

# FP CHRONICLE

## FOUNDATION PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO. 04  
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### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The 2010-11 academic year is almost over and we are all filled with mixed feelings of happiness and sadness. Happiness, for having done our best for our students, and sadness, for having to miss our colleagues and students until we meet again in September!

The theme of this issue is focused on the importance of EDUCATION. Do we need education to get a job or to pave the way for lifelong learning and to become better human beings, cultured persons, engaged citizens? The process of learning is much more important than the result (the degree) even though that result (or the degree) becomes a key factor in establishing a respectable standing in society and securing a good job. Nonetheless, our success will always be

dependent on the benefits of learning and our ability to continuously reinvent ourselves in this fast changing world.

Ultimately, my message to our students is: ***Benefit from every learning opportunity offered to you at Dhofar University to develop your knowledge and intellectual abilities, to improve your communication and study skills, and to acquire positive attitude towards learning.***

**Annie Lajinian-Magarian**

*Director, Foundation Program*

Dear students,

This has been a semester full of mixed and fruitful experiences for you and us. We all have emerged better, successful and motivated to move on to the next step, the next semester or the next degree. This is 'Education' we learn and continue to do so, as it is a never-ending process.

Throughout this Issue, you will read as to how hard work and self-discipline can pave the way to getting good education and its ultimate goal SUCCESS! Certainly, there is no alternative to these requisites and we need to inculcate them in ourselves and see how rich and meaningful our lives become!

Education will take you everywhere in the world. If you always keep that in mind you will find meaning in life and work and acquire the right attitude towards everything else.



**HARD WORK + DISCIPLINE = SUCCESS**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!** See you in September :-)

**Rehana Hussain, Chair, FP News & Publications Committee**

Learn as much as you can while you are young, since life becomes too busy later.

~Dana Stewart Scott

"Everything we do not have at our birth and which we need when we are grown is given to us by education."

(Rousseau, 1712 -1778)







I have BA in teaching English, from Dhofar University. I am currently working as a part time teacher in Ajyal School Cycle 1 since 3 months.

My ambition is to be a good teacher of English, to be educated and have an important role in my society and to make a difference in the field of education. Being a teacher in my society is a respectable career because through teaching I can make a difference - I can teach my student their rights because throughout all the years I've learnt that students have rights; in other words, they can say in which way they want to learn and express their opinion without fearing anyone.

It's important to have an education because we are in a fast moving age, so completing high school is not enough and I hope that more students get a chance to study at a university.

Education is necessary because through education all thoughts, all beliefs become stronger, even our minds grow with the sum of information, a good attitude develops every day and education can turn the disadvantages into benefits. Islam encourages education and we have a saying that the teacher is in the place of a prophet.

Remember, the important thing is not to stop questioning, try to do something beyond what you have already mastered and work hard and you will achieve your goals.



### ***Hamda Ali Al-Turk Al Katheeri, Part time teacher, Ajyal School Cycle 1***



I am a final year student in CAAS, in Dhofar University. I have been studying English Language for three years now and with that I started working at Lulu Hypermarket, Salalah. I joined as a cashier. I use the time in between breaks to study and do revision. I always remember that when I work, I depend on only myself and that studying is important. Moreover, I want to improve my language by talking to a lot of people.

To have a good education is important because, when you do, it helps you to find a better job, you should have a higher qualification. Also, in Islam the first verse in the Holy Koran urges - to read.

I have little free time as I work at Lulu Hypermarket, Salalah, as a supervisor of Customer Service, but I always read stories and newspapers to improve my language. I speak with customers because having conversations is the best way to acquire a foreign language. I have reached where I am today because of education. I will continue with my higher studies God willing!

### ***Asaad Balushi, Supervisor, Customer Service, Lulu Hypermarket***







Being equipped with good education is one of the most important goals a person must obtain to cope with the modern world. This goal cannot be achieved unless you struggle to get good education in one of higher education institutions.

"We will educate our sons even under the shades of trees", said His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in his 1<sup>st</sup> speech in 1970. The echoes of these precious words spread all over Oman as the government put lots of effort to establish higher education institutes in most parts of Oman.

Higher education institutes have been established to graduate well qualified Omanis who can develop their country. It is our duty to study very hard and get benefit of every resources of knowledge they provide. If we do so, we will end up with well trained and highly qualified graduates who can develop the society as well as their personalities.

### **Shoaib AlBalushi, Instructor, ELU**

Currently, I am working as the Secretary of the FP-ELU since October 2008. I have completed Bachelor's degree in Tourism Management. My GPA score is 3.46 and I passed with 'Distinction'.

All this was achieved by getting a good and strong education. I think it is the key to all kinds of progress. Getting an education has many benefits like it pays you well, your brain remains active, you keep in touch with new developments, you learn new skills and about the world.

