Independence Day Celebration

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Independence Day celebrations

Pakistan’s 61st Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervor by the UMT management, faculty members and students on August 14, 2008. Special Independence Day celebrations were organized at the purpose-built UMT campus which was decorated with large banners depicting the Pakistani flag. Streamers were hung on poles inside the campus. A special message (felicitating the nation on its 61st Independence Day) was displayed on a billboard at the route leading to the University at Ghausia Chowk. The campus building was adorned with special lights on Independence Eve and it was a sight worth seeing.

Independence Day celebrations began with the flag hoisting ceremony by Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT. A contingent of UMT security guards escorted Dr Hasan and Abid II K Shirwani, Director External Affairs, for the flag hoisting. A stage had been set near the flag where a group of students dressed in white and green symbolizing the national flag, sang the national anthem.

A special program was planned to commemorate the huge sacrifices made by our forefathers in order to secure an independent homeland for us. Hafiz Umar Iqbal from OPA coordinated the program. Muhammad Nauman and Qurat Ul Ain hosted the program that began by recitation of a few verses from the Holy Quran by Qari Abdul Basit. This was followed by audio of kalam-e-Iqbal. National songs were also presented by students. Irfan Ahmed Mirza and Syed Qamber Haider presented a skit conceived, written and directed by them which was very well received by the audience. Performers included Rizwan Ahmed, Ali Akbar, Raza Hasan, Qamar Hasan, Bilal Abdul Wahid and Muneeb Shahid. The story revolved around the fictional reawakening of the spirit of a young man who gave his life for the cause of Pakistan in 1947 and ends up meeting a politician, teacher, students and a religious scholar. However, he is completely disillusioned by them. At the end, he prays to the Almighty for the safety of the homeland. Another political parody was presented by Usman Zaheer Malik, Isman Pervaiz and Abdul Qadir. It was also appreciated by the audience.

Sara Khan, one of our students, made a speech that touched upon the problems facing our country. She spoke about the socio-economic and political issues confronting the nation. Her speech was well received by the audience who felt that it was refreshing to hear a representative of the young generation speak about the issues that will shape the future of the country.

Dr Hasan also spoke on the occasion. His speech was inspiring and thought provoking. He presented his analysis of the direction that Pakistan was heading in the light of his experiences. He also reaffirmed his and the University’s commitment towards the cause of learning. Dr Hasan announced that Sundays would be a free learning day for all students irrespective of where they were studying. Lectures on various topics would be offered to them to augment their knowledge. He also announced scholarships for students coming from remote areas to enable them to benefit from quality education at a premier institution of higher learning like UMT. He added that class 9-10 students from schools of other educational institutions would be invited and provided leadership training with a view to building a pool of future leaders for nation-building. The ceremony came to a close after a collector’s prayer for the development of the country by all the participants. The prayer was conducted by Muhammad Umar and Uhaidullah Syed. The ceremony was attended by Rana Hifikhar Ahmad, GM-OPA, A G Ghaflari, Director Events, Forum and Publishing (EFM), Dr Zafar Iqbal, Dean SSH, Prof Abid Samad, Col Rehmat Sohail Hussain, Manager University Development, Erfan Kureshi, Head OCM and other distinguished guests. A large number of students were also present on the occasion. The Independence Day celebrations were organized by the Office of Participants Affairs (OPA) with the active cooperation of the Office of Facilities Management (OFM) and the Office of Communications and Media (OCM). All of them deserve our commendation for organizing the event so well and for providing a platform that allowed everyone to reaffirm their loyalty to Pakistan. It is heartening to note the active participation of the students in these celebrations. Their involvement is a source of pride for the University and a ray of hope in these challenging times.

Needless to say, if our students are proud of their Pakistan identity and culture, then the future holds promise for our nation.
The University of Management and Technology (UMT) arranged a memorial lecture on July 6, 2008 at the Aiwan-e-Iqbal Auditorium, Lahore to commemorate the services rendered by the late Khurram Murad who occupies a place of distinction in the intellectual firmament of contemporary Islam. An avid thinker and a prolific writer, he is regarded as one of the architects of the current Islamic resurgence in Asia, Europe and Africa.

Leading Islamic thinker and scholar, Dr Tariq Said Ramadan, delivered the keynote address on “Islam in the 21st century – the struggle within”. A G Ghaffari, Director Events, Forums and Publishing (EFP), hosted the event. The lecture was attended by noted educators, intellectuals, dignitaries, distinguished guests from the public and private sector organizations, and members of the general public. A large number of students, University officials and members of the faculty also attended the lecture.

In his welcome address, Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT, thanked Dr Ramadan for gracing the occasion with his presence. Paying tribute to his father, the late Khurram Murad, Dr Hasan said that his life was spent in the service of Islam. He added that Islam wanted to make the minds of Muslims not only a repository of memory but a source of enquiry and intuition, intellect and ideas. He observed that the future of the Muslim Ummah depended critically on unleashing the creativity and creative talents of Muslims.

Irfan Gillani, eminent scholar from Denmark and Guest of Honor, also spoke on the occasion and introduced Dr Tariq Ramadan. He gave a background of the conditions faced by the Muslims at the beginning of the 20th century in terms of their intellectual stagnation and explained Islamic resurgence that became visible at the turn of the century. He stressed that the challenge was to make Islam a living reality in the modern world.

In his keynote address, Dr Tariq said that Muslims were responsible for serving humanity as they were the followers of the Prophet. He pointed out that the greatest spiritual and intellectual challenge facing the Muslim communities today was to come to terms with the diversity among themselves and be self critical instead of being emotional. On an important note, he added that it was easier to be united against rather than be united for the cause of religion itself. He said that while there could be no dispute on the Quran and Hadith, secondary issues could be the subject of discourse.

Dr Ramadan asked everyone to understand that there was only one Islam but there were different cultures among the Muslims. The Arabic language he said, was the language of the Quran but the Arabic culture was not the culture of Islam and the diversity of cultures needed to be accepted by all Muslims. Dr Ramadan pointed out the problem of not accepting and celebrating the diversity within Islam. The deterrents to accepting diversity included lack of understanding, lack of critical debate and lack of accepting authority. The thought provoking analysis by Dr Ramadan inspired all those who were present and this was demonstrated by the informed question and answer session that was held after the lecture.

Dr Rafique Ahmed, former Vice Chancellor Punjab University, also addressed the gathering. He was of the view that Muslims living in the west faced tremendous challenges. He stressed the importance of tolerance within Muslim communities in order to cope with the diversity of cultures within Islam. Dr Abdul Rashid Kausar, Pro-Rector UMT, gave a vote of thanks at the end. Souvenirs were also presented to the distinguished guests at the end of the ceremony.

The memorial lecture touched upon some of the most pressing issues facing Muslim communities across the globe. We hope that the inspiring talk by the distinguished speaker enlightened all those who attended. It is very important to spread such awareness among ordinary Muslims in order to prepare them to cope with the challenges of our times.

The University of Management and Technology (UMT) arranged a Quality Awareness and Self Assessment Workshop in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on May 28-29, 2008 in the university campus. The workshop was attended by senior faculty members, Vice Chancellors and Deans from twenty-two private sector universities that have been awarded the top ranked “W” category by the HEC.

The two-day workshop was organized by Dr Abdul Raouf, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Professor and Advisor UMT, and Dr Riaz Hussain Qureshi, Advisor QA & LI, HEC. It was jointly conducted by Dr Abdul Raouf and Salman Saed Qureshi, Registrar UMT. Distinguished faculty members who represented UMT in the workshop included Dr Faheem Uddin, Head Department of Education, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Dr Fabeen Uddin, Department of Textiles, School of Science and Technology (SST) and Assistant Prof Ijaz Yousuf, School of Business and Economics (SBE).

The criteria and standards given in the Self Assessment Manual of HEC were discussed in detail during the course of the workshop. The participants were highly satisfied by the outcome of the workshop as its interactive nature facilitated the exchange of ideas and information, and also provided a forum where highly respected academicians could discuss ways and means to bring about significant improvements in the educational setup of private universities.

