



CANADIAN
UNIVERSITY DUBAI
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Chancellor's Newsletter

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CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY DUBAI CELEBRATES FIFTH GRADUATION CEREMONY



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Message from The Chancellor's Office



Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of the Chancellor's Newsletter.

As another academic year comes to a close, we proudly reflect on a number of important achievements at Canadian University Dubai (CUD). Chief among these is the successful staging of our fifth convocation, which saw 380 graduates celebrate the award of their degrees in the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

This year has also seen the re-accreditation of our flagship Master of Business Administration program, which marks a significant milestone in the evolution of our institution as a leader in graduate business education across the Region. In addition, we have extended our diverse portfolio of undergraduate programs with the introduction of a new Associate Degree in Food Safety.

During 2014-15 we have also witnessed many outstanding achievements among our student community. Most recently, a group of undergraduate e-Business students were awarded top prize in a prestigious Government website design competition.

As our research community continues to flourish, we celebrate the award of a \$900,000 grant from the Qatar Foundation to the School of Engineering, Applied Science and Technology, and announce the publication of the first edition of the Middle East Journal of Positive Psychology™, initiated at CUD.

Looking forward, we are excited to welcome all those students who will be joining us in the new academic year, and we anticipate a busy program of on and off-campus activities to report. In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy reading about the highlights of Summer 2015.

Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi
Chancellor

Prof. Karim Chelli
President & Vice - Chancellor

CUD CELEBRATES FIFTH GRADUATION CEREMONY

2015 convocation sees the award of the University's 2,000th degree



His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development, and His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chief of the National Service and Reserve Staff, have addressed the 5th convocation of Canadian University Dubai in a grand ceremony that saw 380 graduates awarded their degree certificates in front of a full-house at Sheikh Rashid Hall, Dubai World Trade Centre.

University Chancellor, Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Karim Chelli, honorable guest, Veronica Lacey OC, and the CUD Board of Trustees presided over the graduation, which also saw Canadian Ambassador to the UAE, His Excellency Mr. Arif Lalani, awarded an honorary doctorate degree.

Marking the award of the University's 2,000th degree, the celebration also coincided with the 39th anniversary of the UAE Armed Forces Unification Day. Addressing the graduates, HE Sheikh Ahmed said, "I urge all those who will be joining the National Service to do so proudly, with their heads held high, faces smiling and with strong confidence, believing that what you are doing is a supreme form of worship and an unmatched honor, responsibility and trusteeship."

Speaking of the increasing role of females in the military services, HE Sheikh Ahmed said, "I also would like to say that training



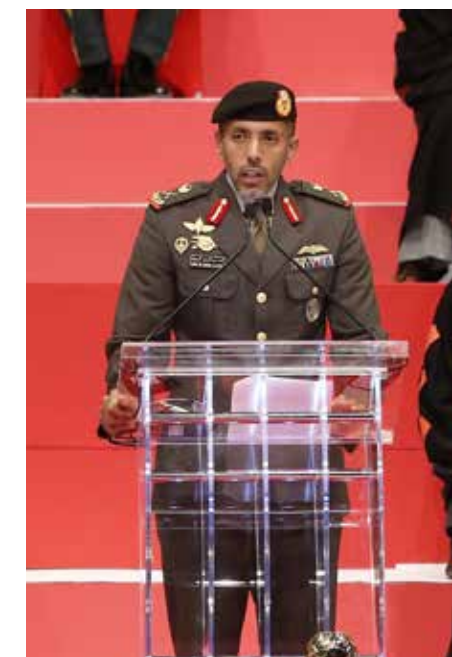
of our sisters in using weapons has made us proud and assured that the national role of women is no less than that of men."

These were inspiring words for MBA graduate Suhaila Alwali who hopes to join the National Service after graduation. Currently working as an engineer for telecoms company du, and with an undergraduate degree in technology, Suhaila is certain of women's importance to the Service.

She said, "I firmly believe that women have a role to play in every aspect of our society and the military is no different. My program taught me some very important lessons, like the difference between being a manager and a leader, and how to apply best practice in everything I do. I am very proud of my nationality, and I want to use these lessons to help serve my country."

