

Impact



E-Newsletter of Waljat College of Applied Sciences

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Message from the Dean

Our Greetings to all!

The connectivity and networking of people, ideas and efforts can bring about phenomenal change in the perceptions and performance of an organization. The expressions can be articulated, ideas given shape and efforts transformed to invaluable outputs. With this intent, we decided to launch a medium of communication between all stakeholders at Waljat College and as a result we present this inaugural issue of IMPACT to you.

This newsletter being launched on the occasion of the IV Convocation Ceremony of the College shares with you the renewed direction in which the College is moving step by step through contributions and views from different quarters.

Wisdom, Commitment, Achievement and Service are the four key values at Waljat College of Applied Sciences being inculcated collectively to

aim at 360 degree development of the individual capabilities of our students, faculty and staff. We firmly believe that in today's ever changing and challenging scenario in the academic arena, it is only the very best that would eventually stand out.



Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma, Dean

Our strategic plan envisages development of our students, faculty members and staff to trigger a firm commitment in them to achieve highest standards not only within the ambit of classrooms and academic learning but also to stretch their imagination to higher planes where they can think out of the box.

I am happy to share with you all that our renewed thinking and initiatives are being rec-

ognized by the society. In a recent national ranking of private higher education institutions published by one of the reputed magazines of Oman, Waljat College has been ranked as the second best college. We have begun the writing of the script of our future aspirations.

We regularly evaluate results of our past efforts and learn from them to redefine our future strategies and goals. I invite the student community and the Waljat family at large to participate with vigor and enthusiasm in building a great institution.

IMPACT would certainly provide a platform to put forth your suggestions and novel ideas, show case your talent and share your thoughts. Your contributions are invited on a regular basis.

Let us surge ahead.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma
Dean
Waljat College of Applied Sciences
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

"You must have control of the authorship of your own destiny. The pen that writes your life story must be held in your own hand." - Irene C. Kassorla



Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma, welcoming the freshers



Prathap and Anu won the Mr. and Ms. Splash titles

Welcoming the fresh batch of students

WCAS organized ‘Sign In 2010’ to welcome all the freshers of the Monsoon 2010 batch on 29th September, at the Park Inn Hotel.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma welcomed the students and wished them a truly productive and prolific college life. He also motivated them to take challenges and to head to a brighter future.

The event was attended by the Dean, Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma, Heads of the Departments, faculty members and over 250 students to welcome the fresh batch of students. In his inaugural speech, the dean welcomed the stu-

Mr. Prathap Daniel and Ms. Anu Gupta won the Mr. and Ms. Splash titles respectively and were awarded Splash vouchers. The evening was lit by musical performance by DJ Maitra.

In-House Management Skills Workshops



Top: In-house workshop on “Interview Techniques and Presentation Skills” organized on 21st Dec., 2010. Left: In-house workshop on “Managerial Skills” organized on 27th Oct., 2010.

An in-house workshop on “Managerial Skills” was organized on 27th October 2010.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma, Dean of Waljat College gave an inspiring talk on managerial skills and importance of time management to the MBA students. He emphasized on the importance of self

management concept in ones life.

Another workshop on “Interview Techniques and Presentation Skills” was organized on 21st December 2010 for MBA, BE, BCA, & BBA students.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma in his opening speech highlighted the impor-

tance of workshop and expressed the happiness about the response of students towards the programme.

Mr. Syed Aulia, Ms. Seema Varshney of Dept. of Management and Mr. Jyoti Kumar Chandel, Head of Dept. of Management conducted the workshops.

Intra College Cricket Tournament

The Student Council of Waljat College Of Applied Sciences organised annual intra college cricket tournament during 22-24th of November, 2010 at Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM) ground. More than 100 boys from different streams di-

vided in 8 teams participated in



league-cum-knockout basis matches. Girls also participated in the tournament. Faculty encouraged players by their presence. The boys team lead by

Kanha Deshpande, and among the girls, the team lead by Fatima Nalwaala respectively won the tournament and were awarded trophies by the Dean, Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Varma.



'Traditional Day 2010'

'TRADITIONAL DAY 2010' was celebrated on the 8th of November, 2010 in the college



premises. Students from various nationalities dressed up in their



traditional attires. A cultural programme was organized showcasing traditional arts, folk dances and music. The Dean welcomed the students, appreciating the cultural mix and respect towards each other's traditions. The event included

classical dance performance, music and fashion show by fellow students. This was the first time that cultural programmes were organized on Traditional day. This initiative was welcomed by the audience and we



hope people look forward to this event in the future also.

