

FP CHRONICLE

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER



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FALL 2010/11



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is indeed an exciting New Year for us! We have moved to our purpose built campus and are enjoying the new opportunities of the great facilities. This move also coincided with the momentous celebrations of the 40th National Day! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty for the multitude of achievements in the nation building process.

As we are on the verge of ending the first semester, I would like to wish our students all the best while they prepare for their exams. Let me take this opportunity to thank all the FP faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work. I also thank our university leadership for supporting all the efforts of the Foundation Program.

We are full of anticipation of successful endeavours in the year 2011 :-)

Annie Lajinian-Magarian

Director of the Foundation Program

Be a go-getter!

Dear students,

Congratulations! The 40th National Day, inauguration of the new campus, Graduation Day, and going on to new classes-a lot has been happening this year. What a year! You are on the threshold of a new beginning, in a world that is ever-changing, full of possibilities and challenges, opportunities and a fair share of disappointments.

Keep the faith! Believe that you have all it takes to be successful in your lives. The life that YOU choose to be. 'Aim high and fly high', as you are the captain of your own ship and it is you who will decide, initiate and act.

"You are the storyteller of your own life and you can create the legend or not"-Isabel Ellande

Remember: Success is waiting just round the corner. Go and get it! :-)

Rehana Hussain

Chair, FP Publication & News Committee

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Oman, in these days, is very happy because a lot of people go out on to streets and parks to celebrate its 40th National Day. His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos's pictures are put up everywhere. All children buy small flags and go into the streets with their family on this occasion. Most of the streets are decorated with national flags, lights and flowers. Omanis put His Majesty's picture in their houses and prepare special halwa to be given to neighbors/ friends.

Salma Suhail Shamlan Jaboob & Friends

Level-1R

For the 40th National Day, I want to congratulate His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said for this day and I wish him long and healthy life. Also, I hope this country develops in all ways. I hope Omani people live a good and healthy life and happiness forever.

Eman Salim Mohammad Al Awaid

Level-3

18th November, 2010, my country is celebrating the 40th year of Sultan Qaboos' rule. I like this day because we celebrate it with a lot of happiness. Also, I'll join the celebrations at the stadium, for participating in "Alhapoot" and I m very excited about this day.

Omani & Proud

Mohammad Mohsin Saad Al-Moqadam

Level-2

I love my country very much. I am very happy because I am an Omani. This year we are celebrating 40 years of achievements and developments – together.

Sharifa Bakhit Salim Kashoob

Level-3

I FIND OMAN A PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL COUNTRY!
HAPPY NATIONAL DAY!

UMAIR HUSSAIN
LEVEL-3

EVERY YEAR, ON 18TH NOVEMBER, THE OMANI PEOPLE CELEBRATE THEIR NATIONAL DAY. BEFORE THAT WONDERFUL DAY, A LOT OF LIGHTS, FLAGS AND DECORATIONS ARE DISPLAYED EVERYWHERE IN THE SULTANATE. DURING THE NATIONAL DAY, THE CITIES, TOWNS AND STREETS CHANGE INTO BRIGHT COLOURS. THERE ARE A LOT OF CELEBRATIONS AND CEREMONIES. IT IS A GREAT FESTIVAL OF THE SULTANATE. OMANIS ARE PROUD OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY.

FATMA AMAR AL SHANFARI - LEVEL 2

Our New Campus

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We moved to the new campus two weeks ago. It's very big and modern. The parking lots are huge so there are no more problems with parking cars! What really makes me happy is the big mosque where I love to pray Dhohr and sometimes Asr. I suggest people to come and study in DU because DU has many things to give them. It's really promising in here!!

Osama Fael Riadh, Level 2



I think the new campus is great! It's very big and the classrooms are equipped with advanced technological teaching aids. I'm lucky to study here. Generally speaking, the place is great and the mountains around are awesome.

Ahmad Samir Hilal Al Noobi, Level 2



One of the most important changes in Oman during the National Day was the opening of DU. I really feel very happy because we are studying in a new campus supplied with the latest technology in each college, to push both students and teachers to do their best in their studies. We have a big and a nice library to read, study, in comfort. In summary, we are now in a good setting for study, so we should work harder to be excellent students. And we should not care about simple problems like having enough trees, flowers etc. because it just needs time. Eventually, everything will be alright.

Marouj Ahmed Al-Saifi, Level 3

The new campus is very nice and big. There are many different buildings in this new campus, including a building for classes, a main library, a student activity centre, a mosque and dormitories where students can live during their term. There are many services for the students in the FP, apart from teachers, there are also special advisors. There are many computer labs around the campus. There are two cafeterias. Students at DU know that good education is important. The students are proud of their institution. They show their pride by studying hard.

Marwa Taya Al Shashay, Level-2

-Compiled by Faisal

Right now you are one choice away from a new beginning.
~Oprah Winfrey



Welcome-New Faculty

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Joining Dhofar University has been a huge leap in my life, both on the academic and professional levels. Being a faculty member is an honor which I am proud of.

Although, I haven't spent more than three months here, I already feel I belong here. The very feeling of ownership is overwhelming in itself. In addition, seeing a student striving to learn, gives me a feeling of self-satisfaction and a great sense of joy.