The workshop concluded with renewed commitment on the part of the representatives from the participating universities to ensure quality assurance in higher education and the institutions that have sprung up to fill their needs. This opening up of higher education has created a new paradigm that offers great opportunities for both learners and educators. However, educational programs and institutions must be carefully monitored and evaluated to ensure quality. We hope that the steps taken by UMT and HEC to provide a forum for discussing such issues will be followed by concrete proposals for reform and corrective measures where required.
8th meeting of the Board of Governors (BOG) of UMT

The 8th meeting of the Board of Governors (BOG) of the University of Management and Technology (UMT) was held on May 14, 2008 at the University campus in Johar Town, Lahore. The meeting was chaired by Senator Prof Khurshid Ahmed, LL General (Retd) Muhammad Akram, Vice Chancellor, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Dr Ijaz Shafq Gillani, Chairman, Gallup, Dr M D Shami, Vice President, Islamic Academy of Sciences, A Z Faruqui, Ex-Federal Secretary Education, Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT, Dr Abdul Raouf, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Distinguished National Professor of HEC, and Akbar Ali Shoukat, nominee of Secretary Education. Besides reviewing progress of the university, the Board appointed Pro-Rector, Dean School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Heads of Academic Departments and full time faculty members. The Board lauded efforts of the Rector and his team for erecting the purpose-built campus and for securing the World category from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

11th Hajj draw held at UMT

The University of Management and Technology (UMT) provides for the spiritual well being of its staff and arranges for one of its employees to go for Hajj. For this purpose a Hajj Draw is conducted every year. The 11th Hajj Draw was held at UMT on June 13, 2008. Prof Dr Abdul Raouf, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, conducted the draw and announced the name of the winner.

Our best wishes are with Syed Fowad Manzoor for the journey to the holy land. We congratulate him on winning the Hajj draw and hope that he will remember all of us in his prayers during the pilgrimage.

A view of the 8th meeting of the Board of Governors

Dr A R Kausar appointed Pro-Rector

Professor Dr Abdul Rashid Kausar has been appointed as Pro-Rector by the Board of Governors with effects from May 19, 2008 for a renewable period of three years. The UMT community congratulates Dr Kausar on his appointment and wishes him well in his new role and responsibilities. He has been one of the most dedicated and productive members of the community and has earned the respect of both his colleagues and students over the years. His appointment as Pro-Rector has been widely welcomed by the UMT community. Dr A Rashid Kausar’s teaching, training and tutoring interests are in elucidation, design and development of Tacit and Explicit Knowledge Based Systems, Virtual Learning and Education System, and Leading / Managing the Arts and Science of Knowledge Work. He has a vast corporate experience in Quality Systems, Consultancy and Training. He has provided consulting services to various national and multinational organizations. He has more than twenty-five years of academic and research experience at university level in USA, Canada, Middle East, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. He has been supervising PhD and M Phil candidates and has more than thirty published research articles to his credit in American, European and Pakistan journals.

A G Ghaffari appointed Director UMT-Events, Forums and Publishing

A G Ghaffari has been appointed by the Board of Governors as Director UMT-Events, Forums and Publishing for tenure of three years effective from May 19, 2008. He has a rich management experience spanning over a decade. A G Ghaffari joined ILM in 1995. During his association with ILM/UMT, he served at strategic positions and was a member of all the important forums including the Academic Council and Executive Council. He was also the first Secretary of the Board of Advance Studies and Research at the Institute of Management and Technology, which was later upgraded to UMT. He has an MBA degree and a Marketing major from the University of the Punjab. He has also taught Management of Organizations at bachelor honors level. He represented ILM/UMT at various levels and forums and traveled to Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Nepal. UMT-Events, Forums and Publishing (EFP) is a new division established to provide meaningful avenues for the UMT faculty and students to disseminate research work, and interact and conduct dialogue with academicians, business practitioners and public policy makers alike. The EFP Division will be responsible to organize wide events at both national and international level, work with professional bodies and associations, and also to publish UMT research journals and proceedings of mega events and research conferences. EFP Division will work in close coordination with all the UMT Schools to establish UMT as a convergence point for the world of scholarship. Essentially, the Division will partner with the Schools and Faculty in dissemination of their thoughts, research work, and innovation. It will facilitate the Schools and Departments in planning and implementing their strategies for holding conferences, collaborate with professional associations, and organize networking events with their colleagues in relevant areas. We wish A G Ghaffari every success in his new role and responsibilities.

Academic appointments at UMT

This time we have a host of appointments in various academic positions in the University. UMT is progressing at a rapid pace and this obviously requires expansion in its pool of academicians. We congratulate our colleagues on becoming a part of the UMT community and wish them well in their professional responsibilities. A brief round up of these appointments follows for the benefit of our readers.

School of Social Sciences and Humanities

Academic Department Heads

The following members of faculty have been appointed as Heads of Academic Departments for a renewable period of three years with effect from the dates mentioned against their names.

- Dr Uzma Qureshi, Associate Professor, has been appointed Head, Department of Education, with effect from June 1, 2007.
- Dr Muhammad Amin, Professor, has been appointed Head, Department of Islamic Sciences and Civilizations, with effect from May 1, 2008.

Members of faculties

The following members of faculties have been appointed by the Boards of Governors with effect from February 1, 2008.

- Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Professor, Department of Education.
- Dr Qurbi Khan, Professor, Department of English Language and Literature
- Malik Nazir Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and literature
- Dr Muhammad Amin, Professor, Department of Islamic Sciences and Civilization
- Dr Tahir Mustafa, Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Sciences and Civilization

School of Science and Technology

Academic Department Heads

These members of faculty have been appointed as Heads of Academic Departments for a renewable period of three years with effect from the dates mentioned against their names.

- Dr M Ferozq Alam, Professor, has been appointed Head, Department of Electrical Engineering with effect from February 1, 2008.
- Dr Abdul Aziz, Professor, has been appointed Head, Department of Computer Science with effect from February 1, 2008.
- Dr Faeem Uddin, Associate Professor, has been appointed Head, Department of Textile with effect from May 1, 2008.
- Prof Dr Ehsan Elahi Khawaja has been appointed as Head, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences with effect from September 1, 2006.

Members of faculties

The Board of Governors (BOG) has appointed the following members of faculties with effect from February 1, 2008.

- Dr Ferozq Alam, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering
- Dr Abdul Aziz Bhatti, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering
- Zaheer Hussain Shah, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Syed Khawar Nadeem Kirmani, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

School of Business and Economics

The following members of faculties have been appointed by the Board of Governors (BOG) with effect from February 1, 2008.

- Dr Abdul Rauf Butt, Professor, Department of Finance and Economics
- Bilal Khalid, Assistant Professor, Department of Finance and Economics
- Asad Awan, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain
- Asher Ramesh, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain
- Ijaz Yousaf, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain
- Amer Akeem, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration

Renewal of contracts at UMT

The UMT community will be glad to know that the term of appointment of Erfan Kureshi as Head, Office of Communication and Media (OCM) has been renewed by the Board of Governors (BOG) for three years with effect from April 10, 2008. Likewise, the term of appointment of Col (Retd) Zafar Ali as Head, Office of Facilities Management (OFM) has been renewed by the Board of Governors (BOG) for three years with effect from April 25, 2008.

We congratulate both the gentlemen and hope that they will continue to fulfill their responsibilities with the same enthusiasm and professionalism that they are known for. We wish them the best for the future and pray that they will do well in their respective roles.

Obituaries

Some members of the UMT community suffered the loss of their dear ones. The UMT community is with them in their hour of grief.

- The elder sister of Dr Khalid H Qamar, Dean School of Science and Technology (SST), passed away on July 14, 2008. Inna Lillah-e-Wa Inna Ilahi-e-Rajioon. May Allah bless the souls of the deceased, place them in heaven and give the bereaved families strength to sustain their great loss. Our heartfelt condolences are with the family and kin of the deceased.

- Erfan Kureshi
International research paper by Ahmad Raza and Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad

An international research paper coauthored by Ahmad Raza and Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad has been published in a recent issue of Multicultural Education and Technology, published by renowned international publishers of management research, Emerald Publishing Co UK. The paper is titled “Knowledge democracy and the implications to information access”. The article can be accessed at www.emeraldinsight.com/10.1108/17504970810867142 provided that electronics access rights are there. The UMT community congratulates the learned authors of this publication and wishes them well for the future.