Before conferring degrees upon graduates from CUD's six academic schools, HE Sheikh Nahyan lauded the achievements of the students, who he said will make an important contribution to the growth of this country in the coming years, maintaining the momentum of societal development that was envisioned by the Founding Father of the nation, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

HE Arif Lalani echoed Sheikh Nahyan's words



telling the graduates that they would be vital in shaping the future of the modern world. Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi and Dr. Karim Chelli also spoke, paying tribute to the efforts and achievements of the graduates and the entire University community.

Speaking on behalf of the students at the ceremony, Ghaith Matar bin Mazaina thanked the University faculty and leadership for their constant support, and encouraged his

“
Don't wait for the chance to talk about your achievements. Make the chance, and let your achievements talk. This is the key to success.
”

fellow graduates to take the initiative, seek out opportunities and make the most of what their degree has taught them, saying, "Don't wait for the chance to talk about your achievements. Make the chance, and let your achievements talk. This is the key to success."

Dr. Soraya Hammoumi was also awarded an honorary doctorate degree during the day's proceedings.

e-BUSINESS STUDENTS TAKE TOP PRIZE IN GOVERNMENT COMPETITION

CUD team win 'best website' at intellectual property awards



A group of students from CUD has triumphed in their first outing at the annual Dubai Customs Intellectual Property (IP) Awards. The team of nine from the University's Bachelor of e-Business program overcame tough competition from veterans of the contest to take first prize in the Best IP Website category.

Supervised by Dr. Anas Najdawi, Assistant Professor of e-Business, the CUD team combined their programming, design and content development skills to produce a comprehensive, interactive and user-friendly website, including both English and Arabic content. Alongside the website, the students were challenged with creating

an eye-catching logo and a simple yet relevant name for their new site.

According to student Munir Abdullahi, it was a daunting but exciting challenge to take on. He said, "This is the first time any of us have entered into anything like this and while we were determined to work hard on the project, we never imagined we would win."

Now in their 8th year, the Dubai Customs IP Awards are designed to encourage community engagement in IP protection and education, and to promote research, innovation and IP development among the student population. The competition runs across seven different categories and

attracts major higher education institutions from across the whole of the UAE.

The team took their inspiration from the Dubai skyline and the national flag to create an imaginative logo for the website, which they named Dubai Intellectual Property Awareness or 'DIPA' for short. Students Nada Al Sharidah and Joshua D'Souza took charge of creating the written content, while Salem Amin went in front of the camera to shoot an entertaining and educational video explaining the basics of IP.

Fellow student Ahmed Hassan was the team's motivator, waking up his teammates each morning to make sure

"I was extremely impressed by the ideas, functionality and components the students came up with, with little previous experience and in such a short period of time."

they met on time to work on the project. He also applied his motivation and sense of fun to the website production.

Following the win, the team is now set to fully deploy their website at www.dipa.ae and has also been invited to continue working with Dubai Customs to develop the platform as a public source of IP information, carrying the Dubai Customs logo. Having developed a strong team dynamic, the group is now keen to work together to further develop their creation.

Dr. Najdawi, who supported the students

throughout the process, said he was delighted by the team's success. He revealed, "I was extremely impressed by the ideas, functionality and components the students came up with, with little previous experience and in such a short period of time."

"Participating in such competitions is an opportunity for the University to support the society it is a part of, as well as a valuable learning experience for our students. I am delighted we have been able to produce something that will ultimately be of benefit to the wider UAE community."

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR SECURES \$900,000 RESEARCH FUNDING

Grant from Qatar Foundation to support technology for the protection of physical assets



Dr. Adel Ben Mnaouer, Associate Professor of Engineering at CUD, is among a team of academic experts that has secured a \$900,000 grant from the Qatar Foundation to explore the application of sensor technology in protecting physical assets, including historical buildings and offshore facilities.

The project is set to develop an innovative Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) system, using sensor networks, to assess the physical condition of assets such as tunnels, bridges, historical buildings, and underground and offshore construction. The research aims to help maintain a safe and sustainable environment by developing an early warning system that detects and warns of potential structural failures or threats.

