

ELC Celebrates Cultural Day

The English Language Centre recently held a Cultural Day Celebration showcasing exhibits from various countries represented by ELC teachers, technicians, and Omani students. The celebration included pop quiz, country exhibits, cultural songs and dances, and many others. The event started with a program at the college multi-purpose hall, after which a parade led by a teacher playing Scottish bagpipes was done from the multi-purpose hall to the exhibit venue in the ELC building. The festivities were attended by college officials led by the College Dean, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ghassani.

Among the countries who participated in the country culture exhibit include Canada, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, USA, and Oman. Native delicacies, costumes and clothing, photos of culture, traditions and scenic spots, as well as various country symbols are some of those exhibited in different halls. Native songs and dances were also performed by some of the participants for the benefit of the audience.



IT Club 1st Technical Session

The IT Club held its 1st Technical Session for the current semester at the MPH last February 16. The event was also attended by Mr. Sami Mustafa, Hod of IT.

The technical session was organized by IT Club leaders to provide information to all students on the latest technology (such as "laptop in pen", MacBook Air and Google Maps) in the IT field thereby keeping its members abreast with the latest trends and technologies.

A technology competition was also held during the technical session which was won by Shaima Al-Amri, Nasra Al-Suleimani and Fatma Al-Amri



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many others. After lunch, four workshops were conducted to further provide participants with knowledge and insights about teaching and learning that are being advocated in different colleges in the Sultanate.

The second day of the symposium started with the Empathy Workshop, facilitated by the HoD of Business Studies department of NCT, Dr. Imran Hameed Khan. In the workshop, participants are paired and one is asked to be blindfolded. The pairs are then requested to roam around the immediate vicinity of the venue with one guiding his/her blindfolded partner. The facilitator intimated that through this experiment, the teachers would know how to better understand the learners, whether through giving instructions (teaching) or whether in listening (for instructions). Dr. Imran said that through this, teachers could better appreciate the needs of their students in the teaching-learning process, and thus become better listeners to produce more effective teaching approaches. More paper presentations followed Dr. Imran's workshop in the second day of the symposium.

The symposium ended with a closing ceremony, generalizing the outputs and recommendations of the two-day event. Certificates were also given to the presenters. The two-day event was attended by more than two hundred participants from various colleges in the Sultanate.



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Nizwa College of Technology holds 2nd Best Teaching and Training Practices Symposium

Nizwa College of Technology held a two-day symposium on "Best Teaching and Training Practices in Colleges of Technology" last April 8th and 9th at the college campus in Nizwa. The two-day activity was attended by academicians and lecturers from the seven colleges of technology in the Sultanate, as well as other experts from other higher educational institutions such as the various colleges of applied sciences. Engr. Omar Mahmood Al-Mahrizi, Manager of Human Resources Development and Training of Oman Oil Refinery Company, provided the keynote speech at the opening program. The launch of the NCT College ID, a video presentation describing the advocacies and approaches of NCT towards teaching and learning, was also done in the opening program, and was well-received by the audience.

In his keynote speech, Engr. Omar Al-Mahrizi described the competency-based training framework he is currently trying to get implemented in technological and vocational fields in the Sultanate. Engr. Omar talked about the present state of technical manpower in Oman, as well as strategies adopted

by companies to boost Omanization. He also gave a detailed description on how companies can train their local employees so that the Sultanate could become sustainable with its own manpower quickly and effectively.

The opening program of the symposium also became the platform for the launching of the College ID, an eight minute video clip that shows the college as a vibrant organization with established systems and facilities that are reflected in both its staff and students. The video presentation also showed various college units such as the library, the ELC, the ETC, as well as its academic departments. It also showcased the technologies being used in the college for teaching, learning and administrative activities. One of the highlights of the video presentation is the showing of various teaching and training methods currently being implemented in the college. This was done by following a specific teaching and learning strategy in the college which was explained in the video. The opening programme was followed by several paper presentations in various topics such as class management, best teaching practices, e-learning, and

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IT Department Holds Class Management Workshop

The IT Department conducted a Class Management Workshop initiated by the HoD, Mr. Sami Mustafa, at the MPH last February 16. The said workshop was participated by Dr. Bader Khalaf, Asst. Dean for Academic Affairs, Mr. N.K. Nair, HoD of Engineering, and all IT Staff.

The aim of this workshop is to share the best practices in class management by which staff can practice to further improve the teaching and learning process in the College. In the said workshop, Mr. Sami discussed various techniques in class management and the participants provided different ideas and experiences in managing classes. Dr. Bader also provided recommendations on the importance of class participation and conveyed his happiness about the initiative of the department in conducting the workshop.