WCAS Participation in National Day March

More than 100 students and staff members took part in National Day 'loyalty march' on the 5th of December 2010, to mark the Sultanate's 40th National Day. The students paraded to express their loyalty and gratitude to the builder of modern

Oman, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.

The students marched with large portraits of Sultan Qaboos and were waving the national flag, singing songs and shouting slogans in praise of the leader.



WCAS students and faculty participating in National Day celebrations

New Faculty - Monsoon Semester 2010



Dr. Avneesh Pareekh

Dr. Avneesh Pareek, deputed by the parent university BIT, India, joined Dept. of Biotechnology. Dr. Pareek obtained M.Sc. degree from University of Delhi and Ph.D. from Univ. of Rajasthan, India.



Ms. Koel Mukherjee

Ms. Koel Mukherjee, deputed by BIT, joined Dept. of Biotechnology. Ms. Koel obtained B. Tech. degree from Haldia Institute of Technology and M. Tech. in Bioinformatics from West Bengal University, India.



Ms. Kusumlata Mishra

Ms. Kusumlata, deputed by BIT, joined Dept. of Management. Ms. Kusumlata obtained her PGDM and MA (Eco.) from India. As a student she won scholarships and as a faculty she has authored many research papers published and presented in journals and conferences respectively.

Ms. Mallika Sadhu, deputed by BIT, joined Dept. of Electronics and Communications. Ms. Mallika has done ME in



Ms. Mallika Sadhu

Electronics and Instrumentation. She possess a rich blend of corporate, freelance and teaching work experience. She has taught a variety of subjects to computer science, management and engineering students, at undergraduate and post graduate level.



Dr. Nutanlata Nath

Dr. (Mrs.) Nutanlata Nath, deputed by BIT, joined Dept. of Electronics and Communications. She possess rich teaching work experience of over 27 years. In BIT, India, she held different positions like Coordinator of BIT Extension Centre and Coordinator of EDU-SAT & E-learning Cell



Dr. Rajeev Kumar

Dr. Rajeev Kumar, deputed by BIT, joined Dept. of Electronics

and Communications. Dr. Kumar obtained M.Sc. (Physics) degree from I.I.T., Madras and Ph.D. from University of Calcutta.



Mr. Sounak Paul

Mr. Sounak Paul, deputed by BIT, joined Dept. of Computer Science. He obtained his master degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India. Mr. Paul has keen interest in environmental issues of computing.

Ms. Akrati Koul, joined our college in Department of Computer Science. Ms. Akrati holds B.E. and M. Tech.

degrees in Computer Science from India. She possess eight years of teaching and software industry experience. During her corporate experience with Fujitsu Consulting India Limited, she played an active role in Quality Assurance team.

Faculty: Research and publication

Ms. Blossom: Presented a paper in Eighth AIMS International Conference on Management, Ahmedabad, January 2011, on the topic " Omani Women Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Oman – Challenges and Opportunities.

Ms. Blossom: Paper published in Bharathiar University Magazine on the topic " Gender Issues in Entrepreneurship Development with special reference to Women Entrepreneurs in Coimbatore District, December 2010.

Mr. Jyoti Kumar Chandel and Mr. Sayed Aulia: Presented a paper on "Relationship between Personality Traits and Organizational Commitment: A Study of Science Laboratory Technicians in the Sultanate of Oman" in 2nd ICABE - December 14-15, 2010, at Sohar Univ., Oman.

Ms. Neelufer and Ms. Srilekha Goveas: Paper entitled 'Role and Contribution of women in the Sultanate of Oman' has been accepted for publication in International Journal of Business and Management, Volume 6, Number 3.

Mr. Neeraj Mishra and Mr. Sushil Kumar: Paper entitled "Quality Management in Indian Service Sector" published in The Alternative (April-Sept'10).

Mr. Sushil Kumar and Ms. Seema Varshnay: Presented a paper " A comparative study of the behaviour of inbound tourists of different nationalities staying in Oman" in 2nd ICABE - December 14-15, 2010, at Sohar University, Oman.

Dr. Sheeba Khan: "A Study of Role Stress and Type A Behaviour Pattern on Mental Health of Women Software Professionals in



Dr. Sheeba Khan (first from left) participating in a panel discussion in International Conference on Higher Education and Quality Assurance, 13th June 2010, Muscat, Oman.

Metropolis", at the International Conference on Technology and Business Management organized at IMT Dubai, March 16-18, 2010.