Ahmad Raza appointed international referee

Ahmad Raza has been appointed by the Honorable Prof C C Williams, Editor-In-Chief of the International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, on the panel of referees for the said journal. The journal is published by Emerald Publishing Co UK. It publishes high quality interdisciplinary research in management, social sciences and related disciplines. Ahmad Raza deserves our appreciation for his professional competence and for highlighting the name of the University at an international level. We hope that he will continue to add more accomplishments to his credit.

Research paper accepted in the Pakistan Management Review

A research paper by Dr Naveed Yazdani, Associate Professor SBE and Ahmed F Siddiqui, Assistant Professor SBE, has been accepted for publication in the Pakistan Management Review. The paper is titled “Towards Statistical Measurement of University Culture”.

The Pakistan Management Review has made a valuable contribution to the development of professional management by making available to the practicing executives selected information and material on contemporary management issues. We congratulate our learned colleagues for acceptance of their paper in such a reputed journal and hope that they will collaborate on more projects in the future as well.

Salman Qureshi’s paper selected among outstanding papers of the Barcelona Conference

Salman Saeed Qureshi, Registrar UMT, has been asked to submit abridged form of his paper titled “Role of higher education in peace building and strengthening national institutions”. The paper was accepted at the 4th International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education held in Barcelona, Spain recently. It has now been selected among outstanding papers of the conference. This is in recognition of the high standards of scholarship demonstrated by the author. The UMT community congratulates its learned colleague for highlighting the name of the University at a prestigious international academic forum.

Corrigendum: The designation of Salman Saeed Qureshi, Registrar UMT was omitted in the March-April 2008 issue of UMT News in the coverage of this research paper being accepted for the same conference. UMT News regrets the error.

Professor Dr Rukhsana Kalim’s research papers accepted for Oxford Conference

Professor Dr Rukhsana Kalim’s research papers were accepted for oral presentation at the Oxford Business and Economics Conference held in the UK from June 22 - 24, 2008. These include: ‘Gender Based Faculty Satisfaction Model for Higher Education’ (co-authored with Dr Uzma Qureshi); (Head, Department of Education, School of Social Sciences and Humanities) and ‘Remittances and Poverty Nexus-Evidence from Pakistan’. The UMT community congratulates its learned colleagues for their contribution to the body of knowledge emanating from our University and wishes them well for the future. We hope that they will continue to project UMT at such prestigious international forums in the future as well.

Dr Abdul Hameed’s paper accepted for UN Conference

It is a source of great pride for the UMT community to know that Dr Abdul Hameed’s paper was accepted in the Conference on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Call for Action on Poverty, Lack of Access and Discrimination. The conference was held from May 19-22, 2008 at the UN Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with Leonard Cheshire Disability, UK. The topic of the presentation was “Creating Access of Persons with Disabilities to Higher Education in Pakistan”. The presentation was fully sponsored by Leonard Cheshire Disability, UK.

Dr Abdul Hameed has touched upon an issue that requires the attention of the society in general and those responsible for facilitating access to higher education in particular. We hope that the analysis and recommendations of his paper will be taken seriously.

Training: Urdu Calligraphy and Font Development

The Interaction Design Center arranged a training program on Urdu Calligraphy and Font Development. The training started on April 1, 2008. It was conducted as an open enrollment and free of cost program which concluded on May 8, 2008. The main objective was to impart knowledge of basic Urdu calligraphy techniques and to develop an understanding of related Urdu font development issues. The training was part of the Urdu Web Interface Guidelines and Conventions Project - a localization research project that has been undertaken at the Interaction Design Center. Training was provided by Syed Jameel-ur-Rehman who is a pupil of Syed Nafees Shah and Hafiz Syed Anes-ul-Hassan. Syed Jameel-ur-Rehman has developed some popular Urdu web fonts, such as Nafees Web Sans and Nafees Nastaleeq, while working at CRUIP FAST-NW. At the end of the final session of the training program, a concluding ceremony was held. Imran Hussain, Director of the Interaction Design Center, presented a souvenir to Syed Jameel-ul-Rehman as a gesture of good will.
Seminar: Interaction Design and Localization

A seminar on “Interaction Design and Localization” was held on May 13, 2008. Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT was the chief guest while Dr Qaiser S Durrani, Professor and Ex-Director of FAST-NIU along with Dr Sarmad Hussain, Professor, Head, Department of Computer Science and Head of the Center for Urdu Language Processing (CRLUP) FAST-NIU were the guests of honor. The seminar was attended by high ranking UMT officials, faculty members and a number of students. The seminar started by recitation of some verses from the holy Quran. Imran Hussain, Director, Interaction Design Center, gave a lecture on interaction design. He also presented an overview of the Interaction Design Center. Dr Sarmad Hussain spoke about localization and its importance in Pakistan. Imran Hussain then briefed the audience about the details of the Urdu Web Interface Guidelines and Conventions Project - a localization research project that has been undertaken at the Interaction Design Center. Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad commended Imran Hussain for his efforts and stressed the importance of localization of ICT in Pakistan. The chief guest then inaugurated the Interaction Design Center by cutting the ribbon and visited the Interaction Design Center along with guests of honor and other UMT officials.

Workshop: Optimizing use of online resources using EndNote® software for citing and referencing

The Textile Productivity Center, UMT organized a one day workshop on Optimizing Use of Online Resources and Using EndNote® Software for Citing and Referencing in collaboration with Institute of Research Promotion (IRP). Muhammad Anwar Chief Library Officer, UMT served as resource person for the workshop. He was supported by other team members of the library. The workshop served the purpose of capacity building in research and motivated researchers to devote their energies for this task. The contents of the workshop were designed with the help of senior academicians, researchers and scholars who are regarded experts in the information sciences. Their contribution created a sense of collaboration and ensured the participation of all institutions towards the common cause of promoting research culture.

Leadership and encouragement was provided by Executive Director, IRP, Abid H K Shirwani. The organization of the workshop in terms of logistics and laboratory arrangements was handled well by Mushitaq Mangat, Assistant Professor SST, Universities from Lahore, Gujranwala, Peshawar, Sindh and Karachi participated in the workshop.

Although the workshop touched the concepts of searching and referencing techniques, the major focus remained on application of these techniques. The participants were given hands on practice of different techniques, which provided a real learning experience. They were given resource material for reading and workshop exercises during the workshop. All participants were given CDs containing software, research articles, presentations, manuals and other documents for future consultation.

Prof Dr M H Qazi, Chairman, Board of Governors, IRP (Rector, DIT, Karachi, Former VC, Hamdard University and Quid-e-Azam University) delivered the closing address, and appreciated the participants for upgrading their skills in research methods. Professor Qazi encouraged the participants to devote their energies for research effort and promised his leadership and supervision.

The trainers i.e. Muhammad Anwar and his colleagues, deserve our appreciation. Their hard work and professionalism made the event so successful. The instructors of IPC-Lab, UMT also deserve a note of thanks for providing all support services.

Seminar: Standardized Assessment and Evaluation in Education

Department of Education at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) held a seminar on ‘Standardized Assessment and Evaluation in Education’ Dr Bashir Gondal, Director, Provincial Educational Assessment System (PEAS) conducted an interactive seminar on standardized education assessment system initiated by the Government of Pakistan at both national and provincial level in collaboration with the World Bank. The seminar was attended by PhD scholars of the Department of Education. The participants benefited greatly through an interactive session and discussed some pertinent issues regarding Educational Assessment and Evaluation practices in Pakistan.

Seminar: Functions and Responsibilities of the Department Chair

Department Chairs make significant contributions to the success of their departments. They play an important role in helping new faculty to develop as educators and professionals, and also in creating an environment where students and faculty enjoy their work while being productive as well. However, most Department Chairs have little or no guidance before they begin their term. Recognizing this fact, the Academic Development Center of UMT held a seminar on the “Functions and Responsibilities of the Department Chair” on August 4, 2008 in the UMT boardroom. The seminar was attended by Deans, Department Chairs and Senior Professors. The seminar was led by Prof Dr Abdul Raouf, Sitara-e-Imliaz, Distinguished National Professor of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and University Professor and Advisor, UMT. He is also the Patron of the Institute of Quality and Technology Management, University of Punjab, Lahore.

