

FP CHRONICLE

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

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Acting Director's Message

Your success lies in your resolve

A university is a place where, as students you have ample opportunities to interact with your peers and teachers. It is an opportunity for you to broaden your intellectual horizon. Realizing your abilities is what you should aim at. Each one of you is endowed with a unique ability and this ability is what you need to find in yourself. Once you realize this, you are bound to succeed in life. Does this realization come suddenly? No. You need to analyze your capabilities and see what is it that you like most and feel satisfied while doing. If you have taken Chemical Engineering as your major, it could be that you may succeed in it or you may not. Your success or failure depends on your aptitude in pursuing that particular major. Find that 'zing' thing in you that drives you to do what you feel you can do better. This will lead you to success. So, start laying bricks from now on to build that architectural marvel called success. You start doing this at Foundation Program. Your stay at FP spans over three terms equaling a year of study. It is a good length of time for you to improve your language, change your attitude to learning, and think well before you move to the colleges. Your teachers are your mentors who are capable of guiding your academic life in the right direction. Remember! Your parents have high hopes for you. They are the ones who feel proud of your being in the university. Do not let them down. You owe them your existence and your comforts. You have a duty towards your nation. Your sound knowledge and firm resolve will surely contribute to the development of your country. Thus, you will be fulfilling the dreams of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in building a vibrant society. Therefore, work hard because there is no substitute for hard work.



Dr. Khader Nawaz Khan, Director (Acting), FP



Dear students,

The entire FP Chronicle team and contributors, feel extremely happy to bring to you this brand new issue. Every issue is based on a theme and this time, we decided to reinforce the message of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, which he gave in his speech on the 42nd National Day.

A great leader always inspires - and we all have been touched by his words. In this issue, you will read about it in detail, understand the essence of the message and be motivated to act in a manner befitting a student, who is working towards achieving that goal. What is the goal? What can you do? Read on and you will know!

Your peers have written some fantastic views.

You will be introduced to the FP's new faculty: academic and administrative. Read about some recent developments in the programme and be updated of the latest.

All I can say is that teachers teach for success - yours! Teachers always have this intention at the heart of all things they do - to benefit their students. So, make a decision that will work for you! Happy reading :-)

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Rehana Hussain, Chair, FP Chronicle & Instructor, ELU, FP

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

MEET THE NEW FACULTY

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mr. Mohammed Said Salim Qatan Joined in the beginning of this academic year with our FP unit as a Deputy Director for administrative affairs. He has a vast experience in various fields such as purchase, stores, and maintenance and service departments. This will enhance our unit's smooth running. Our director greeted Mr. Qatan in the first general meeting; on that occasion he replied that his office doors will be always open to resolve staff and student's administrative issues. And he has kept his word till date. He is a pleasing personality; any one can approach him at any time! Certainly, his appointment will make our unit stronger and dynamic.

Compiled by Veeraiyan, Instructor, IT

I am Shradha Dwivedi and I have joined Dhofar University as a math instructor at Foundation Program.

After completing my formal education, I worked at two colleges before joining Dhofar University. I have always been fond of teaching math because it is the subject which is based on facts, logic and rules. Through my teaching, I always try to improve the logical and creative thinking of students which would help them in all walks of life. We have to face the fact that Math is used every day and everywhere. In my free time, I enjoy reading, cooking and practising yoga.

I believe - 'Success is the result of preparation, hard work and Learning from failures'. Colin Powell. **Shradha Dwivedi, Instructor, Math**

My name is Peta and I am from London in the UK. I have been working in the Middle East for the past 6 years and spent 2 years in Syria and Jordan and 4 years in Oman. I was previously working at the College of Applied Science in Salalah. Salalah is a relaxing place to work and has the advantage of being by the sea, which I like very much. I have found the students here to be very welcoming and friendly and look forward to another year working here! **Peta Cole, Instructor, ELU**

I'm an Indian national and my teaching interests include teaching Technical, Database, Data Mining, Data Structures, Algorithm and Web Technologies. These subjects are in the field of Computer Science and Information Technology. My research interests also include Information Retrieval, Data Mining, and Web Mining. My hobbies are making friends, reading books, watching football, surfing the internet, and having fun. I'm looking to grow here at Dhofar University and prosper in the field of Computer Science. I work with dedication and zeal for innovative ideas. **Ashraf Ali, Instructor, IT, FP**





Hi, I'm really excited to work at Dhofar University and I've always loved living in Salalah as well. I love it when students are passionate about something and really start to develop that passion. English is a great medium to develop yourself and pursue your interests. Whether its medicine, engineering, or photography, English opens many doors for further research and more importantly, it makes learning English more fun. Everyone has a passion in their life it's just a matter of how hot the flame is inside you to go out and pursue it. My goal as a teacher is to heat the flames inside my students every day. As for me and my passions, academically I love doing kids science experiments (especially chemistry and physics), studying Arabic, and math. My extracurricular activities consist of surfing, diving (with no tanks), spearing big fish, catching lobster, camping, and bird watching.