American students visit NCT

A group of exchange students from various US colleges visited the college last April 6 as part of their cultural study of the region. The students first made a courtesy meeting with the College Dean, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ghassani. During the meeting with the Dean, the students are offered traditional Omani delicacies as well as the local Omani coffee, which the students took with relish. They then engaged in a short discussion with some college officials where they asked questions about the college, Nizwa, and the Omani environment and culture in general.

After the meeting with college officials, a group of local students from Engineering and Business Studies departments provided the visitors with a brief presentation of the college at the MPH. They then proceeded to the Business Studies department where a traditional exhibition was prepared exclusively for them.

The exchange students then chose classes in different

departments to attend to. They also visited various facilities of the college, including laboratories and workshops, and compare notes with local students to enrich their understanding of the local education system as well as local customs and traditions.



NCT Staff Visits Abraj LLC

Mr. Ismail Al-Riyami, Head of the OJT Department, and Mr. Issa Al-Toubi, lecturer in Engineering, recently visited one of the oil rigs of Abraj LLC in Fahud, Wadi Musallam. The visit is done to get updates on the progress of on-the-job training of NCT students who are currently doing their OJT in the said company.

During the visit, the college team had a dialogue with Mr. Yasir Al-Khalidi, the Abraj company staff who serves as the OJT supervisor for the students. Some of the issues that were discussed were the level of college students, the type of training being provided by the company, and the possible future cooperation activities between the company and the college. The college team also had a dialogue with the OJT students. The students intimated their satisfaction with the training that they receive as well as their appreciation of the training site.

During the whole day visit of the two staff from the college, they were acquainted with the training duration of the students as well as the type of training designed for students at each site in the oil rig. Before the end of the visit, ways on how to improve this kind of training for future batches of students were discussed as well as exchange visits between the personnel of two organizations.



2 CAT Students Of Business Department Secured First Place In Acca Exam

Two Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) students of the Business Department have secured First Place in the examinations held in Muscat by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), United Kingdom.

Ms. Zainab Ali Said Al Rawahi of CAT Batch 3 secured First Place in the Introductory Level Final Examinations with aggregate marks of 85% last December 4, 2008 while Ms. Badriya Nasser Khamis Al Hadhrami of CAT Batch 2 secured First Place in the first attempt of Advanced Level Final Examination for paper T7 last December 2, 2008.

The College, headed by the Dean, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ghasani congratulated the two students for their excellent performance in the examinations.

The List of Successful examinees are as follows:

Batch 2 Students

Badriya Nasser Khamis Al Hadhrami
Waleed Mohammed Yaqoob AlBusaidi
Mubarak Hudeb Juma Al Kharusi
Khulood Abdurrahman Khalifa Al Shukaili
Hind Rashid Essa Al Mamari
Fatma Sarhan Omair Al Fahdi
Laila Abdullah Musalam Al Aamri
Ibtisam Mohammed Harib Al Shukaili

Batch 3 Students

Zainab Ali Said Al Rawahi
Haitham Saud Saif Al Sabhi
Hajar Ali Mohamed Al Rashdi
Fatma Siyad Ali Mohamed
Zeinab Muslem Eid Al Amry
Salima Salim 'Obaid Al Ma' ni
Samah Said Mohamed Al Kindi
Maya Juma Heleit Al 'Abri
Hamdam Mohammed Al Amri



New and Upgraded Engineering Laboratories In Full Gear

Part of the development plan of the engineering department is the establishment of new laboratories to commensurate with the needs of the engineering curriculum. This semester, engineering students can benefit from the two new laboratories built, namely the Welding Shop and the Computer Networks Laboratory. The Engineering Materials Laboratory is also recently upgraded.

A new Welding shop is now being utilized by engineering students for projects and enhancement practical training. This welding shop has its own sprinkler system, fire hydrant and fume hoods. It has a very spacious and enclosed store to keep the materials and tools in a secured manner. Also, the spacious and open air environment makes it conducive for welding works.

Mr. Salah Salim, a mechanical engineering student, said that the new welding shop makes him feel safe to work during practical classes. According to him it is neat, spacious and very comfortable.

Mr. Saravanan, Head of Section of Mechanical Engineering, said that many new items of equipment will be arriving soon.

The Computer Networks Laboratory is provided with different computer networking equipment from Lab Tech. In this laboratory, simulations of computer networks can be undertaken. Students can study and practice different computer network configurations. The laboratory is also used for imparting Enhancement Practical Training for Computer Engineering students.

Now, the Engineering Materials Laboratory has new equipment installed and some are still on-going installation for the total upgrade of this laboratory for this semester. Currently, this laboratory is located in the same area as the Instrumentation Laboratory but according to Mr. N. K. R. Nair, Head of Engineering, a separate Engineering Materials Laboratory is planned in the near future.

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