The distinguished speaker discussed the functions and responsibilities of Department Chairs. These included curriculum development, recruitment, orientation, evaluation and supervision, student advisement, budget development and administration, and last but not the least, acting as leader and advocate of the department. He explained that the Department Chair has also traditionally served as the spokesperson on behalf of the faculty to other departments and faculties as well as to the higher level of administration within the university. The Department Chair is also accountable for implementing and administering policies and procedures within the department that are developed at higher levels.

Proper time was given to question and answer session at the end of the seminar to clarify any ambiguity in conceptual framework of the audience. The seminar received very positive feedback with a suggestion to continue such informative seminars in future.

Workshop: TEFL Workshop in collaboration with Department of English, UMT and Allama Iqbal Open University

The Department of English Language and Literature organized a TEFL workshop in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) for English teachers from June 16 to 27, 2008. English Language Teachers (ELT) from all over Punjab gathered to polish their teaching skills. Distinguished presenters from different universities of Pakistan presented a blend of theoretical and practical knowledge, and engaged the participants in interesting simulations and activities.

Umair Fooq, Lecturer at AIOU, presented on number of sessions in TEFL workshop. Profesor Dr Shahid Sadiq from Lahore School of Economics spoke about Professional Development. Prof Dr Shahbaz Arif, Chairman, Department of English Language and Literature, UMT, delivered scholarly lectures on “Teaching English Grammar” and “Promoting Critical Thinking through English Essay Writing”. Moazam Hashmi, Lecturer at the Department of English, UMT gave a talk on ‘English Error Analysis and Feedback System’.

Prof Razia Waseem from Lahore University of Management Sciences, Sumaira Sarfraz and Zahida Mansoor, MS Applied Linguistics scholars at the Department of English, UMT, Ajmal and Prof Ifat Jahan, Lecturer at AIOU, and Sajid Zaigham, presented different issues of ELT. The participants reflected on the workshop as a learning forum and appreciated the expertise of the presenters.

Prof Dr Abdul Hafiz, Chairman, Department of English Language, AIOU visited UMT along with the Regional Director, Brigadier (Retd) Zubair, AIOU Lahore Campus, on the closing ceremony of the two week TEFL workshop on June 27, 2008. Dr Hafiz gave his thankful remarks to Dr Hassan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT and Prof Dr Muhammad Shabbaz Arif for giving the AIOU an opportunity to hold the workshop. He admired the hard work and dedication of the organizers in arranging the event. Dr Hafiz appreciated the laborious efforts of the AIOU coordinators in conducting the workshop. He also admired the efforts of Dr Arif for promoting research degree program - PhD English, MS Applied Linguistics in Pakistan.
Seminar: 24/7 Online Blood Resource Bank

The University of Management and Technology encourages students to come up with innovative ideas to support the community in every possible way. Students from the School of Science and Technology (SST) arranged a seminar to launch a website (www.blood4all.org) and to create awareness among university students regarding blood donations. The seminar was titled “24/7 Online Blood Resource Bank” and was held on May 27, 2008. A campus was also set up for students who wanted their blood tested.

The purpose of the project was to develop a blood donor list to facilitate the students who required blood donations. The students of UMT AZUM group (AZUM – an Umbrella word meaning aim) have launched the website. According to representatives of the group, the original idea for initiating the project occurred to them as they noticed fellow students running around making urgent queries regarding blood donations necessitated by medical emergencies. They felt that the UMT community should be united and well-organized to help out each other in such a scenario. They were encouraged in this endeavor by M. Usman, who not only supported them but also guided them through every phase of the project. His encouragement and the persistence shown by the students led to the formation of 24/7 Online Blood Resource Bank (www.blood4all.org). The website aims to set up a database of blood donors. It is easy to use and requires a simple process of registration. M. Usman also spoke on the occasion and explained the features of the website. The seminar was attended by many faculty members including Ilyas Ansari, Dr Sarwar Rana, Hammad Mobsin, Nadeem Khan and Qamar Abbas.

The AZUM group of students received a lot of appreciation from faculty members and students alike for their hard work and dedication towards this humanitarian venture. Ilyas Ansari especially appreciated the AZUM group and shared some of his personal experiences with them in addition to giving some suggestions. At the end, M. Usman presented a souvenir to Dr Riaz for taking the time to visit UMT. One certainly hopes that the online blood resource bank prospers and more and more people register as donors at the website.

Study Tour of LCCI

A one-day study tour of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) by the MBA (P) Class of ‘Managerial Economics’ supervised by Dr Rukhsana Kalam, Associate Dean (GR) was undertaken on May 3, 2008. The study tour aimed at acquainting the students with the issues concerning foreign trade/balance of payments of Pakistan such as tariffs, trade embargo, quotas etc. The students were received by the Protocol Officer upon their arrival at the LCCI. This was followed by a detailed briefing on the state of the Pakistan economy by the LCCI representatives. The students raised many relevant queries which were responded to in a comprehensive manner. They were then given a round of the various sections of the LCCI and shown a documentary on the Chamber’s role in budget making and other policy making decisions with respect to the industry. Later, the students submitted a report to Dr Rukhsana Kalam on the knowledge gained from the study tour.

Seminar: Bias against Islamic values in the west

A seminar on bias against Islamic values in the west was organized by the Office of Participants Affairs (OPA) and students of the School of Science and Technology (SST) on May 29, 2008. A large number of students, faculty members and UMT officials attended the seminar and listened to the observations of the eminent speakers.

Citing historical references, renowned scholar Dr Fareed Paracha observed that for centuries western nations had resented the growing strength and influence of Islam. He said that segments of the western societies were paranoid about Islamic resurgence, especially among the immigrant communities in their own countries. The incident of the publication of blasphemous cartoons of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) were nothing more than a desperate attempt to depict a negative image of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to the youth of western societies who were in fact being influenced by Islamic teachings.

Professor Ather Usmani, senior sociologist, analyzed the situation from a sociological perspective. He said that a society survives on shared values and beliefs. He was critical of Muslim societies for not being true to their faith. He observed that even in Pakistan our culture and social values were at times at loggerheads with our religious teachings.

Barrister Asad Manzoor Butt, legal advisor NAB, negated the view that religious minorities were being persecuted in Pakistan. He listed all the laws of the Government of Pakistan that had been enacted over the years to protect the rights of religious minorities. He said that Muslims were always magnanimous to followers of other faiths and expected the same in return.

The seminar touched upon an issue that is important for all of us. We have to understand the underlying causes of the bias against Islamic values in western societies in order to evolve effective strategies to combat their propaganda. The analysis by the speakers of the seminar helped to clear the concepts of the participants and answered many questions that are at the back of the minds of all of us.

Industrial Tour of Mayfair Biscuits

A one-day study tour of the Mayfair Biscuits Factory (Asian Food Industries) by the MBA (P) Class of “Managerial Economics” supervised by Dr Rukhsana Kalam, Associate Dean (GR) was undertaken on May 17, 2008. The tour aimed at acquainting the students with the issues concerning the management decision making processes, and procedures. Upon their arrival at the factory, the students were given a round of the plant. They took a keen interest in the production/management decisions making processes and price strategies of the manufacturer and raised many relevant queries which were responded to by the respective industry representatives.

The students later submitted a report on the knowledge gained from the industrial tour to the resource person Dr Rukhsana Kalam.
UMT, ILM and TKS at 'The News National Education Expo 2008'

The University of Management and Technology (UMT), ILM Colleges and The Knowledge School (TKS) jointly participated in The News (Jang Group) Education Exhibition held on June 28, 2008 at The Convention Center Islamabad, and on July 14, 2008 at The Pearl Continental Hotel Lahore. A team lead by Erfan Kureshi, Head Communications and Media, comprising of Ali Raza and Muhammad Gibran (Admissions Office), Fahad Zia (TKS), Saima (ILM Colleges), Amor Hussain (Institute of Audit and Accountancy, UMT) and Madhia Scairwani (Communications and Media, UMT) represented the three educational projects of ILM Trust at the Exhibition.

Convention Center Islamabad

The Expo provided an opportunity to the students to gather first hand information about educational institutions offering various programs. Over 27 leading private and public educational institutions set up stalls on the occasion. The Expo attracted a large number of students, teachers, educationists, vice chancellors and heads of leading educational institutions from all over the country.