James Fry, Instructor, ELU



I'm currently working as an instructor in Mathematics for the Foundation Program. I'm from Punjab in eastern Pakistan where I was born and raised. I'm interested in teaching Mathematics with special emphasis on using modern computer technologies. I'm proficient in using Latex, Maple, and Mathematica. I've been to several places as I like exploring new cities and countries. My hobbies are tourism, cricket, playing snooker, eating out and jogging.

Zahid Shareef, Instructor, Math, FP



Hi, I'm Sadanand Rao Yedidi. After completing my academic qualifications, I got into teaching. It has been a great delight to instruct and impart knowledge which I have gained from my parents, teachers, personal experiences and reading books.

I teach English Language and I have been in Oman for more than four years now. I look forward to teaching English to anyone who is ready to learn! Some of my favourite leisure activities are - photography, philately, and reading, travelling, watching T.V. and browsing the internet.

Sadanand Rao Yedidi, Instructor, ELU



I am C.BHAGYA LATHA working as an IT instructor in the Foundation Programme. I joined this prestigious university in the month of Sep' 2012 and I am very happy to be here in this wonderful region of Dhofar. I am dynamic in the classroom and very passionate about my subject. I firmly believe that it is my responsibility to teach every student the skills, information, ethics and last but not the least, the IT Skills needed to make wise personal, professional, and political decisions about the natural resources and ecosystems that are essential for survival and well being of the Nation. I also believe that students will work hard and achieve most when they know that - I care about them and I will be always ready to help them.

I'm very glad that I've been given an opportunity to impart knowledge to the students in a multi-cultural environment. My interests lie in the area of learning and teaching, believing that teaching is an art. I also like to read books, cook delicious food, spend time with my family. My Advice to all is: Work hard; be courageous; find a balance that feeds your mind, heart, and spirit; never quit!

C. Bhagyalatha, Instructor, IT



Hi, I'm Saba Kamal. It was my passion of teaching college students that brought me to Dhofar University. I am grateful that I got this opportunity. The FP unit is very friendly and I am greatly pleased with the spirit of caring and sharing that exists between the members of faculty. The students for their part are very warm and welcoming. I realized that individual attention and a little affection and care can go a long way in helping students achieve their goals. In my free time, I love to try out new dishes and enjoy listening to music and singing.

Saba Kamal, Instructor, ELU

Hi, I'm Hridhya S Menon and I enjoy my work at the university. I believe that a teacher's impact on students is too overwhelming to be ignored. It is my dream to become a reliable teacher that students can trust. I am glad I had efficient teachers who motivated me to take up this profession. Following their footsteps, I wish to be a teacher of substance, and leave an indelible impression on the minds of the students. In addition to teaching, my leisure time pursuits include dancing, reading, cooking and gardening.

Hridhya Menon, Instructor, ELU



Make the best of Education



I believe that education is not only important for us and our development, but it's a necessary requirement to improve ourselves. When we do that, our plans of education will be very different. We won't consider the education a normal part of an overall general plan or strategy, and it's not right for education to be a subject of economy, but we must make it as the base of any improvement.

Education is not some collection of information, which we can get in schools or from books. Education is a continual process which makes the whole universe and life as seem like a laboratory. So, we need to create sources of knowledge and support people in all fields possible. Humans have a mind and soul; otherwise they wouldn't be any different from animals. Education makes the mind creative and open, which gives a man real humanity.

In Oman we need to care about two things: to spread education everywhere and with everyone, which we did well in the last 40 years. The other thing is to care about quality of education, which needs more efforts and improvements.

Mr. Hussain Al Dheeb, Lecturer, CAAS

Math-Unit towards Quality & Professionalism

MATH/IT UNIT

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Our Message



I am indeed glad to learn that another issue of the FP Chronicle is all set for release. The mathematics unit proudly notes that the chronicle continues to be the platform for many young writers to express their creativity in different forms.