Speaking about the significance of the project in preserving the built environment, Dr. Mnaouer said, "Physical assets, particularly those that are ageing, require constant, long-term and continuous monitoring and assessment of their structural health, in order to protect both the structures themselves and the environment around them. The process is especially important in helping to preserve our history and heritage through the monitoring of ageing structures, such as monuments, towers, and older buildings."

The project will deliver the prototypes for an end-to-end solution for SHM, which will be of use by Government agencies and authorities, private construction firms, excavation companies, oil drilling corporations, and historical conservation groups, in their work towards a safe and sustainable environment.

The three year study, which is due to start this Summer, will be funded by the Qatar

Foundation's National Priorities Research Program. This is the third research grant Dr. Mnaouer has been awarded through the highly competitive scheme, which attracts applications from all over the world including the USA, Canada and Europe. The proposal was among only 14% of funded applications in this year's cycle.

Alongside Dr. Mnaouer, the project will bring together a multi-disciplinary team of experts from the Department of Information Engineering at the University of Brescia, Italy, who will be working on the development of the special-purpose SHM sensors; and the College of Engineering at Qatar University, who will work alongside CUD on the networking platforms and radio and wireless communication technologies to support the dissemination of data from sensory devices.

Ultimately, the research is set to benefit a wide range of organizations and institutions that have a stake in the protection and preservation of structures and infrastructure. Dr. Mnaouer concluded, "The project will deliver the prototypes for an end-to-end solution for SHM, which will be of use by Government agencies and authorities, private construction firms, excavation companies, oil drilling corporations, and historical conservation groups, in their work towards a safe and sustainable environment."

MOU WITH CARLETON UNIVERSITY EXTENDS CANADIAN CONNECTIONS

Agreement established to collaborate on new graduate program



CUD has further extended its Canadian connections with the establishment of a new agreement with Ottawa-based Carleton University, to collaborate on the development of a new graduate program in international trade, business and diplomacy. The agreement was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Dr. Karim Chelli, President of CUD, and Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte, President and Vice Chancellor of Carleton University.

Under the five-year agreement, the two organizations will be working closely together on the development of a new master program, which is expected to concentrate on some of the key themes brought about by globalization, including international trade, business and diplomacy. The partnership will also explore the creation of a regional institute in this field.

Carleton University is a well-reputed institution in Canada, hosting over 24,000 students. With strengths in a range of

professionally-focussed disciplines, it is widely-renowned for its leading programs in international affairs.

“In addition to the new graduate program development, this partnership will allow us to explore opportunities for collaborative research projects, personnel and student exchange programs, and the joint development of other academic programs.”

This latest agreement adds to CUD's existing portfolio of Canadian collaborations, which include formal partnership agreements with universities in Canada allowing students to



transfer or complete a semester of study at one of several Canadian institutions.

Speaking about the agreement, Dr. Chelli said, “In addition to the new graduate program development, this partnership will allow us to explore opportunities for collaborative research projects, personnel and student exchange programs, and the joint development of other academic programs. This is an excellent opportunity for CUD to work in collaboration with one of Canada's leading higher education institutions.”

SUSTAINABILITY DAY LOOKS TO A GREENER, SMARTER FUTURE

Stakeholders converge at CUD to discuss sustainability agenda



As Dubai's urbanized area is set to double in the next five years, incorporating sustainability factors in buildings and infrastructure will become a necessity, not a luxury, according to Dubai Municipality's Assistant Director of Planning and Engineering, Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Rafi.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the inaugural Sustainability Day hosted by CUD, Mr. Rafi said that the application of building information modeling technology and the implementation of green building regulations are among the measures that will support the sustainable development of the built environment in the run up to Expo 2020.

The Sustainability Day was organized by the University in collaboration with the Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT) in the context of Dubai's vision for a sustainable, smart city by 2021. The opening ceremony also heard from Mr. Hussain AlFardan, Director of ECAT, Dr. Karim Chelli, President of CUD, and Dr. Hoshiar Nooraddin, Assistant Professor and Conference organizer and Chair.