Professor Dr Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), was the chief guest at the opening ceremony. Dr Abdul Basil, Preston University Chancellor, Rahat Quadossi, Chief Executive Jinnah Institute, Dr Salimur Rehman, Vice Chancellor, Sarhad University of Information Technology, Dr Manzoor Hussain, Rector, Foundation University, Dr Saeedur Rehman (Centre for Advanced Studies in Engineering), Dr A J Khan (Frontier Medical College), and Dr Mehmoood-ahassan Butt, Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University, were also present and addressed the gathering.

This was the first time that the University of Management and Technology (UMT) and The Knowledge School, both projects of the ILM Trust, participated together in an exhibition. This cooperation resulted in a strong show at the event as their stall was thronged by scores of visitors who were eager to seek information about an educational system that guaranteed quality education right from their child's school years to university level. Much effort went into ensuring a positive outcome of participation in the exhibition. Banners, skins and randoms were especially prepared for the stall. UMT and TKS team members took promotional material such as brochures, information leaflets, prospectuses, UMT pens, notebooks and document bags for distribution at the exhibition. A presentation showcasing important features of the educational setup of both UMT and TKS ran on the plasma screen that was especially arranged for the purpose. Team members also handled queries of the visitors admirably. There was heavy attendance at their stall in spite of the competitive nature of the event as representatives of other institutions were also vying for the attention of students and their parents.

The organizers of the expo presented souvenirs to all the participants on the conclusion of the event. This gesture was reciprocated from our end as Erfan Kureshi presented souvenirs to Sadia Sharif, Director Marketing Jang Group and Amjad Ali, GM Jang Group Rawalpindi, for all the cooperation and hard work that went into making the event so successful.

Participation in educational exhibitions arranged by reputed organizers such as the Jang Group is essential if we want to brand ourselves as the leading providers of quality education in the country. We hope that UMT along with other ILM educational projects will take part in future exhibitions as well as this will be beneficial in the long run in terms of recognition and student enrollment.

The Expo: window of opportunity for students and educational institutions

As many as 27 stalls by leading educational institutions were set up at the 'News National Education Expo 2008' Islamabad. Useful information regarding courses, fee structures and academic sessions were provided to a large number of students and parents. Every stall was crowded by visitors who were provided with verbal responses to their queries in addition to brochures, pamphlets, prospectuses and other promotional material. The expo received hundreds of visitors who wanted easy access to comprehensive information about universities, their curricula and procedural requirements for seeking admission. It coincided with the admission drive in most educational institutions and gave a unique opportunity to admission officers and career counselors to attract students looking for pre-university counseling.

Brochures and pamphlets were available to students free of charge while many universities and educational institutions also distributed their prospectuses without any charge. Faculty members answered student queries regarding different issues including educational environment, and hostel and transport facilities. Stallholders appreciated 'The News' for organizing the expo as it provided a platform to universities to project themselves to prospective students. Popular radio channel FM-101 provided live coverage of the event throughout the day and scores of visitors went on air to voice their opinions about the event.

The stallholders were unanimous in commending 'The News' for organizing the expo. Academic sessions for many universities were starting next month and the
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The book “Safety Management and Engineering: An Integrated Approach” by Prof Dr Abdul Raouf is, in the spotlight. Dr Raouf is a distinguished scholar of international fame. He has a doctoral degree in industrial engineering and has over fifty years of experience in teaching and research. Recognizing his scholarly pursuits, Dr Raouf was given the coveted title of “Sitara-e-Imtiaz” by the Government of Pakistan. The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan conferred upon him the title of “Distinguished National Professor”. It is a privilege to have him at the University of Management and Technology as University Professor and Advisor. The book has been published by the Institute of Quality and Technology Management, University of the Punjab. Dr Raouf discusses the amalgamation of traditional safety programs into an organization’s overall mission and vision instead of advocating traditional safety program and ongoing hazard control, which may be viewed as reactive in nature.

Introducing safety as a mission and its value addition in the overall business process, the book gives helpful and applicable advice regarding reviewing of plans, implementation and ways of implementing safety performance criterion, and concerns desirable attributes of management techniques.

A separate chapter is dedicated to statistical analyses techniques which is very helpful for those who do not have a statistical background. After equipping the reader with random variables, distribution, test of hypothesis and control charts, the book takes the reader to safety process functions, work performance and safety process output. Necessitating the importance of having a statistical background. After equipping the reader with random variable techniques.

The comprehensive nature of the book makes it useful for a broad range of target audience such as undergraduate/graduate students of industrial engineering, business administration, operations management, safety professionals, managers and aspiring managers.

By Neelam Younus
Officer training and Development, UMT

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) at UMT offers a user-friendly environment conducive to learning, research and study. The use of digital resources is increasingly becoming important for researchers, students and faculty members. The UMT library organized a training program on digital information resources in collaboration with the HEC-National Digital Library Program (NDLP). The program focused on NDLP e-books available throughout the UMT campus-wide network. The workshop was held on May 27, 2008. Students, faculty and staff members of the University actively participated in the proceedings of the workshop.

Muhammad Anwar, Chief Library Officer, delivered the welcome speech and gave an overview of resources available at the library. He also gave brief details about e-journals subscribed through HEC and future e-subscriptions. Sana Javed, Digital Library Operating Officer, HEC was the resource person for the workshop. She has received in-depth training in digital library and has conducted workshops across the country and has trained hundreds of faculty members, students and library professionals. During the training program, she focused on the following major e-books collection and digital resources.

- **Ebrary**
  - OUP-ebooks (Oxford Scholarship Online) - [http://www.oxfordscholarship.com](http://www.oxfordscholarship.com)
  - EBSCO Host - [http://search.ebsco.com](http://search.ebsco.com)
  - SpringerLink - [http://www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com)

The training program aimed at educating library users with the search interface and functionality of individual online indexes and databases. These electronic books, indexes and databases are either subscription products or products freely available on the Internet. The electronic indexes and databases cover a wide variety of subject areas such as the arts, biography, business, computers, genealogy, health, literature, music, religion, science, and statistics. A comprehensive list of indexes and databases provided by the library is available at the UMT website.

During the training sessions, participants were given handouts that comprised of a cover sheet explaining how to access the database from the library home page. The handouts also included tutorial exercises, database notes and the library’s Code for Use of Electronic Resources. Participants were asked to perform their own searches within a given timeframe. The participants obtained first-hand information and answers to specific queries by interacting with the NDLP team.

The session also enlisted the help of other staff members in Information Services and tutors obtained first-hand information and answers to specific queries by interacting with the library staff. The participants obtained first-hand information and answers to specific queries by interacting with the library staff.

The ensuing discussions focused on the prospects of building more cooperation on issues of mutual interest. The consulate officials observed that UMT was committed to integrate work with individual and organizational development. The visit helped both sides to gain a better understanding of each other. In the end, the visitors were taken on a round of the university.

Muhammad Anwar, Chief Library Officer, and Mushtaq Mangat, Assistant Professor, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests. They presented a brief history of the University and the progress that had been made in terms of infrastructure and academic expansion. They also highlighted the services offered by the UMT library.

By Neelam Younus
Officer training and Development, UMT

New e-resources at the UMT Library

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) at UMT always endorses to upgrade its e-collections and for services for its users. A wide variety of such resources are already available for the use of students, researchers and faculty members. Recently, the UMT library has added new e-resources for the benefit of its users. These include:

- **Ebrary**
  - It offers a wide variety of content across many subject areas, especially in business and social science. It has acquired integrated collections of eBooks and other contents. This is the ultimate place to access quality eBooks and other authoritative titles from the world’s leading academic and professional publishers. At present, an increasing selection of more than 37,000 e-books from more than 220 distinguished international publishers is available through Ebrary.

**Subject Strength** (subject-wise breakup of collections)

- Agriculture (440), Auxiliary Sciences of History (122), Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources (General) (177), Education (1465), Fine Arts (286), General Works (19), Geography, Anthropology, Recreation (884), History (General) and History of Europe (1834), History: America (1386), Language and Literature (4606), Law (962), Medicine (2784), Military Science (356), Music and Books on Music (442), Naval Science (51), Philosophy, Psychology, Religion (2662), Political Science (1280), Science (3800), Social Sciences (8161), Technology (2522).

**JSTOR**

- [http://www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)
- JSTOR can be accessed at [http://www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org). It offers a high-quality, interdisciplinary archive to support scholarship and teaching. It includes archives of over 1000 leading core scholarly journals covering business, finance, economics, mathematics, statistics, language, law, religion, philosophy, anthropology, history, geography, biological sciences, political sciences and education, as well as selected monographs and other valuable materials. The entire corpus is full-text searchable.