The theme of the present issue sounds really relevant because it is what His Majesty repeatedly stressed in his addresses to the nation, namely, the career goals, quality education and its role in building the society/nation.

The cornerstone of education is strong when it equips the educated people to stand on their feet in all walks of life. The youth of a country with a firm root in quality education can increase the speed of the development and steadiness of its growth. Oman, as a fast developing country is looking for such educated youth who can play vital roles in overall self-reliance of the nation.

The mathematics unit believes that all our students who have a love for learning and effectively use their God-given potential can answer this call of the nation effectively!

Syed Salman Mahmood, Math Coordinator & team, FP

Message from IT Unit

We are glad to know that seventh issue of the FP chronicle is being published in March 2013. The FP Chronicle has always been an avenue to showcase the talents of our students and to express their opinions on a particular theme for every issue. FP Chronicle also provides a platform to exhibit the student's abilities and talents for extracurricular activities.

The theme of this issue is "Triangulation of Education, role in the growth of the economy and the country". The foundation of this process is acquiring the skills and knowledge to equip for the modern world through education. The goals of any higher education will be satisfied with the involvement of students, faculty and the institution of higher learning.

The students of any higher education institutions are the key players in this triangulation process. The world is heading towards knowledge economy and the human resource is the corner stone for the knowledge economy. The students are the potential human resource for any country's future. Hence students with the right aptitude and quest for knowledge can create a knowledgeable society. Indeed it is a fact that we have students who have a positive attitude and good behavior, the dedicated faculty and the quality infrastructure and facilities. So with the availability of all the three ingredients, we can achieve greater heights and explore new horizons.

Mohammed Yousoof, IT Coordinator & team, FP



WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Hi, I am happy to be a part of the FP 'family' at DU. I am glad to use my technical knowledge and computing skills and use my experience to contribute as an executive secretary to the organization. I get great pleasure in being of assistance as a secretary and would like to pitch in for cultural events, too. I like to update my skills in technology whenever I find time. My hobbies include traveling and playing billiards.

Muamer Aufeet Al Mardoof, Executive Secretary, Math unit, FP



FAREWELL PARTY



A farewell luncheon was arranged by the FP family to say goodbye to Mr. Marwan, the leaving Acting Director of FP and three faculty members. Dr. Adil, Dr. Seetha and Dr. Hassan who are embarking upon a different journey for better prospects were given a small luncheon party, for them to remember their time spent in the FP.

All of the guests were reminiscent of the days spent in the programme and spoke their true feelings about their stay. The Director addressed the gathering and mementoes were given to the guests as a gentle reminder of the wonderful days spent in the FP.

A hearty lunch was also organized and everyone enjoyed the delicious spread. It was a time to remember – especially for the ones leaving the FP.

Many other guests joined in: visiting Instructors, Dr. Andrew Robertson, Dr. Hassan and three students studying Arabic Language

We'll remember and cherish their memories and so will they! We wish them well and success in all their future endeavors!

Education and development

Education is the focal point of scientific and practical development of a country. To quote Prophet Mohammed: Knowledge is essential for every Moslem. The development of a society cannot be achieved without contributions from all sectors. Education helps to build bridges with the cultures of other countries. It opens the windows to a world of new methodologies and learning. The capabilities of young minds have to be harnessed and the resources used effectively to enhance the developmental cycle. In this regard, the private sector in Oman plays a major role in uplifting the youth with professional training and providing them with ample opportunities. I am grateful to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said for his vision and able leadership in shaping the future of the youth and the nation. **Alaa Ahmed Ali Banqood, L3**

A

Math is important not only as a subject of study but also as a life skill today. I like this subject because I find it very easy and interesting. I learn the rules to work out the problems. I listen carefully to my lectures in class and make notes of new ideas. I review and work out problems at home. I try to do exercises on my own. This helps to build my confidence in the subject.

Ayda Hamed Said Al Naabi, L2

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. ~Albert Einstein

B

YOUR OPINION.....

Do What You Love, Love What You Do

There is a lot of pressure on young people today. We have pressure like family priorities, university work, and a future job. Sometimes we stress out over it, or we completely ignore it. Maybe if we focus on “Do what you love, love what you do” we can become more successful in life. “Do what you love” may seem like a dream to many people, but don’t focus only on one thing. Some things people usually like are playing football, socializing, swimming, drawing, and so on. If you like football, maybe you can become a coach for your future kids, or be a manager for a professional team.