Shakir Hamid Al Hassan, FP/ELU - Instructor

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for this opportunity to provide my impression after three months of working with Dhofar University. I am often surprised and always delighted by the sense of ownership and real pride that my colleagues take in the Foundation Program.

Our students are certainly very important to us. The young people who come to this institution with such energy and vigor. They bring us inspiration and a sense of purpose, and they go ahead after graduation, prepared and determined to build a better Oman. It is by serving them that we serve the whole community.

Saeed Salim Al Mashiki, FP/ELU



We arrived at the university on 18th September 2010. Having spent 3 years at the Ibri College of Applied Sciences, we longed for a change. Ibri is just desert with very few shops which meant that every Thursday we had to drive to Muscat and back (6 hours) to do our weekly shopping. Salalah has everything we need and we love it.

As for Dhofar University, we are delighted to be here and really enjoy teaching the lovely students. The 2 big differences between DU and Ibri COAS are that at DU male students can wear whatever they want and also we have some non- Omani students. It is more interesting for us to have mixed nationality classes both from a cultural and linguistic view point.

Anne Moore and Philip Alder, FP/ELU



What are my first impressions of Salalah? Personally, I am thrilled. The most important thing is that my students listen to the teacher, do the learning activities, and treat me with respect.

Salalah, too, is beyond any measure of doubt an extraordinarily lovely place. The people are much more friendly and respectful of each other, and towards foreigners. Never was there a more lovely natural environment than that of this area as well; I am fond myself of beach activities, and am somewhat of an amateur archaeologist, so Salalah has plenty to keep me going. The fishing and surfing, in fact, is very good right in front of my apartment on Al Hafa beach, and I live right next door to the ancient citadel Al Baleed. I certainly hope that things continue to work out as well as they have done thus far, I may have found the perfect place.

Christopher Matthew Smith, FP/ELU

A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes.
~Mahatma Gandhi



Shrafuddin (left) with FP faculty



Shrafuddin's farewell-party cake!

SHRAFUDDIN'S PARTING THOUGHTS

Engraved memories

I never thought I would have to say goodbye to the FP family before the latter bids goodbye to me. The long six years with the FP family has filled the treasury of my memory with sweetest words of kindness, inerasable stamp of affection, relieving chats of laughter and stretching hands of generosity. I did not dream that there would be a grand farewell party arranged for me with much color and emotions. After the party I questioned myself "do I deserve all that the family members showered on me or could I return all the love and concern they had for me?"

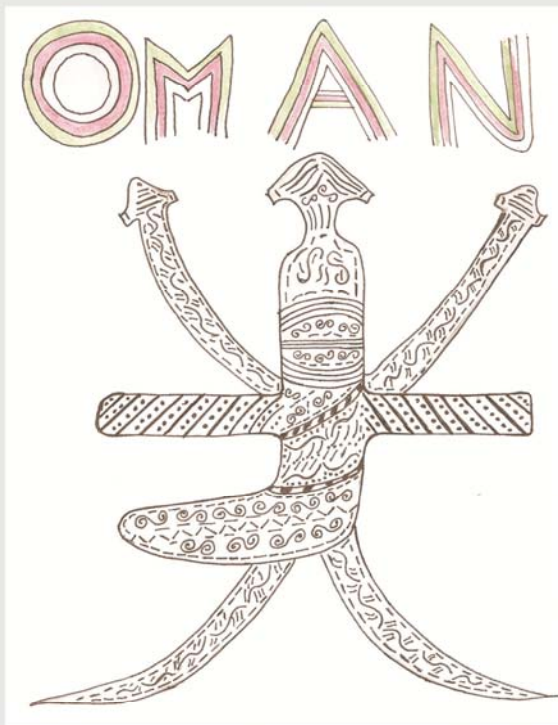
When the FP director, Ms. Annie put her hand on my shoulder I could experience the same warmth of affection that the caressing hands of my mother gave me years ago. I wondered if my mother was back to life. Words fail to express my gratitude to you and how I miss you all but the thought that I can keep you all in my mind irrespective of time and distance gives some solace.

(As told to Abdul Latheef)

It is a matter of real pleasure to note that another issue of FP chronicle is in the hands of its readership with two focal themes- National day and the new campus. On the auspicious occasion of the 40th National day, the Math/IT Unit at Dhofar University extends hearty congratulations to His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and the people of Oman. It deserves a special mention that the visionary leadership of His Majesty has revolutionized the educational sector in Oman in such a way that the country is now well - equipped to meet the basic and higher educational needs of Omanis without compromising on the quality of education.

The inauguration of the new campus of Dhofar University, with state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure is another page in the book of this ongoing revolution in education. Math/IT Unit has been working effectively since 2005 to achieve its well defined objectives. The Unit aims at inculcating concepts and tools in mathematics and IT in every FP student, so that their foundation for careers and further studies in mathematics, commerce, engineering and humanities in different colleges at Dhofar University will be stable and secure. The well equipped computer labs and multimedia backed classrooms in the new campus ensure the best learning atmosphere and the best learning experience for our Math/IT students. As another semester is round the corner the Math/IT Unit stretches its hands in welcoming all its prospective students.

Towards quality and professionalism



Art by: Noof Shemel Ali Al-Beloushi, Level 1



DU: New Campus Inauguration

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VEERAIYAN, FP/IT



MY LIFE BROKEN DOWN INTO SEGMENTS



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