**US Consulate officials visit UMT Library**

Public Affairs Officer, Traci L. Mell and Muhammad Asif, Director American Information Resource Centre (AIRC), US Consulate, visited the library of the University of Management and Technology (UMT). The visit aimed at underscoring the importance of collaboration and linkage between UMT and AIRC in terms of sharing of resource persons, subject experts, organizing talks, seminars and workshops.

Muhammad Anwar, Chief Library Officer, and Mushtaq Mangat, Assistant Professor, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests. They presented a brief history of the University and the progress that had been made in terms of infrastructure and academic expansion. They also highlighted the services offered by the UMT library. They pointed out that UMT now had over 2300 students from all over the country and this also included international students.

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One cannot overemphasize the significance of building ties with foreign academic bodies such as the AIRC as this not only provides international exposure to our University but goes a long way in developing opportunities for mutual learning on specific topics. We look forward to more such visits in the future.
Seminar: Research Methodology

Prof Dr Tariq Rahman, National Distinguished Professor of Linguistics and South Asian Studies from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad was invited by Prof Dr Muhammad Shahbaz Arif to conduct a seminar on “Research Methodology” at the Department of English Language and Literature on May 10, 2008. Dr Rahman has been a Fulbright scholar and guest speaker at several American Universities. He has also been a Guest Professor at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. He holds the distinction of establishing the Quaid-i-Azam Chair on Pakistan Studies at the University of California, Berkeley (2004-2005).

Dr Rahman discussed theoretical and practical aspects of research methodology during the seminar. He advised PhD and MS scholars to delimit the use of experimental research design in the social sciences and humanities because of uncontrolled nature of confounding variables. He advised the participants to choose a research design, which could be generalized over the selected population unlike case study and action research. At the end, he involved the participants in designing an instrument. He concluded his discussion by giving an example of income as a multifaceted variable in a questionnaire and showed that such variables fail to bring accurate and exact information. He observed that the best instrument measures the concrete information about the variables to ensure the reliability and validity of the results. The participants of the seminar gained valuable knowledge from the expertise of the distinguished speaker. Their involvement in instrument design ensured their active participation and prepared them to use enhanced research methodology wherever required.

Training workshop: English language skills

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) organized a training workshop to improve the communication skills of UMT’s English staff in July. Bilal Frazooq, PhD Scholar of English Linguistics and Applied Linguistics at UMT, was the resource person for the ‘English Language Skills’ workshop that was held from July 3-12, 2008. The course aimed at improving English communication skills with major focus on developing better spoken English among the participants. The contents, materials and activities were tailored to cater for the needs of UMT Staff. The workshop included practical activities like discussions, debates, presentations, role-plays (business meetings, talk shows, business reviews), descriptions and narrations. In addition to developing effective listening, fluent speaking and faster reading, special emphasis was given on functional English grammar. The course contained constructive activities for building confidence in participants and improving their pronunciation skills. On the last day of the training, Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT, addressed participants to motivate them. He also gave them suggestions to further polish their English language skills. He advised the participants to choose a research design, which could be generalized over the selected population unlike case study and action research. At the end, he involved the participants in designing an instrument. He concluded his discussion by giving an example of income as a multifaceted variable in a questionnaire and showed that such variables fail to bring accurate and exact information. He observed that the best instrument measures the concrete information about the variables to ensure the reliability and validity of the results. The participants of the seminar gained valuable knowledge from the expertise of the distinguished speaker. Their involvement in instrument design ensured their active participation and prepared them to use enhanced research methodology wherever required.

Overseas Participants Club Annual Dinner

The Overseas Participants Club (OPC) is an exclusive community for UMT overseas participants operating under the supervision of the Office of Participants Affairs (OPA). OPC and OPA organized an Annual Dinner for all members on June 9, 2008 at the UMT campus. The event was organized to provide a forum for mutual interaction and to get the views, complaints and suggestions of the participants regarding improvement in mutual collaboration between OPC and OPA.

The chief guest on the occasion was Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT. The Guests of Honor included: Ahmad Abdullah, Head HR; Salmon Saeed Qureshi, Registrar UMT and Rana Ifikhar Ahmad, GM-OPA. At the end, a question and answer session was also held with the registrar and this allowed for sharing of views and exchange of ideas.
May 28 is celebrated as Youm-e-Takbeer, the day Pakistan became a nuclear power. Although this has now become a day of national celebration, people remain largely unaware of the horrible fallout from a nuclear war. Our special feature this month focuses on the immense human suffering caused by the first nuclear explosion in human history.

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an Atomic Bomb, nicknamed 'Little Boy' on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. Upon detonation, the bomb generated enormous amounts of energy, spreading radiation across the city and causing human suffering and devastation that lasted more than 30 years. More than 200,000 people are believed to have been killed by that first Atomic Bomb.

Fifty-four years after the first atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima, Japan, learning from bitter experience, has adopted three non-nuclear principles: they will not manufacture, possess or permit entry into Japan, any nuclear arsenal.

Pakistan joined the nuclear club in 1998 when it successfully tested its nuclear device in Chaghi, a remote area in Balochistan. Although the country's nuclear tests received much world condemnation, they have come to signify national pride and defiance of world opinion that is widely perceived to be biased and unfair.

UMT News’ special feature this month focuses on two stories from Hiroshima: Mitsuo Tomosawa, a survivor of and witness to the bomb blast; and Sadako, a 12 year old girl who’s fight against leukemia (or, as it is often known, the “A-bomb disease”) continues to inspire children and adults around the world.

A tale from Hiroshima
Francis Mitsuo Tomosawa is born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 25, 1930. Both of his parents are Japanese natives, but the family has lived in Hawaii for years. Mitsuo is the youngest of three sons.

In 1930, the Hawaiian Islands are US territory. They will not become the 49th state for another 29 years. Even so, Mitsuo, like his two older brothers, is born a US citizen. That status will both help and hurt Mitsuo in the years ahead.

Mitsuo grows up in a world of two cultures. At his elementary school, everyone speaks English. After school each day, he goes to a Japanese-language school. To his friends, who come from many different backgrounds — Japanese, Chinese, European, Filipino, and native Hawaiian — he is Francis. At home, where he speaks Japanese to his mother and father, he is Mitsuo. His parents never master English beyond a few phrases.

Mitsuo’s father is a boat builder and carpenter and his mother works in a fish cannery. The family is poor, so Mitsuo and his siblings must work very hard to meet an important goal. Like most Japanese parents in Hawaii, they want Mitsuo and his brothers to know the country and culture of their ancestors by living in Japan for a time. In 1939, Mitsuo’s eldest brother is sent to Japan. He goes to Hiroshima, where his mother has an uncle.

Two years later, it is 11-year-old Mitsuo’s and his middle brother’s turn to leave for Japan. Their mother goes, too, to care for the boys. They head for Hiroshima, where they plan to rent a house. Mitsuo’s father stays behind to continue working so he can send money to his wife and children.

Mitsuo and his family set sail for Japan in March 1941. They leave on a passenger ship, but there are also US military ships docked in Hawaii. The US Navy has a huge base at Pearl Harbor, about six miles from Honolulu. In seven months, Japanese aircraft will blow many of those ships to smithereens. The bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 is a shock to Mitsuo and his family. What about Father? There’s no way to find out if he’s been hurt or killed. Two years after the United States entered the war, the hope of peace in family finally receives a letter telling them he’s alive.

In their first months in Japan before Pearl Harbor, Mitsuo’s father sent the family money. Now with the war on, Mrs Tomosawa must support her sons. She gets a job as a clerk in an office in Hiroshima. Life gets harder and harder as 1942 turns into 1943. Everything is rationed — food, clothing, fuel. Each person is allowed one egg per year. The family’s paper and wood house is freezing in the winter. The charcoal ration is only enough for a fire to warm their hands. Mitsuo’s school closes down. All students are assigned jobs to help in the war effort. Mitsuo works in a warehouse containing Agent Orange uniforms. He spends every day loading and unloading bundles.

Each morning, Mitsuo’s supervisor gives the workers a patriotic pep talk. But by 1945, everyone knows the war is going badly for Japan. There is no food. The family is eating soup made from horse meat. The air raid sirens. They grow tired of the false alarms, and no longer think about their business.