The unique event brought a wide range of stakeholders – Government, business,

education, as well as high school and university students – to one platform, to debate the sustainability agenda, with particular reference to the challenges in Dubai and the UAE.

The event heard from keynote speakers from the public, private and NGO sectors on subjects ranging from food security and water stress, to the roles of various organizations in driving forward sustainability measures. Alongside the conference was a Sustainability Exhibition, which saw organizations from the transport, energy, agriculture, retail, NGO and Government sectors showcase their own contributions to sustainable development.

The event also put the future custodians of the environment centre-stage in a high school speaking competition that saw teams from nine schools from Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi provide their own insights into the challenges for a sustainable future.

Recycling, sustainable economic development, and the preservation of natural resources were among the topics debated, with Millennium School Dubai student Disha Bobby taking the winner's trophy and AED 7,000 prize money. Haseeb Khan and



Fatima Mamzi, both of Sharjah American International School, took second and third place respectively.

Speaking on behalf of CUD, Dr. Karim Chelli, said, “Through our academic programs, particularly in the School of Environment and Health Sciences, we are playing a part in preparing students to contribute to a sustainable future. We also aim to practice what we preach, and this event further reinforces our commitment to supporting the sustainability aims of Dubai.”

STUDENTS SLEEP ROUGH IN 5 DAYS FOR THE HOMELESS CAMPAIGN

AED 17,500 raised to support humanitarian projects in the region



Students from CUD have given up their home comforts to raise money for citizens displaced by conflict in the region, as part of the University's fourth annual 5 Days for the Homeless campaign.

Seventeen undergraduate students took part in the campaign, which saw the male team members sleep outdoors on the University campus, give up their cellphones and shower facilities, and rely on food donated by members of the community, while attending all their University classes. The girls, meanwhile, took to the campus to raise awareness of the initiative and encourage donations to the cause, which raised AED 17,500 for humanitarian charity Red Crescent.

Taking part in the challenge for the second year, Nigerian student Emmanuel Ojumiri, said, "I was inspired by all those people who were left homeless following the war in my home country several years ago. I wanted to experience some part of what they did, and try to give back in some way."

Among the female participants, Syrian student Jude Kanawati was also inspired by the suffering of people in her home country. She even made use of her musical talents to attract donations for the cause.

Jude said, "We wanted to raise as much money as possible and my father encouraged

“ We wanted to raise as much money as possible and my father encouraged me to think outside the box, so I came up with the idea of playing my violin to attract people and encourage more donations. I was happy to see that it did draw people into the campaign and made a real difference to the funds we raised.

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The 5 Days for The Homeless campaign was founded as a local initiative by students in Alberta, Canada in 2005 and the initiative was taken nation-wide in 2008. Launched and supported by the Student Affairs team, CUD has been participating in the campaign since 2012.

For the students sleeping rough this year,

the final night was both the toughest and the most meaningful, as they were joined by team members from previous years of the campaign. Their spirits were also lifted by a message of support from international humanitarian, Karl Haddad, whose own campaigns have taken him across 44 countries to establish 54 social and environmental initiatives, earning him the Nestle CSR Champion Award 2014.

"It was inspirational to hear from Karl Haddad and learn about everything he has achieved", said Abubakar Garba, another first timer in this year's initiative. While it was fellow newcomer Sulaiman Dayoub who summed up the campaign message saying, "We learnt from Karl that there are so many simple things people can do that can make such a huge difference to many people's lives."



CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE JOIN FORCES IN GREEN ECONOMY INITIATIVE

MoU establishes platform for collaboration on research and training programs



The Centre of Excellence for Innovation and Creativity (CEIC) and Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence (DCCE) have joined forces to take forward a number of collaborative strategies to support the advancement of the green economy in Dubai.

The agreement was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at a recent ceremony hosted at CUD, involving representatives of DCCE and Dubai Education LLC, the parent organization of CEIC.

The partnership will see CEIC sponsor the State of Green Economy Report 2016, including contributing to the success stories and new initiatives featured in the publication. The MoU also establishes a platform for collaboration on DCCE's Green Jobs Programme, with CEIC set to contribute to the qualitative research on green job creation and the skill requirements for the transition to a low carbon economy.

