to see the artwork was at Liwa's Art Hub. The Hub sits at the base of an 80m high sand dune on which the picture was unveiled.

Ahmed Al Yafei, owner and founder of Art Hub, said: “We have been delighted to support Sylvain in this project and we are very much looking forward to receiving the artwork.”





## CANADIAN UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI CELEBRATES FOURTH GRADUATION CEREMONY

### Graduates honoured at glittering ceremony

Canadian University of Dubai celebrated its fourth graduation ceremony with 405 students receiving their degree certificates at a glittering event held in a packed Sheikh Rashid Hall at Dubai World Trade Centre.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of

Dubai and Minister of Finance, and His Excellency Sheik Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development witnessed the ceremony, which was attended by over 2500 students, parents and faculty.

The ceremony was particularly special

for Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who was amongst the many proud parents seeing their children graduate - his son, His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, graduated summa cum laude with a Masters in Business Administration.



Praising the development of education at Canadian University of Dubai, Sheikh Nahyan said: "Our presence here clearly highlights the great reputation and achievements that Canadian University of Dubai has accomplished in its short life.

"These achievements are represented in its distinguished educational courses, addressing students' and society's needs, not to mention fulfilling the requirement for global excellence in its

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**Perhaps the most important thing we see is the excellence the Canadian University of Dubai graduates reflect, due to their strong and distinct contributions in the service of the overall development process in the nation and society.**

fruitful and valuable collaboration with distinguished international universities.

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Mr Buti Saeed Al Ghandi, Chancellor of the Canadian University of Dubai, added: "Canadian University of Dubai will not spare any effort in providing creative higher education that takes into account the abilities and goals of every student, while linking it to the job market."

"The faculty at Canadian University of Dubai constantly strives to achieve this goal to create a successful society full of expertise, a society that reacts creatively and peacefully to its surroundings, a society that does not produce armies and unemployed, an educated society that produces a suitable student for a suitable place. Machines and capital alone do not make prosperity, it is people, educated, progressive people. The result of the progressive educated experience in the UAE."

Representing the students, Sheikh Rashid thanked the faculty for their

hard work and had some stirring words for his fellow graduates:

"I would like to thank members of faculty

"While we receive our graduation degree and reap the fruits of our toil and effort, we prepare ourselves for a new phase of our lives. We are at the beginning of

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and administration for all the efforts they put in to develop the university to serve the students and for keeping the name of Canadian University of Dubai a symbol for us and for future generations.

a journey. We should always remember that success in life requires more effort, more excellence, non-stop seeking of knowledge, keeping up with modern trends and ensuring to benefit from evolution."

## 2014 GRADUATION CEREMONY PHOTOS





## CANADIAN UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI LOOKS TO EXPO 2020 WITH SAP ALLIANCE

**University Alliances Programme sees two institutions working together to provide local talent pool for Expo Vision**



Canadian University of Dubai and global business software giant SAP have signed an agreement that aims to provide Dubai with home-grown talent for Expo 2020.

Canadian University of Dubai has signed up for the globally-acclaimed Universities Alliances Programme, which will support the university's e-business Bachelor's Degree programme in developing the next generation of students with hands-on experience and a working knowledge of the industry.

SAP operates in 130 countries and is the world leader in enterprise software and software-related services. Thought-leaders and experts in data analytics, cloud computing, mobile and business software from all over the world will visit Canadian University of Dubai to pass on their knowledge to students who in turn will be given internships globally within the company.

Marita Mitschein, Senior Vice-President Strategic Investments, SAP AG, and Managing Director, SAP Training & Development Institute, and Dr Karim Chelli, President of Canadian University of Dubai signed the agreement.

Dr Chelli said: "Giving students the right tools and knowledge to find jobs is at the heart of what we do. The link between e-business, e-Government and Expo 2020 is too big an opportunity to miss for students and businesses and this agreement with SAP will enable us to provide a pool of skilled and knowledgeable young people."

Marita Mitschein, said: "Globally, we have undertaken many e-government and automation projects, so I think we are well equipped to support the Expo 2020 initiative. SAP is committed to aligning local education with critical industry needs and we are delighted that Canadian University of Dubai is supporting us in this approach."

"The UAE is one of the leading technology countries in the world," she added. "The young generation here has skipped a couple of decades of technology evolution. Some don't even know what a desktop is because they are used to iPads, iPhones and Blackberrys. Because of this, you can tap into a different level of creativity and innovation."

Dr Ahmad Jaffar, Chair of e-Business Programme within the School of Business, said: "Our program equips students with holistic business concepts and aligns it with how current and emerging technology support business operations."

"Students will acquire the fundamentals in applying the latest technology to optimize business needs as well as appreciate how governmental agencies provide their services, electronically. Our graduates will be a ready workforce to support the needs of a "Smart City" as envisioned by the esteemed Dubai leaders.