Four years after arriving in Japan, only 15-year-old Mitsuo and his mother still live in Hiroshima. His eldest brother, Toshiro, is in the Japanese merchant marines. His middle brother, Tamotsu, works in a government office in Tokyo.

It’s a bright, clear day. Mitsuo leaves his house around 7:30 a.m. and walks to work. He and his friends gather outside, waiting for their supervisor to give today’s pep talk. Mitsuo’s mother leaves for work. Every day, she takes the same streetcar. But today she realizes she has forgotten some papers. She runs back to get them, and Mitsuo misses her usual streetcar, and has to wait for the next one.

It’s nearly 8:15 am. American B-29 bombers appear overhead. The sirens wail, but Mitsuo and his co-workers ignore them, as usual. The planes are headed in the direction of Tokyo. Then, for the first time ever, Mitsuo sees the planes reappear over Hiroshima. They’re in position now. Looking up towards the sky, Mitsuo sees an object. In the instant it takes for the bomb to drop, he feels no fear, only curiosity about this thing that glistens in the sun.

Mitsuo watches the object fall behind a mountain, Mount Hijii. The exact spot where the bomb exploded is called “ground zero.” Mitsuo is about two miles away, with the mountain in between. At the moment of explosion, he sees a blinding flash and sounds of cracking. Then the black smoke appears. Mitsuo is blown several feet into the air and knocked briefly unconscious. He awakens to see a giant mushroom cloud rising into the air. Mitsuo is a witness to the first atomic bomb explosion in history. And Mount Hijii, which shields him from the radiation, will help him live to tell about it.

Mitsuo’s mother is outside when the bomb explodes. She is about three miles from ground zero. She is not injured except for a burn on her neck. In another 20 years, cancer will develop in that spot, and she’ll die from it in 1969. Still, Mitsuo’s mother is lucky. Too many of the workers on the streetcar that she missed. They all die in the blast.

The shock wave that knocks Mitsuo unconscious collapses the wooden buildings around the concrete warehouse. There are people injured and dead inside those buildings. Mitsuo helps as best he can, but then is told to go home. It is garbage quiet everywhere. The only people Mitsuo passes are a young woman with a child. The woman’s clothes are in shreds. The child has an ugly wound on his face. Mitsuo’s friend, and thousands of others, die from radiation exposure and other injuries.

Unable to sleep that night, Mitsuo climbs to the top of a milk factory across the street from his home. From there, he looks out at Hiroshima. In the dark, he sees fires raging. The next morning, he again climbs to the top of the factory. Now, in the light of day, Mitsuo scarcely believes his eyes. What the bomb didn’t flatten, fire has destroyed. Except for a few shells of concrete buildings, there is nothing left of Hiroshima.

Three days later — August 9, 1945 — another atomic bomb is dropped, this time on Nagasaki, Japan. The people of Hiroshima don’t know it, though. For days they are completely cut off from the world. By August 15, 1945, some power is restored. Mitsuo listens as a neighborhood radio broadcasts the voice of Emperor Hirohito announcing Japan’s surrender. The war is over. As a US citizen, Mitsuo applies to return to Hawaii. It takes three years for his application to be approved. As he awaits, he goes back to school. Little by little, things take place there. Most of the books were destroyed in the bombing and there’s no way to get new ones.

Finally, in 1948, Mitsuo and his middle brother, Tamotsu, travel to Yokohama to board a US military ship bound for Hawaii. The ship stops in Shanghai, China; Hong Kong; and Manila before reaching Honolulu. In Shanghai and Manila — both cities that were attacked by the Japanese during the war — Mitsuo and his brother are warned not to get off the boat. The people living there harbor much hatred of the Japanese. In Hawaii, Mitsuo sees his father again for the first time in seven years. He goes to high school and thinks about college. In 1951, his eldest brother, Toshiro, and mother also return from Japan. The family is together again.

But Mitsuo knows that the events of Hiroshima have changed him forever. He has seen firsthand the horror of war — yet, miraculously, he was spared. Mitsuo vows that he must work for peace throughout his life. He must speak out against the death and destruction of nuclear war.

Francis Mitsuo Tomosawa now lives in California. He is a retired eye doctor, a father, and a grandfather. There is also the president of the Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors in the United States. In that role, he talks with hundreds of adults and schoolchildren every year about the nightmarish experiences of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He works for peace, hoping that what happened to his friends and family in Japan in August 1945 will never happen again.

Cranes for Peace

The paper crane has become an international symbol of peace in recent years as a result of its connection to the story of a young Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki. Sadako, born in 1943, was two years old when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945.

As she grew up, Sadako was a strong, courageous and athletic girl. In 1955, at age 11, while practicing for a big race, she became dizzy and fell to the ground. Sadako was diagnosed with Leukemia, “the atom bomb” disease.

Sadako’s best friend told her of an old Japanese legend which said that anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes would be granted a wish. Sadako hoped that the gods would grant her a wish to get well so that she could run again. She started to work on the paper cranes, but she did not manage to make 1000 before she died on October 25, 1955 at the age of twelve.

Inspired by her courage and strength, Sadako’s friends and classmates put together a book of her letters and published it. They began to work towards building a monument to Sadako and to all of the children killed by the atom bomb. Young people all over Japan helped collect money for the project.

In 1958, a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane was unveiled in Hiroshima Peace Park. The children also made a wish which is inscribed at the bottom of the statue and reads: “This is our cry. This is our prayer, Peace in the world”.

Today, people all over the world fold paper cranes and send them to Sadako’s monument in Hiroshima.
Craze for Rising High

Countries in the Middle East are racing to build the world's tallest tower. Saudi Arabia has just joined the fray with plans to build a one-mile high tower in Jeddah as per reports released by the media in the west. Of all the other high-rise buildings under construction around the world, for example, New York's Freedom Tower, none is expected to exceed 700 meters in height. However, the Saudi project would overtake the super-tall skyscrapers in neighboring Kuwait and Dubai. This is likely to initiate a new type of competition. Building the world's tallest tower in the Middle East will become a status symbol for the nation that accomplishes this feat.

Prince AlWaleed bin Talal, the owner of the project, has decided to call it the Al-Meek or the Mile-High Tower. It will be located on the northern side of the Obhur Creek and the Red Sea in Jeddah. Spread over an area of more than 700 million square meters, it is expected to cost up to $10 billion.

Kuwait plans to build a tower with a height of 1,001 meters. Its height is a reference to the classic work of Arabic literature named Alif Laila i.e. "One Thousand and One Night." To give it an international significance, the owners have decided to build three bladers near the top of the tower. These will include a mosque, a church and a synagogue to signify the unity of the three monotheistic religions. The building will be one of the highlights of the City of Silk. The $77 billion project received inspiration from the once famed Silk Road and aims to revive the ancient trade route. Soon it would become a major free-trade zone linking Central Asia with Europe. The city, located in Subiya on the northernmost tip of Kuwait Bay, plans residential housing for 750,000 people after completion in the year 2030.

Kuwait is striving to restore its position as the world’s tallest tower in the Middle East will become a status symbol for the nation that accomplishes this feat. The Emirate's Burj Dubai, the Arabic translation for Dubai Tower, has overtaken Taiwan's Taipei 101 tower as the world's tallest building. Burj Dubai's height is now over 600 meters. Although its final height remains a closely guarded secret, developers Emaar Properties have said that the one-billion-dollar skyscraper will be more than 700 meters tall with more than 160 stories.

Dubai is enjoying a massive construction boom as it seeks to position itself as a business and leisure hub in the face of dwindling oil wealth. The multibillion-dollar projects being undertaken by the Gulf States would be engineering marvels of the future. However, the main question is their usefulness in these days of environmental consciousness and austerity.

The positive side of all construction activity is that these new projects would push architecture and engineering (Civil and HVAC) to new limits. However, it is also possible to create buildings and landscapes that are not that high, but are more practical, viable and, most important of all, beautiful, as envisaged and preferred by our Holy Prophet (SAW).

Construction experts of world repute and internationally renowned architects have concluded that lateral expansion of the cities should be preferred over vertical extensions, an idea narrated in the 1,500 years old sayings of the Holy Prophet (SAW). You would surely rise high by following the footprints of the Prophet (SAW).