Dr. Sheeba Khan: "Changes and Development of Higher Education in the Sultanate of Oman", at the International Conference on Higher Education & Quality Assurance organized by Mazoon College at Grand Hyatt Muscat, 12-13 June, 2010.

Mr. Santosh Kumar Ray (Coauthored with Dr. Shailendra Singh and Dr. Bhagwati P. Joshi) : "Question Classification & Answer Validation- A Semantic Approach using WordNet and Wikipedia", Pattern Recognition Letters, Volume 31, issue 13, pp. 1935-1943, Elsevier, 2010.

Dr. Kumar Rajnish, Mr. Arbind Kumar Choudhary (Coauthored with Dr. Anand Mohan Agrawal): "Inheritance Metrics for Object-Oriented Design", International Journal of Computer Science and Information Technology (IJCSIT), Academy & Industry Research Collaboration Centre (AIRCC), Vol. 2 No. 6, pp.13-26, December-2010

Mr. Santosh Kumar Ray (Coauthored with Dr. Shailendra Singh): Blog Content Based Rec-

ommendation Framework Using WordNet and Multiple Ontologies", In proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Next Generation Web Services Practices (NWeSP 2010), to be published and indexed in IEEE explore, Conference Venue: MTM, Gwalior, November 23-25, 2010, India.

Mr. Mohammad Mohatram (Coauthored with Prof. Praveen Dhyani and Dr. Peeyush Tewari) "A Different Approach to Economic Load Dispatch using an Exponential Cost Function" International Journal of COMADEM , U.K., Vol. 13, no. 4, Oct 2010, pp 16-21.

Standardized Psychological Questionnaires

Dr. Sheeba Khan of Department of Management took initiative for organizing comprehensive information and references about "Standardized Psychological Questionnaires". These standardized questionnaires can be used by faculty members, research scholars, post graduate and under graduate students in their research or project related activities. All these questionnaires are now available in the library of Waljat College.

IDEAS @ WALJAT COLLEGE

This section shares tested and emerging ideas penned by Waljat College Faculty on independent, active and group learning.



Ms. Indrani Basu

“It has been observed that in the case of a particularly difficult subjects like Mathematics, Accounting, Statistics or Physic/Chemistry, a student who understands the subject well takes charge and helps in teaching his/her classmates.”

Ten effective ways for Independent Learning

- *Indrani Basu, Head, Dept. of English*

The paradigm that has governed many colleges is this: “A college is an institution that exists to provide instructions.” Subtly, but profoundly we are shifting to a new paradigm: “A college is an institution that exists to produce Learning”. This shift changes the concept of teaching today as the learning process shift from being passive to active-from teacher dependence to more learner dependence.

Now, as the elements of paradigm permeate the air, our heads are beginning to understand what our hearts always knew. However, we have not yet been able to put all the elements of Learning Paradigm together in a conscious, integrated whole in organic union with everyday life. Our experience of teaching English in Oman, gave us certain insights about the learning styles of students. We felt that the students prefer learn-

ing:

- By absorbing information in smaller connected chunks.
- By putting into practice the information learnt
- By visualizing matter which helps recall
- Through facts and figures rather than abstract material
- In groups rather than individually
- Through listening and speaking repeatedly
- To some extent through verbal inputs

It has been observed that in the case of a particularly difficult subjects like Mathematics, Statistics or Physic/Chemistry, a student who understands the subject well takes charge and helps in teaching his/her classmates.

Ten ways have been highlighted which the teachers can incorporate in their classrooms to provide Independent Learning.

These will assist students to develop skills which will in the long run help them to become good learners, to take responsibility for their own learning and to be able to apply these skills to any new learning situation.

1. Give Choices

2. Encourage group work.

3. Encourage learners to predict how well they did on tests

4. Set some Learning goals

5. Use authentic texts.

6. Involve learners in lesson planning.

7. Encourage learners to maintain learner diaries.

8. Build reflection and extension into activities.

9. Encourage self and peer editing

10. Create a self access facility in the classroom

IDEAS @ WALJAT COLLEGE

Independent Learning: An Effective Paradigm towards knowledge - *Smita Prasad, Faculty, Dept. of English*

Due to the vast accessibility to resources at the disposal of students, the teacher is prompted to don the role of a facilitator assisting students in their learning process with a research-oriented approach rather than by simply cramming and re-producing the same.

At the helm, the teacher becomes a provider of “testing tools”- to evaluate and assess, and as a catalyst encourages students to explore, observe and infer, a their brains work as “processors” and synthesize the material and make it useful or relevant to their needs.