Education is important. One of the best parts of education is that you will learn the basic things on how to handle situations such as family problems, how to answer your assignments and how to face some of your fears. This is real life and it is not like an animation movie or a cartoon. We must face all the challenges by getting the best education we can. Let's face all our fears!

I have specific time for study. Everyone can schedule a particular time for it, plan in advance, take notes during lectures, ask your friends not to call you or disturb you when you are studying, ask your teachers or friends when you don't understand anything, and most importantly, revise your work during the weekends.

**Hanaa Mubarak Said Bait Mubarak, Secretary, FP-ELU**

I THINK  
EDUCATION IS VERY  
IMPORTANT, SPECIALLY HAVING A HIGHER  
EDUCATION. WE CAN GET A GOOD PAYING JOB,  
WE CAN IMPROVE OURSELVES, GAIN  
KNOWLEDGE AND HELP IN IMPROVING OUR  
SOCIETY. I AM NOT STUDYING NOW, I WILL IN  
THE FUTURE, IF I GET THE CHANCE, I WORK  
AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN THE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN, CAAS, DHOFAR  
UNIVERSITY AND MY AMBITION IS TO DO MY  
DOCTORATE AND HAVE MY OWN BUSINESS. TO  
ACHIEVE THIS AMBITION I MUST TAKE UP  
HIGHER STUDIES.

**FATIMA QATAN, EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY OFFICE OF  
DEAN, CAAS -**

Education improves the personality and a then a person has a better chance of getting a good job. I believe in getting a higher education. I studied for three years in Salalah Technical College and continued in Sultan Qaboos University for four years to get my Bachelors degree. I plan to study further. I take part in several training programs in the university here to learn more about my work.

My recommendations to all who are eager to learn is to study hard, enjoy every moment of it, participate in events and a join club to further your learning experience and be happy while you are in this phase of your university life!

**Iptisam Ojaily, CNS/IT dept. DU**







"Learn there is no one born educated." This is the sentence I hear from my parents everyday because they know the importance of education. I believe that education is necessary for every one nowadays. This is because there are things that strike me about education, such as knowledge gain, it equips me with all that is needed to make my dreams come true and teach me how to lead my life in a good way. With education we must have an ambition. My ambition is to make my life beautiful and comfortable and to be an engineer. My ambition drives me to achieve my dreams and without it I would have a difficult time accomplishing anything and feeling of any worth. So, with a strong ambition and education I'll make myself and my life.



**Hadeel Sammar, College of Engineering, Yr 2, DU**

*Those were really beautiful days when I was in Foundation Program. The time spent there is unforgettable. I want to say a simple thing for the FP students who don't feel that FP is a very valuable step in university life. For the students who will come in the coming years. Dear ones, you should realize that FP is your best time to be strong in language, skills, and communication in all subjects.*

*This is the right time to assert yourself because when you go to the majors, your personality will be well-rounded. Believe me that your teachers in FP are very friendly and easy on you, they give a lot of time and you can take as much as you can from their experiences and knowledge. In the majors, that is not possible and you have to find time to study, all by yourself. So try to make the best of these important hours in your FP life to be a successful student. My best wishes are always with you!*

**Moroj Ahmed Al-Saifi, Yr 1, CAAS, Dhofar University**

I was in Level 1X and got 75% and came to Level 2. I'm happy for that as I really worked very hard. The FP is indeed necessary for all of us as we came in with weak English and we need much care. Some students do not get better because they are lazy. We need to work much at home and rely on ourselves. I hope I can finish the FP with very good grades and go to my majors- Internal Designing.

**Marwa Ahmed Al Mashali, Level 2**

I think the Foundation Programme is very important. I learnt a lot, really a lot! I was taught how to read, write, listen and speak. I was in Level 1R and I am now in Level 2 and you know what, my English has improved much. I also feel that my thinking and logic are better than before. So, I think the FP is an important stage in the early academic life of any student. It helps us go to our majors with more confidence!

**Najat bint Salim Hamdoon, Level 2**

I'm in Level 2 and I'm happy to be there. The FP is interesting and the books are good and easy to understand. There is a lot to do in Level 2. The journals and portfolios are great but they need much work! I wish all my friends good luck in their studies and one little advice, time is important so we need to manage it well. We Arabs say, 'time is like a sword, if you don't cut it, it will cut you', just like the English saying 'Time is Money'.

**Jabel Mohammed Nasser Al Saidi, Level 2**





## Vision of the Unit

The Math/IT unit aims at imparting knowledge required to bridge the gap between the students' school education and higher education at university level.