Speaking about the new agreement, Ivano Iannelli, CEO of Dubai Carbon Centre of

Excellence said, "We are looking forward to this partnership with Dubai Education. It is a job half done when the necessary information and research required to augment our various programmes will be provided by Dubai Education, all we have to do is execute it accordingly so it benefits Dubai in more than one way."

Dr. Karim Chelli, CEO of Dubai Education LLC, and President of CUD added, "At Dubai Education, we firmly believe in investing in the development of future leaders. Education is the strongest tool we have to influence young minds. Working with the DCCE Green Jobs Programme, we are confident that we can help motivate our students to be tomorrow's leaders."

Established in 2011, DCCE works in close collaboration with Governmental entities to help facilitate the transition of Dubai and the UAE to a low carbon economy, through the creation of sustainable business strategies and solutions. The new partnership is expected build upon the existing portfolio of both

organizations in relation to the green economy, green jobs and education for sustainable development, by establishing a framework for long-term cooperation in research, training and youth employment.

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DESIGN COMPETITION CONNECTS CULTURES THROUGH CREATIVITY

Unity between Canada and the Middle East inspires winning entry



The symbolic connecting of cultures was the inspiration for students Nida Ahmed and Shaikh Uzair in their winning entry at the recent CUD Exhibition Stand Design Competition.

Organized by the School of Architecture and Interior Design, the competition called upon students to come up with a contemporary exhibition stand design, with a focus on sustainability, innovation and functionality. Eleven teams involving 22 students submitted their designs for the contest, with Nida and Shaikh taking first place for their concept, which was directly inspired by the University's logo.

Nida explained, "The logo shows a symbolic unity between Canada and the Middle East through the combining of a maple leaf and a palm tree. For the stand design, we abstracted this symbol to create a modern interpretation of the notion of connectivity, which also represents the multicultural nature of the University itself."

Nida, an Interior Design student, and Shaikh, who is studying for a Bachelor of Architecture, received their winners' certificates and AED 3,000 prize money from University President, Dr. Karim Chelli, at an award ceremony honouring all of those students who took part.

The competition finale saw all the entries



come to life with scaled models being placed on display as the contest winners were announced. The competition runners up Sultan Rashid, Safiya Yahaya and Sheldon Fonseca, along with third place team Sadaf Sabeti, Mnuara Zubaidildayeva, and Ali Sourghali also received their winners' certificates, along with AED 2,000 and AED 1,000 respectively in prize money.

The award ceremony was the culmination of a month-long concept development, design and assembly process that was launched at the School's Interior Design Day event held in March. The event also included both student and company design exhibitions and hosted a presentation about exhibition design from Mr. Dorian Pauwels, Partner and Executive Director of IkonHouse.

Mr. Serkan Gunay, Assistant Professor and

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Chair in the School of Architecture and Interior Design commented, "This is the second time we have organized a student competition in the University alongside our Interior Design Day.

"The student's participation this year has been very good in terms of the quality of the works and their level of design. It has also been very encouraging to see early years students participating and demonstrating the level of skill required to compete in a contest such as this.

Both the competition and the Interior Design Day event provide excellent opportunities for our students to engage with companies and interact with design professional before they graduate, and the level of participation among Interior Design students was very positive indeed."

ACCREDITATION ACHIEVEMENTS FOR NEW AND ESTABLISHED PROGRAM

Flagship MBA re-accredited and new Associate Degree introduced



CUD continues to uphold its reputation for quality and innovation with the recent award of new and repeat accreditations from the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA).

The University's flagship Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree has received re-accreditation from the CAA, demonstrating that the program continues to deliver a curriculum of international standing, in a learning environment that meets the rigorous quality standards of the national authority.

The MBA program received initial accreditation in 2008 and has since emerged as one of the leading professional business education programs in the region. The degree offers students the opportunity to specialize in one of five concentrations – General Management, Marketing, Finance, Human Resource Management and Islamic Banking – and now has more than 1,200 graduates to its name.