But this is indeed an uphill task. This change, is not an event, but a process. Its success owes a great deal to class discussion and negotiation to establish good rapport between student and teacher. The students, now a days have become more self oriented, individualistic and focused.

Nothing is servile now a days. They no longer look upon a role model only. They have to be con-

vinced of the new reality. The student craves for a distinct personality, distinct place and position.

The difference between a “factory produced” and an “exclusive boutique item” could be taken as an analogy. Hence, in the growing scenario of commercialization, we have to carve out an “individual learner’s outfit” for every student.

We should allow them to have the pleasure of “arriving” at the result of their research, by providing them with “flexibility” to drift and explore but use our teacher’s compass to pull them back to the centre. It is an age of interdisciplinary courses, multi-specializations, so one can find expression of one’s talents through different methods.

The key aspects of the teacher’s role in fostering Independent learning are:

1. Learning Environment:

The teacher plays an important role in providing a supportive environment that encourages students’ motivation, self confidence, curiosity and desire to learn.

2. Relationship between teacher and student: The relationship between teacher and learner should foster “increasing learner responsibility”.

3. Modeling and practicing learning skills: Show students how; provide practice; have students structure activities and finally have them use the activities independently.

4. Collaborative instructional techniques: To facilitate learning in a variety of ways which are age appropriate, subject appropriate and related to students needs.

5. Support and encouragement to students: To be a patient facilitator, showing students how to learn independently, encouraging them, providing feedback and supporting their efforts.

These are all crucial factors which foster independent learning.



Ms. Smita Prasad

“The difference between a “factory produced” and an “exclusive boutique item” could be taken as an analogy. Hence, in the growing scenario of commercialization, we have to carve out an “individual learner’s outfit” for every student.”

Faculty get-together



Faculty and Staff of Waljat College celebrated Deepawali with a gala dinner organized on 14th November 2010.



Faculty and staff of Waljat College celebrated Eid with a gala dinner organized on 18th September 2010.



Waljat College organized one day site-seeing tour for faculty and staff on 8th December 2010. Naseem garden, Al Hoqain and Rustaq were visited on the day.



Faculty and staff of Waljat College celebrated Christmas and exchanged New Year greetings in advance with a gala lunch in college premises on 31st December 2010. The day also witnessed faculty and staff participating in a cricket match



Views of an Alumna - Verda Khalik

After finishing graduation with First Class distinction from Waljat College of Applied Sciences I wanted to pursue my Masters in Business Administration. However, due to unavoidable circumstances I had no choice but to abandon my wishes. I would like to thank His Excellency Dr. Omar Zawawi from the bottom of my heart for granting me scholarship to pursue my MBA.

Carving out time for social activities and spending time with friends is extremely vital. I participated in volleyball, badminton and cricket tournaments, became an active member of photography and art club, participated in fashion show's at Cultural-day, volunteered in Open-day activities, and last but not the least participated and won *first*

position in Inter-College Business Quest Competitions. Invaluable memories of professors, friends, fun, laughter and my day-today at Waljat College life shall be cherished in my heart forever.

I as an individual have always attempted to find



Ms. Verda Khalik
Alumna of Waljat College of Applied Sci-

opportunities in every problem by looking at the positive side of change. HSBC Bank Middle East gave me 'this' opportunity where I work respectably as a Credit Risk Analyst. Most importantly, I would like to immensely thank His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin

Said, for promoting education and especially for providing institution's like Waljat which has enabled the students to get higher level of education in my country.

"I as an individual have always attempted to find opportunities in every problem by looking at the positive side of change."

When I began writing this article, I was not certain what I shall write, but the quote by Britta Fiksdal sums up my thoughts nicely: "Dream what you want to dream, go where you want to go, be what you want to be - because you only have one life and one chance to do all the things that you want to do."

Ms. Verda Khalik is an alumna of Waljat College of Applied Sciences and is working as Credit Risk Analyst, HSBC Bank Middle East, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

A CAULDRON OF GOULASH

Author: Ms. Indrani Basu
Dept. of English

A Taste of my Class of 2010

Ingredients:

One studious girl
A pinch of know-it-all
A celebrity
Two party animals
One insomniac
A couple of movie bugs
A handful of sleepy heads
Seven couch potatoes
Four abstract adventurer
Two cups of worry warts
One cup of quizzers
A few latecomers
A teaspoon of trouble makers
A couple of gamers
Five Think Pots

Seasoning:

Laughter and tricks
Lectures and quizzes
Exams and attitudes
Sports and creativity

Cooking time:

26,280 hrs (approx.3 years)

Procedure:

Take a classroom. Throw all the ingredients in. Toss them around. Sprinkle generously with laughter. Put in a trick or two. Add some creativity and sports. Let the potion bubble and boil. Season with unending lectures and add a few exams and quizzes. Let it simmer for three years until well formed.