The teaching and learning activities in the unit are well organized in such a way that the learners' ability to solve the problems in their real life context is considerably ensured. The introduction of portfolios for every student has enhanced their confidence level, increased their motivation to solve problems and improved their intellectual abilities.

The unit's key focus is on building a solid foundation for the learners' pursuit of higher studies at colleges of their choice, creating love for the subject and employing mathematical methods in their practical life outside the classroom.

## **Math / IT Units' motto: Towards Quality and Professionalism!**



It gives us immense pleasure to learn that the fourth issue of FP chronicle with thematic emphasis on constructive and critical reflections on earlier issues is now accessible to 'glocal' readers. Imaginative and innovative thoughts, once granted life in print/soft form, continue to inspire and proliferate further ruminations and creativity especially in the present world where publishing and accessing ideas have become incredibly easy and simple.

As another semester sets in the horizon of time, the Math and IT units recall with gratitude the bunch of memorable imprints that the faculty and the students left behind. Let's hope we will have another batch of vibrantly dynamic and positively inquisitive students to make the upcoming fall semester in the new academic year academically eventful and productively prolific.

Any society marching towards progress should pass through the gates of education. This is the way in which all developed countries achieved their success and progress. For this very reason, education was at the top of their priorities. Education can be used for change and facing the future boldly.

Countries spend huge amounts of money to create a well-qualified, educated human resource. Higher education is a goal not to be spared. For all the students who want to make a mark in today's money and business world, who want to be pioneers in the field of their choice and who want to succeed - education is the answer.



**Menhal Aref, Coordinator, Math Unit**





## VALUE OF EDUCATION A TEACHER'S THOUGHTS

Education is the process of attainment of knowledge and results in a good social behaviour. Education is something very much to be valued as it results in anyone's progress and betterment. Sometimes not everyone has an opportunity to pursue higher education due to socio-economic factors. But the students who have the opportunity, who study at Dhofar University, are lucky. If they start realizing this fact then the mind set will start changing and will be orientated towards attaining knowledge and becoming better.

The students in any university should realize that they are spending a number of years of their life time in the university to attain their diploma or degree. With the quantum of time, money and effort spent a student should work hard to improve his/her skills and knowledge during the study time. The students should focus on a holistic development which involves attaining mastery of many skills needed to survive the challenges of the modern world.

Thus a student should make use of his time properly and effectively during his/her stay at university, be responsible, thrive to seek knowledge and thereby be able to attain greater heights in all the spheres of life.

Muhammed Yousoof, Lecturer & IT Coordinator



### FP LAUNCHES MOODLE

Keeping abreast of the paradigm shift in education from chalk and talk to mouse and screen, FP launched its Moodle CMS in the beginning of spring semester 2011. Moodle, also termed as Learning Management System (LMS) and built on constructivist approach to learning, promotes hybrid pedagogy in which face to face instruction is supplemented/complemented by e-learning across time and space confinements. Along with serving as a repertoire of study materials, it automates prolific learning activities/experiences in the form of assignments, quizzes, texting, discussion forums, and wikis to add variety, motivation, learner friendliness, individual pace and quality to educational practices.

Abdul Latheef & Syed Salman

I LIKE MATHEMATICS BECAUSE IT IS A VERY INTERESTING SUBJECT AND WHEN I WAS AT SCHOOL I LOVED THIS SUBJECT AND I WAS EXCELLENT IN MY CLASS.

I ORGANIZE MY TIME TO STUDY MATHEMATICS. I UNDERSTAND MATH IN MY HEAD NOT MEMORIZE IT. I PRACTICE EVERY DAY. MATH HELPS US TO EASE OUR LIFE, AND I THINK WE DO PRACTICE MATHEMATICS IN OUR LIFE WHEN WE USE THE NUMBERS AND CALCULATE.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND IT. IT IS INTERESTING AND EASY TO ME. I DON'T FACE ANY BIG PROBLEMS IN MY CLASS.

NABILA OTHMAN MURAD AL-BALUSHI, L2 MATH





No one can say that IT is not important nowadays because it is a window to communicate with other people in different countries in the world. Just think of Face book, Twitter and all the social networks at our disposal. In the FP we learnt a lot and hope that I can learn more simply because the more you know the better you become. Now I can use PowerPoint in my presentations and Excel to execute some mathematical operations.

**Fatima Alawi Ali Ibrahim, Level 3**

Maths is an interesting subject and easy to understand. The teacher gives a lot of homework and this helps us understand more and get better. It's useful in life because it helps the learners to easily do some mathematical or financial operations while at home or in a bank for instance.