If you like swimming, look into welding and maybe you can fix large ships or offshore oil rigs. Do you like to draw? Look into math as well; maybe you can be an architect. “Love what you do” really works! Even if you pretend you love something, you will be better at that job and you will like it more. For instance I didn’t always like to learn English. I just changed my attitude towards it, and I was able to improve greatly. *Samra Al Harthy, L3, FP*



Education is the fundamental element for the progress of a society. Education can raise the level of culture and help in future development. When people work, with good educational qualification to support them, they help towards the development of the Sultanate of Oman. We as citizens of Oman, must work hard and take our country higher and higher.

Eman Ali Al Shanfari, L3

STUDENTS SAY.....

Education is a must!

People use their education in their daily lives. When we get educated, we get a good job, and this helps the country in many ways. We can help and encourage other people to study as well, we can help in improving small businesses by sharing our knowledge and using technology can take the business to a higher level.

The country gains a lot by having the educated youth contribute to its growth. If we look at the past, understand the present we can foresee a better future! Education is the most important factor in the growth of our country as it's the most significant factor for future developments.

Not only will the country gain economically, but also politically and socially.

*Salama Abdullah Saif Al Sinawi,
BA, English Language*

Good education is an important thing in our lives. Great education and a good economy are the two faces of the same coin. If we look at any modern society, we see highly educated people there.

I want to contribute in the development of my country but differently –through education! The best I can do is exert myself, put in a lot of effort in my studies and get properly qualified. After graduating, I want to work to raise the level of consciousness of the youth of Oman. I want to spread the word that by getting varied jobs and working hard we can transform our society and we will live to see the change.

Without work people do not deserve to live or eat. As our religion says – work is religion and vice-versa.

Abdul Rahman Al Boosi, L3



From time to time, our parents tell us that we have to get a good education. Now, I understand why they say this! It is because they know that education is very useful and important in our lives. This makes it very useful for our country as well.

We have a great chance now. I am studying in Dhofar University and my purpose is to study well, get a good job and help in the economy of my country because it is the foundation for growth. As one of the youth, everything is easy for us. We have a lot of benefits given to us. The best thing is, we are young and it's a powerful thing – we have a lot of new ideas and we can make our country one of the best in the world.

In short, without education we are nothing! We have to become someone useful for ourselves and our country by getting a proper education!

Anfal Said Musallam Al Mashali, L3

Keep true, never be ashamed of doing right, decide on what you think is right and stick to it.
~George Eliot

Thou art a teacher

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

Albert Einstein

One of the Indian saints says, 'I would bow to the teacher before the deity because it is the teacher who showed me the way to the deity.' Teachers are the source of knowledge and the best teacher should inspire his/her students. Inspire them to learn and acquire knowledge — knowledge that transforms their lives for the better. As sculptors, we at Foundation Program have the responsibility of chiseling and moulding our students into responsible individuals. To this end, we need to make ourselves resourceful and knowledgeable. Teaching, as you all know, is not just a job that we do for acquiring wealth. It is a human service which should be thought of as a mission to improve the life of a student in all its varied hues and forms. Let us be the role models for our young learners and help them in carving their niche in this fast-changing society. Let us make them the best citizens of this great land.

Dr. Khader Nawaz Khan,
Director (Acting), FP

DO!
CAN



The Professional Development Programs

THE BREAK BETWEEN THE TERMS OF THE SEMESTER WAS INTERSPERSED WITH A SERIES OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THERE WERE TWO WORKSHOPS: ONE ON INTEGRATING MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE LAB/E-CONTENTS INTO ELT PRACTICES AND ANOTHER ON THE RECENT PARADIGMS IN LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT. THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE SESSIONS WAS TO ENLIGHTEN THE FACULTY ON THE SKILLFUL USE OF THE PROGRAMS LIKE NET SUPPORT SCHOOL SOFTWARE, IN THE LABS FOR THEIR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES. THESE SESSIONS WERE ABLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE ERSTWHILE LAB INSTRUCTORS DR. GEORGE KOLANCHERY, DR. JULIUS IRUDAYASAMY AND MR. ABDUL LATHEEF. IT PROVED TO BE INFORMATIVE AND THE FACULTY PUT THEIR TIME TO GOOD USE.

Compiled by Suchi

Crash Course

In a move to bridge the academic gap between semesters, a Crash Course- which features as a regular part of the program every semester - was started for the Level 3 students. This three –week session was aimed at equipping the students with skills required to add to their acumen of using the English language effectively and hone their skills for the IELTS tests. This session was held from 8th -26th December 2012.