Contributed by: Fatma Zehra Hassan
(BS Computer Engineering)
Amazing facts about the Athens, Greece in 1896.

The first Olympic Games were held in ancient Greece as far back as 776 BC. These ancient games lasted for nearly 1,000 years but stopped when Greece was invaded and conquered, and became part of the Roman Empire. The games as we know them today began again in the late 1800s, when Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France, decided to start them up again. The first of the modern games was held in Athens, Greece in 1896.

History of the Olympic Games

History
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The Olympic Symbol
The Olympic Motto is Citius, Altius, Fortius, which means “Swifter, Higher, Stronger.” This motto is used with the Olympic Symbol, the five colored rings. The rings are interlocked to represent the sporting friendship of people from all over the world. The five colors of the rings (black, blue, yellow, green, and red) were chosen because at least one of these colors appears in the flags of every nation of the world. The Olympic flag was first used in Antwerp in 1920, the five rings appear in the center of a white field.

Olympic Games venues
2008: Beijing
2004: Athens
2000: Sydney
1996: Atlanta
1992: Barcelona
1988: Seoul
1984: Los Angeles
1980: Moscow
1976: Montreal
1972: Munich
1968: Mexico City
1964: Tokyo
1960: Rome
1956: Melbourne
1952: Helsinki
1948: London
1936: Berlin
1932: Los Angeles
1928: Amsterdam
1924: Paris
1920: Antwerp
1912: Stockholm
1908: London
1906: Athens
1904: St Louis
1900: Paris

15. Nominate
16. Ring of Light
17. Italian Dish
18. Large Collection of Soliders
19. Become Submerged
20. Perch

Across:
5. English River
6. Fruit
8. Straw Mattress
11. Italian Dish
15. Nominate
16. Ring of Light

Down:
1. Fish
2. Basin
3. Unmarried Woman
4. In this Place
7. Close-Fitting
9. Venomous Snake
10. Perch
11. Become Submerged
12. Large Collection of Soliders
13. Salver
14. Image of a God

Doodles and U

Those absent-minded shapes you draw in long, boring meetings help relieve tension, say psychologists. But if your boss accuses you of not paying attention, cite the experiment that suggested that students who doodled in lectures took in as much as note-takers and more than those who just listened.

Drawing can unlock mental blocks and help you think more creatively. Try starting with a stick figure and doodling around it to indicate what’s happening in your life. Use names, numbers, figures, faces, signs and different colors. Keep your pen moving for ten minutes with your mind free of limit and to the point.

In the class:
- Open the doors of the window. Let the atmosphere come in.
- Open the doors of the window. Let the air force come in.
- Cut an apple in two halves and take the bigger half.
- Shhh…quiet, boys…the principal just passed away outside.
- Both of you three, get out of the class.
- Close the doors of the window.
- Take copper wire of any metal, specially of silver.
- Why is this book?

About family:
- I have two daughters both of them are girls.

At the playground:
- All of you, stand in a straight circle.
- There is no wind in the balloon.

Pronunciation:
- You, go and understand the tree
- You three of you, stand together separate!
- Why you are late, say YES or NO

And at their best…!!

Teacher in desi English to a student, angrily, I talk, he talk, why you middle-middle talk?

DESI ENGLISH

While some of the typical desi English sentences reproduced below may have been somewhat exaggerated to add to the humor, but the fact is that many a time we really have heard such absurd sounding sentences spoken in the classroom much to the amusement of everyone and anyone who knows English.

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SPORTS ROUND UP

The University takes care of the physical fitness of its students in addition to their academics. The Office of Participants Affairs (OPA) organizes sports events for the students. They are actively encouraged to take part in sports activities that are regularly organized within the campus. Our players get a chance to participate in sports events that are held at other institutions. These events not only train our players but also develop sportsman spirit among our students. Here is a roundup of the sports activities in the past few months.

- A Friendly Table Tennis Match was held on July 22, 2008 at UMT campus. The UMT team played against the Ascend team. There were 5 singles and 3 doubles. The UMT team won 5 out of 3 matches.
- A Friendly Table Tennis Match was held on July 10, 2008 at the UMT campus. The UMT team was pitted against SKANS. The UMT table tennis team won all 5 single and 2 double matches.
- UMT Table Tennis Championship was held on June 26, 2008 at the UMT campus. Usman Farooq, MBA (ID # 033132-032) was declared the UMT Table Tennis Champion.
- The 5th UMT Snooker Tournament was held on May 3, 2008 at the Cuetech Snooker Club, Model Town Lahore. Asad Ashfaq (MSBF ID # 070846-021) was the winner of the tournament while Zaheer Rashid (MBA P ID # 074132-06) and Rasti Saeed (BS Tel ID # 060282-018) secured second and third positions respectively.
- UMT also participated in the LUMS Badminton Championship that was held on April 13, 2008.
- LUMS Lawn Tennis Fixture was held on April 11, 2008 at the LUMS tennis court. The UMT team participated in the event but could not obtain any position. However, Anees Ahmad Khan (ID # 040420-002) from BS Textile won his individual match against the LUMS opponent. He is regarded as the best UMT lawn tennis player.
- LUMS double wicket cricket tournament was held on April 10, 2008 at the Ali Garh cricket ground Model Town, Lahore. The UMT team participated in the tournament.
- LUMS Nirala Futsal Tournament was held on April 5, 2008 at the LUMS football ground. The UMT Football team secured fourth position among 32 teams.

Intel Youth Network lecture/workshop

Jibran G Khattak, Assistant Regional Program Manager Intel® Youth Network, Lahore delivered a lecture to UMT participants on May 29, 2008. The lecture focused on the Intel Youth Network which is the only community that provides college students the ideal platform for social and professional growth. It employs a comprehensive program involving career and leadership opportunities, entertainment and other free stuff sponsored by Intel®. At the end of the lecture, Intel representatives brought all the participants into the IPC Lab to give them online membership of the Intel Youth Network. Every member also filled a coupon for a lucky draw which was held at the end of the event. The lucky draw generated a lot of interest and participants got a chance to win valuable prizes such as Intel speakers, webcams, T-shirts and iPods.

Fiber Science Poster Competition

The School of Science and Technology (SST) organized a scientific poster competition on June 4, 2008. A large number of students from the School of Science and Technology (SST) and the School of Business and Economics (SBE) as well as senior faculty members attended the event. Students from the Fiber Science (Spring 2008) class took part in the competition. Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad, Rector UMT, showed considerable interest and participated in the polls to decide the winners of the poster competition. Hamnad Mohsin, Lecturer Department of Textiles, was the resource person for this competition. Speaking on the occasion, he explained the significance of engaging students in activities that called for research and told the audience that students had made use of their creative and analytical skills to create the posters. He added that such activities will be held in every semester. Hamnad takes special interest in incorporating innovative teaching styles and has developed 5 new courses during the past two years.

Three posters were selected on the basis of creative design and scientific reasoning. The posters will be displayed permanently in the Department of Textiles. These include “Optical Properties of Fibers” by Sheryrya Ahmed, “Rate of Absorption of Moisture” by Fatima Jabeen and “Transverse Dimensions in Fibers” by M Shoaib Zain.

We commend the initiative taken by the students and the organizers of the poster competition as such events go a long way in developing the skills of the participants. We also congratulate the winners of the competition for demonstrating their creative abilities. One hopes that such events will be held frequently and more students will participate in them.

Trip to Mangla Dam and Rohtas Fort

There are regular opportunities for recreation and healthy extra-curricular activities for the students of UMT. Female students are especially encouraged to take part in such activities as this is an important aspect of their grooming. Over forty girl students from the University went on a trip to Mangla Dam and Rohtas Fort on August 9, 2008. They were accompanied by Madhia Shairwani, Marketing Communications Officer, OCM-UMT. The trip was organized by the Office of Participants Affairs (OPA). The students had plenty of opportunities to enjoy themselves and had a fine time at Mangla where they enjoyed boating and water scooter rides. Later they departed for Rohtas Fort but there was little time left for exploring as they had to embark on the return journey as well. However, they did explore the fort and the lake that could only be reached after going down 140 steps. The return journey turned out to be a fun-filled affair as well and the group stopped for dinner near the Chenab. They arrived back at the campus safely at night. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for the students and we hope that more such trips are organized for them in the future.