Meanwhile, the University demonstrates its ongoing commitment to meeting the emerging education and continuing professional development needs of the UAE economy with the introduction of a new Associate Degree in Food Safety.

“With the increasing awareness and expectations among consumers over food safety, and the comprehensive regulations implemented by the UAE Government, our aim in introducing this program is to help meet the growing demand for professionals who have the right knowledge and skills to operate in this specialized field.”

The newly accredited program will add to CUD's existing portfolio of courses in environmental and health sciences, and will deliver academic training in food control and food safety to professionals in the UAE's growing hospitality sector.

Dr. Rami El Khatib, Chair of the School of Environment and Health Sciences, explained, "Food safety is one of today's major issues in environmental health management and something that affects people the world over.

"With the increasing awareness and expectations among consumers over food safety, and the comprehensive regulations implemented by the UAE Government, our aim in introducing this program is to help meet the growing demand for professionals who have the right knowledge and skills to operate in this specialized field."

RESEARCH INITIATIVES TAKE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PROMOTE WELLBEING

Unique studies explore methods to support social and ecological welfare

Two researchers from CUD's School of General Education are using their expertise to research novel ways to promote human and environmental wellbeing.

Assistant Professor, Dr. Louise Lambert, in collaboration with academic colleagues from the UAE, Canada and the USA, has recently published research findings to show that positive psychology can help support the growth of a nation.

The paper, entitled 'Developing an Indigenous Positive Psychology in the United Arab Emirates' proposes that 'a positive psychology approach leverages inherent, yet often neglected, social, cultural, and religious strengths to mobilize growth.'



Positive psychology is a forward-looking framework that involves interventions to promote positive outlooks, emotions and behaviors that ultimately enable individuals to flourish.

Positive psychology is a forward-looking framework that involves interventions to promote positive outlooks, emotions and behaviors that ultimately enable individuals to flourish. While it is still a relatively new practice, there is a growing body of evidence to show how it can improve well-being, and lead to a self-perpetuating positive cycle of optimal performance, so much so that some governments are now incorporating such strategies into national policy.

The research findings feature in the newly-launched Middle East Journal of Positive Psychology™, which was conceived by Dr.

Lambert to synchronize the work of scholars and practitioners and to establish a critical mass of regional research in this emerging field.

Meanwhile, Associate Professor, Dr. Marwan Shaban has drawn upon a miracle portrayed in the Holy Quran for his latest research project, which examines the antiseptic and curative qualities of pumpkin.

The study is inspired by the Quranic account of Jonah, who, after being expelled from the belly of a whale, benefitted from the nutritional and healing properties of the pumpkin to aid in his recovery. The research will be conducted in partnership with the University of Malaysia Perlis, and will investigate the qualities of pumpkin, with a view to developing a new, organic form of pesticide that can replace traditional chemical treatments.

Dr. Shaban explained, "The research will apply nanotechnology techniques to test the effect

The research will apply nanotechnology techniques to test the effect of the pumpkin properties on insects, and to explore if they could be synthesized to create a new bio product that would function as an effective pesticide, but without the unwanted side effects that often come with chemical solutions.

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CUD DEAN COLLABORATES ON DUBAI-BASED CHILDREN'S BOOK

A first of its kind adventure inspired by the challenges of expat life



Fun, entertaining and yet imbuing deep moral lessons, 'Batbut' celebrates the beautiful city of Dubai and its adventures through the experiences of a duckling as it learns the nuances of life and achieves its dreams.

Written by award-winning filmmaker, musician, writer and Dean of Communication and Media Studies, Dr. Franziska Apprich, in collaboration with Dr. Kathy O'Sullivan, 'Batbut' is a first of its kind book for young children, published in Dubai.

My story is the same as many other expats in Dubai. I came looking for inspiration, and a new adventure, but not really knowing what I was going to find. It can take a while to settle in, embrace a different culture and appreciate a different view of the world, but ultimately taking a risk is a rewarding experience, and that's the main message in the story.



The book aims to encourage young minds to think, love and relate to life as they grow up. Children will connect and be mesmerised by the colourful adventures of the brave duckling Batbut as it explores the exhilarating and magnetic world of Dubai, while adults will relate to the character's struggles and rewards of setting up life in a city of dreams.