Remove from classroom. Let it cool with attitude. Garnish with finesse and serve with ambition.

Makes 20-25 sumptuous servings.

OXYMORON

Author: Dr. Pranav Naithani
Dept. of Management
(First published in Horizon, Bahrain, Nov. 2007)

Years back I read an advertisement for a washing machine. The USP was that it worked on a "fuzzy logic" microprocessor. I struggled to comprehend, how could something fuzzy be logical? That day was the beginning of my journey to the world of 'oxymora' (Yes, the plural is oxymora!). Oxymoron has its root in Greek words, oxus (sharp) and morus (fool). Oxymora is all about deliberate contradictions and are used when an author desires a deeper thought processing in reader's mind. At times they are used for intellectual humour.

Ancient philosophers used oxymora frequently to stimulate human brain. Lao-tzu advised, "To lead the people, walk behind them." Socrates claimed, "I know that I know nothing". "Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's own ignorance" were the words of Confucius.

I find myself surrounded by oxymora. On a lighter side my two favourite songs, Beatles' "A hard day's night" and Cliff Richard's "Living Doll" may qualify as oxymora. A book I read few years ago "The world is flat" by Thomas L. Friedman. A movie "True lies".

It's an "open secret" and fairly isn't an "old news" that "almost exactly" oxymora are "second best" to none if one wants to use them to add spice to public speaking and creative writing.

HONEST DICTIONARY

Source: www.binscorner.com/pages/t/the-honest-dictionary.html

Suggested by: Dr. G.P. Mishra
Dept. of Management

CIGARETTE: A pinch of tobacco rolled in paper with fire at one end and a fool at the other!

COMMITTEE: Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit to decide that nothing can be done together

COMPROMISE: The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes he got the biggest piece

CONFERENCE: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present

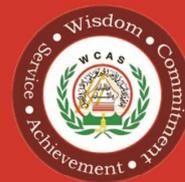
ETC: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.

EXPERIENCE: The name men give to their Mistakes

OPTIMIST: A person who while falling from EIF-FEL TOWER says in midway "SEE I AM NOT INJURED YET!"

PESSIMIST: A person who says that O is the last letter in ZERO, Instead of the first letter in OPPORTUNITY

SMILE: A curve that can set a lot of things straight!



Quality @ Waljat

Together we can !

WCAS aspires to be a college of higher learning with outstanding quality. With that in mind,

As a teacher we are to



Understand that every student is a promise for a better tomorrow

Aim for a high level of quality in the courses we teach



Encourage students in Curricular and Co Curricular Activities.

Remember that only as a team can we succeed.



As a student we are to



Attend classes regularly

Maintain a high level of discipline



Follow campus rules and regulations

Help our friends in need



Get Involved ! For further information contact the quality team on quality@waljat.net



WALJAT COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES

In Academic Partnership with
BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, RANCHI, INDIA



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Defining Principles:
Accountability, Equality,
Open-mindedness, Excellence,
Innovation, Teamwork

MISSION: Waljat College of Applied Sciences will contribute significantly through academic and allied activities that develop knowledgeable and socially responsible persons.

VISION: Our vision is to impart affordable high quality professional education and to become a centre of academic excellence that is a preferred choice of talented students.

www.waljatcollege.edu.om

Courses offered by WCAS

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

Foundation program in Bachelor of Engineering

Foundation program in Bachelor of Computer Application

Foundation program in BBA, BBA & IT, BBA & Finance, BBA & Accountancy, BBA & Banking, BBA & HRD, BBA & Commerce

FULL TIME PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Science) BE/CS.

Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics & Communication) BE/EC.

Bachelor of Engineering (Bio Technology) BE/Bio.

Bachelor of Computer Application (Honours) - BCA/H.

Bachelor of Business Administration & Information Technology

Bachelor of Business Administration & Finance (BBA/Fin).

BBA & Accountancy.

BBA & Commerce.

BBA & Banking.

BBA & Human Resource Development.

BBA

BCA

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

PART TIME PROGRAMS

Part-time foundation programs

Part-time BBA, BBA & IT / Finance / Accountancy / Commerce / Banking /HRD programs.

Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) - Part Time.