**Sultan Isheq Hamed Al Amri, Level 1**

Of course I like IT because it's highly important in our life and work nowadays. At the beginning, the subject was a bit hard and I was a bit afraid, as the days went by the teachers helped me and I started to understand better. Knowing IT can help a lot. In the FP I was taught PowerPoint, Excel and different ways of forming tables and doing successful presentations.

**Majed Mubarak Al Ghammari, Level 3**

The best thing about math is that it does not require memorization- only understanding and application. All that you need to do is master the rules and solve the operations regularly. It is obvious that maths is useful and needed in all aspects of our life such as data processing, construction, statistics and census. Maths keeps our minds in shape and whets our thinking, and for that I hope all DU students care about it and try to excel in it.

**Al Khayar Ali Al Mashikhi, Level 2**

My Experience with IT in the FP has been exciting and rich. I learnt many new things thanks to my teacher. One of them is the best way to use the internet, to look for information and then how to present data using PowerPoint. It really helps us to set up our foundation to become more professional in the future.

**Shima Musallam Salim Al Basrawi, Level 3**

I really like IT. It's an interesting subject and I learnt a lot from it. IT is important not only to pass exams but also in my everyday life because I usually use the computer, especially PowerPoint, Word and other programmes.

**Sheikha Said Al Amri, Level 3**

Maths is great and makes one think and be creative. All I do is attend maths classes regularly and do the homework the teacher assigns us. I sometimes refer to some mathematics references to help me understand more. I advise my fellow students to study maths seriously and try to enjoy it; it is only then that maths becomes enjoyable and fun!

**Muna Said Suhail Shammass, Level 2**

I depend on myself By solving questions and when I don't understand anything I ask my teacher. Mathematics, statistics and all numbers are important in life I think all topics in mathematics are important. Mathematics in FP is a must for all students.. Learning mathematics is easy and interesting.

**Shamsa Salim Mohammad Al-Rubkhi, L2 Math**





## 5 OUT OF 4 PEOPLE HAVE A PROBLEM UNDERSTANDING JOKES ABOUT MATH!

"Knowledge is power." Sir Francis Bacon

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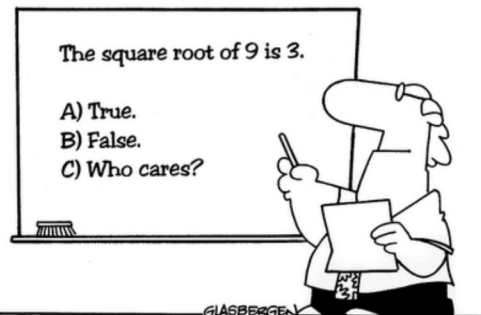


Information Technology security is a big issue in the Sultanate of Oman, based on the recent report in Times of Oman. Information Technology (IT) Security experts in the Sultanate have expressed their shock and dismay over the reports that cited Oman as the world's most spammed country in the world. The Internet users in Oman face the

problem with junk mails and spam. New users reply to the mails asking email username, password, bank account number, and other personal details, which is harmful.

The Sultanate's lead authorities like Information Technology Authority (ITA), Telephone Regulatory Authority (TRA), National Committee for Information Technology (NCIT), Oman Tel and other Cyber Security Companies and individual have to come forward voluntarily to solve this vital problem and frame the security strategy to save the people from cyber crime.

Source: Times of Oman, compiled by - M. Veeraiyan, FP-IT Unit



Many students actually look forward to Mr. Atwadder's math tests.

## Last Word

## TRY THIS.....

This year we are going to experience 4 unusual dates in our calendar.

1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11.....

Here is the strange thing -

**TAKE THE LAST 2 DIGITS OF YOUR DATE OF BIRTH. NOW ADD YOUR AGE YOU WILL BE THIS YEAR and the result will be 111 for everyone.**

This is the year of money .This year October will have 5 Sundays, 5 Mondays and 5 Saturdays. This happens only every 823 years .These particular years are called moneybags according to the Chinese feng - shui.

Contributed by Merin

*I think higher education is important to be part of the surrounding world you have to learn and get a higher education*

*I am doing BA in Management, because I need to improve myself in the field of my specialization (administrative work)*

*My ambition is to do a PhD in Human Resource Management and a good education will help me fulfill my ambition.*

*All the time, I try to understand more than memorizing what I learn and I link between what I have learnt and the real life at my work. Learning is a part of your real way of thinking and it will reflect in your personality.*

*A good education will make you understand life in a better way and encourage you to solve your problems easily. Higher education is a strongly needed for communicating with different kinds of people in the whole wide world.*

*So, try to keep learning to get a better life!*

**Jamila Said Al Mahri, Secretary,  
CAAS and Management student, CCBA, DU**

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

**REHANA, FAICAL, SUCHI, MERIN, SALMAN, VEERAIYAN AND ABDUL LATHEEF**