"Adopting a theory-cum-lab pedagogy, students will experience the hands-on application of technology to business operations through our simulated Business Enterprise Laboratory. Our collaborations with industry allow us to progressively update our lab curriculum to align to industrial needs. The aim is to create the next generation of students versed in business knowledge who are tech savvy."

## POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY CAN IMPROVE UAE RESIDENTS' LIVES

**Dr. Louise Lambert to establish Middle East's first academic journal for positive psychology**



A psychology professor at Canadian University of Dubai believes that developing a culture of positive psychology could have far reaching benefits for the country's residents.

Dr. Louise Lambert is an expert in positive psychology, a new branch in psychology that is not widely used in the Middle East. Positive psychology is the scientific study of wellbeing, focusing on what leads to human excellence thereby enabling individuals to live their best lives.

While working for a primary healthcare organization in Canada, Lambert witnessed first-hand the positive impact this new approach had on the overall health and wellbeing of patients. Using positive psychology interventions, Lambert developed a seven-week program designed to increase levels of happiness in individuals.

She found that patients that were given positive psychological interventions

rather than standard psychological treatment responded more quickly, maintained the positive gains and lifestyle changes and, remarkably, experienced fewer symptoms of physical pain relative to the start of the program.

Dr Lambert believes that adopting widespread positive psychology interventions would help the UAE reduce its current health and mental issues, like depression, and the over-use of healthcare services. The result may well see dropping health care costs for individuals, as fewer perceptions of pain means fewer doctor visits.

"It's about helping people find ways to maintain happiness over time and in a manner that allows them to grow as people, rather than focusing on short-term fixes or immediate gratifications, like shopping and luxuries," she said.

"It's also about helping people achieve

happiness in ways that are consistent with their culture. For example, in the West happiness reflects a more individualistic orientation and is related to personal and work-related achievements as well as a level of individual control and choice.

"In the UAE, we found that helping people, doing things for others and experiencing a sense of belonging made people happy and this reflects a more collective orientation that is more prevalent in the Emirati culture."

Dr. Lambert will team up with other practitioners in the region and, with help from a research grant she received from Canadian University of Dubai, will launch the Middle East's first academic journal of indigenous positive psychology.

"The focus of the journal is not just studying excellence and well-being, but studying them from the lens of culture to celebrate the distinctive manner in which happiness is expressed, lived, and achieved in health, education, organizations, and other spheres of life across the Middle East.

"There's a lot of positive developments in the region, but we overlook these simply because we are so focused on trying to fix problems. It's time to look at the good stuff and discover ways we can replicate it across the region."

The journal will be published in both Arabic and English.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS RECOGNIZED AT 9TH DEWA CONSERVATION AWARDS CEREMONY

**The Canadian University of Dubai has reaffirmed its commitment to a sustainable future for Dubai by scooping two awards at the prestigious DEWA Conservation Awards**



The Canadian University of Dubai has reaffirmed its commitment to a sustainable future for Dubai by scooping two awards at the prestigious DEWA Conservation Awards held at a glittering ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

The DEWA Conservation Awards acknowledge the efforts of institutions and individuals in the educational sector to reduce electricity and water consumption. It also recognises the best practices of individual students, faculty members, teachers, and administrators.

Pitted against over 30 universities, many of whom have been involved in the Awards for a number of years, Canadian University of Dubai won the Conservation Team Award and placed

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Ryan Sisson, Lecturer at the School of Environment and Health Sciences, led a group of five students: Eusra Baig (School of Architecture), Aliyah Salim (School of Environment and Health Sciences), Khaled Adel Al Sayed (School of Environment and Health Sciences), Fatmeh Islam (School of Engineering), Shabbir Furniturewala (School of Communications).

An holistic approach across the University ensured first place in the Conservation team category. The campaign involved creating a number of innovative strategies such as the 'tabling teams' to sign up students, 'green police', communications strategies including social media, posters and emails, and classroom activities such a recycled art and Furnitrash.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO STUDENTS IN HONOR OF CANADA DAY

**Two students receive academic scholarships to commemorate Canada Day in cooperation with the Embassy of Canada to the UAE**



In honour of Canada's national day, his Excellency Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi, Chancellor of the Canadian University of Dubai and His Excellency, Arif Z. Lalani, Ambassador of Canada, announced the return of the annual Canada Day scholarships.

The scholarships, based on academic merit will be awarded to two students commencing their final academic year following a selection process involving the Canadian University of Dubai's scholarship committee and the Canadian embassy.

"The Canada Day scholarship isn't just about rewarding excellence," said Chancellor Al Ghandi. "It's about celebrating our links with Canada and

showing our commitment to the future of young people through investment in education. We are thrilled to acknowledge those students who work hard to go above and beyond to meet the values that are at the heart of the Canadian University of Dubai's mission and vision."