Inspired by her own experience of moving to Dubai, Dr. Apprich created Batbut to tell a story of setting out into the world, daring to dream and explore, overcoming obstacles and most importantly, making new friends.

She Said, "My story is the same as many other expats in Dubai. I came looking for inspiration, and a new adventure, but not really knowing what I was going to find. It can take a while to settle in, embrace a different culture and appreciate a different view of the world, but ultimately taking a risk is a rewarding experience, and that's the main message in the story."

The book seeks to nurture children's imagination and spark creativity, while teaching them to follow their dreams no matter what. Providing lessons in life, 'Batbut' also opens up the concept of the city's different cultures and iconic landmarks – examples of what can be achieved with hard work.

Written in both English and Arabic, the engaging story is set to appeal to a wide variety of readers – young and old alike.

200 STUDENTS TAKE ON 100-WORD CHALLENGE

12 institutions participate in 5th annual competition

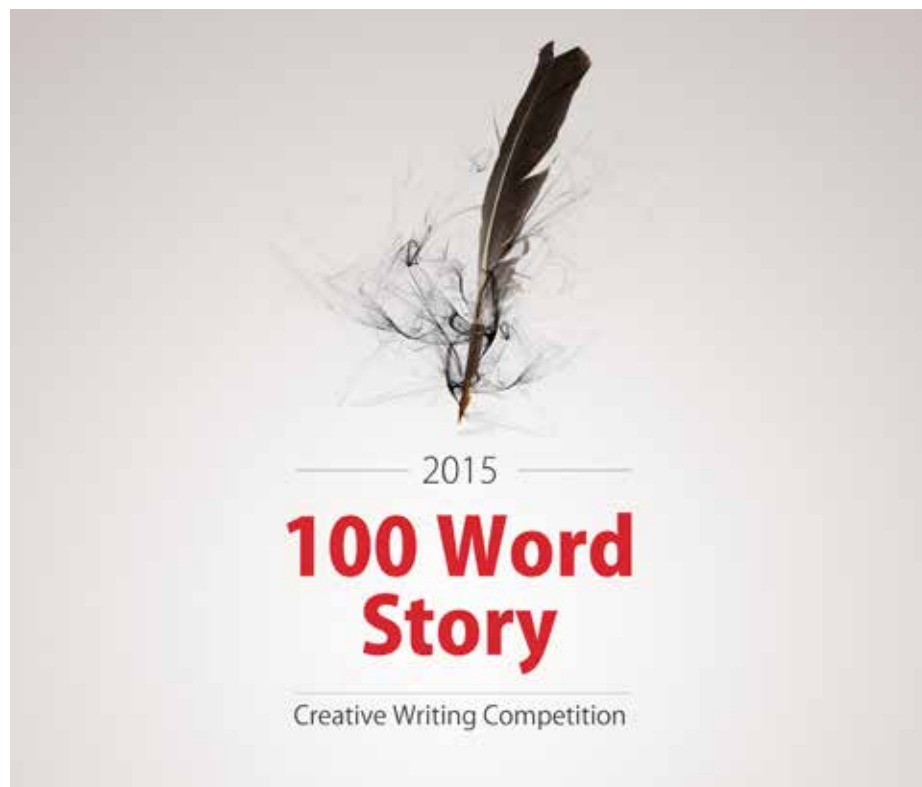
More than 200 students have taken part in this year's edition of the CUD creative writing competition, which challenges university and high school students to pen original and imaginative tales in exactly 100 words.

Coordinated by student Naureen Patne with the support of Student Services, CUD's 5th annual 100 Word Writing Competition saw participants from six universities and six high schools compete across four different categories, to showcase their imagination and creativity through the written word. The winners were honoured at an award ceremony hosted by Naureen, where the top 10 entrants recited their thought-provoking stories of dreams, terror, family, fate and love.