Canadian University of Dubai President, Prof. Karim Chelli added: "Following the success of last year's Canada Day scholarships, it is with great pleasure that we announce their return for 2014. We strive to encourage our students to become all-round good citizens – a core value that is shared by the Canadian University of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to being a model student, so to be able to reward those

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**”**

who have shown extreme tenacity in the pursuit of excellence across the board is something that we are particularly proud of."

"I am very grateful for the commemoration of Canada Day started last year by the Canadian University of Dubai," stated His Excellency Arif Lalani, Ambassador of Canada to the UAE. "Awarding scholarships to students is an inspired way for the University to celebrate Canada Day. The Canadian University of Dubai is not only a premier institution but a tremendous corporate citizen. The University reflects the importance that both Canada and the UAE place on higher education."



## CAREER CLINIC HOSTS EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN OF DUBAI DUTY FREE

**New plans for Dubai Duty Free (DDF) including an online portal for flyers to purchase goods before they fly, was a hot topic in Dubai earlier this year**



Colm McLoughlin, executive vice chairman of DDF, who spoke at the Shane Phillips Career Clinic at the Canadian University of Dubai, gave insights about the future of the thirty-year-old company and its upcoming expansion plans.

Colm said: "I'm excited to share the news with students at the Canadian University of Dubai and also give them an insight into the thirty year success story that is Dubai Duty Free.

"There is so much coming up that is

exciting for the company - In the short term we are launching our online retail offer in the coming months, whereby passengers can order in advance of their travel, as phase one of the launch."

Since launching in 1983, the award-winning duty free shop sells over 70 million items a year, selling something every second, with revenue of over \$1.8 billion.

Colm added: "We also have plans to expand at Dubai International Airport with the opening of Concourse D at the end of the year. And of course, there will be a great focus on Al Maktoum International - which is set to become one of the largest airports in the world. Having just celebrated our thirtieth

anniversary, we're showing no signs of slowing down!"

The careers clinic was the fourth in a series of seven hosted at the Canadian University of Dubai in collaboration with Shane Phillips Consultants.

Each session is completely free and open to everyone, not just Canadian University of Dubai students. Giving people who might not have the opportunity to hear Dubai's leading business people speak an opportunity

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to do so is the core ethos of the sessions, as Shane Phillips explains: "The calibre of people we have sharing their experiences at the Careers Clinics is such that you might only get to

hear them speak at a member of an exclusive club or institution. We wanted to break down that barrier and create a place where anyone from cleaners to chief executives can be inspired by these incredibly successful people."

## STUDENTS LEADING UPCYCLING SCENE IN DUBAI

**Green design takes centre stage in innovative Furnitrash competition**

Students at the Canadian University of Dubai created chairs, lamps and loungers out of every day trash in an innovative environmental scheme.

Fourteen second year students from the School of Architecture and Interior Design have turned second-hand objects and trash into something

altogether more beautiful as part of a competition called Furnitrash.

Whereas recycling involves the





manufacture of new products from trash and waste materials, upcycling involves individuals combining waste material to make something completely new and bespoke and has sparked a trend among young people across Europe and North America.

The students pieces - which include a chair made out of old cassette tapes and a portable lounger made from plastic bottles - were judged by a panel of experts on their design, function and the creative use of materials.

The winner, 19-year-old Cobra Jahani,

designed a visually stunning lightshade from second-hand plastic spoons. She said: "I almost withdrew from the competition because I thought I had no chance of winning. People persuaded me to keep my entry in and when they called my name in first place, I couldn't believe it. I was delighted. The spoons came from restaurants in Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah. I went round a few places just asking for the spoons they weren't going to use. I had to go back a few times, but my persistence paid off.

I really enjoyed doing the project and I now look at everyday objects a little bit

differently. I'll definitely be doing more upcycling."

Hazem El Khatib, Vice President of the Association of Professional Interior Designers (APID), was part of the judging panel and believes upcycling has major potential in Dubai.

"Upcycling and green design is becoming more and more prevalent in the work that we do.

It is very trendy in other parts of the world, but Dubai is a very cosmopolitan place and as a result design trends



seem to take a bit more time to take hold, but we have definitely seen an upturn in environmentally conscious design here recently."

"It's great to see establishments like Canadian University of Dubai encouraging students to take part in green projects like Furnitrash. The quality of design from the students at Canadian University of Dubai is higher than I have seen at a lot of other places. I think it helps that the people leading the projects have experience outside of the classroom."

Dr Serkan Gunay, Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture and Interior Design at Canadian University of Dubai, said: "This is the first time we have run this competition and it has

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been very successful. The challenge was to get students thinking about the design everyday objects and how they can use those objects to create something totally new."

The competition encompassed design and creativity and has a very strong

environmental theme at its core. The plan is to take the idea to high school students across Dubai next year.

The winners were announced at the University's annual Interior Design Day, where design students from each year of the course exhibit their best works.



# Connect with us

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