Taking first place in the High School Category was Hrithik Lakhiani of Delhi Private School (DPS), Sharjah, with a haunting tale entitled 'The Office Was Finally Quiet Today'. Second and third places in the category were also awarded to students from DPS, with Daksha Gehani taking the runner-up prize for her sentimental story 'Cold Hands, Warm Heart', while Aasha Eapen's reflection on thought and conversation, 'The Things Dearest', won her third place in the category.

In the University competition, CUD student Hala Naser Alnsour was awarded the top prize for her darkly humoured tale 'A Fair Compromise', while second place went to Aishma Raghu from BITS Pilani with her entry 'Neighbors' and third place was awarded to Zarak Rana from UOWD for his story 'Afterglow'. With his mysterious tale 'A Cruise Ship met with an Accident', CUD student Abdullah Musa received first prize in the English for Academic Purposes category.

This year's contest saw the introduction of a new category, which gave students under the age of 12 the opportunity to showcase their writing talents in a special competition of their own. The top three entrants in this inaugural event all hailed from DPS, with Angela Anna Jossy taking first place with her



“

Writing a story in 100 words is a difficult challenge; it's actually 10 times harder than producing 1,000 words and 100 times harder than writing 10,000 words – you can't afford to waste a single one. I have been amazed by the standard of entries this year, particularly from the young participants.

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touching tale entitled 'The Best Invention of All Time', while Ashlin Roji's entry 'My Dream' was awarded the runner-up prize and Prerna Pai received third place for her story 'Fate'.

Each of the competition categories was assessed by a panel of eight internal judges, alongside Dubai-based professional authors, Ms. Kathy Shalhoub and Mr. Alexander McNabb, both of whom were on-hand at the award ceremony to share their experience

with the audience of budding authors.

Mr. McNabb paid tribute to all the contestants saying, "Writing a story in 100 words is a difficult challenge; it's actually 10 times harder than producing 1,000 words and 100 times harder than writing 10,000 words – you can't afford to waste a single one. I have been amazed by the standard of entries this year, particularly from the young participants."

100 Word Story - Winners

HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY

The Office Was Finally Quiet Today

Hrithik Lakhiani

Delhi Private School

The office was finally quiet today and a smile slowly crept up my face. It was so calm and peaceful without all the people shouting and swearing the whole day. I liked this place now. I decide to finally go home and enjoy a good day's work. Get some sleep maybe.

I push the large bag into the garbage chute on my way out. That was the last body to dispose of. I wipe the blood off my fingers, right as I push the button to call the elevator.

The office was finally quiet today. And I really like it.

UNIVERSITY CATEGORY

A Fair Compromise

Hala Naser Alnsour

Canadian University Dubai

She married him for his money and he married her for her looks; a fair compromise. Down the road, she fell in love with him and had two beautiful children. Thinking she still wanted his money, he worked longer hours to avoid losing her. She was too gorgeous to lose. A decade of marriage flew by, he became a billionaire and her wrinkles crawled out. Her belly hung with motherly happiness. He blamed the stress as an excuse to leave her, although he was never home. He left her for her looks, she got all his money; a fair compromise.



ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES CATEGORY

A Cruise Ship Met With an Accident

Abdullah Musa

Canadian University Dubai

A cruise ship met with an accident, at this moment, the man pushed the woman behind him and jumped on the boat himself with a life jacket.

The lady stood on the sinking ship and shouted one sentence to her husband. The teacher stopped and asked, "What do you think she shouted?"

Most of the students raised their hands and excitedly answered, I hate you! I remained very quiet.

Now, the teacher noticed a boy who was silent throughout, she asked him to answer and he replied, "Teacher, I believe she would have shouted - Take care of our child!"

SPECIAL CATEGORY – UNDER 12s

The Best Invention of All Time

Angela Anna Jossy

Delhi Private School

A little angel flew by and went and sat on God's shoulders. She saw that God was busy.

'What are you making, dear God?'

'A new invention, dear. An invention greater than the others, called a Father.'

'What is a Father, God?'

'A Father will be a person whose joy lies in the joy of his loved ones. He can be strict on certain matters but at heart he will be soft and gentle. He will not mind giving every drop of his blood to keep his family safe and happy. He will be the best invention of all time.'

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