

FP CHRONICLE

DU Celebrates the
47th

National Day

MY JOURNEY

THROUGH
ENGLISH

DU students tell their Stories

Things
You
Can Do
between
Classes
at DU

Campus Life &
New Experiences

Facing a Panel

The legend of a Tree

First Day at DU

Workshops by
Students, for
Students

DU creative Artists

Interview with Mr.
Hassan Kashoub
DSA

And More!

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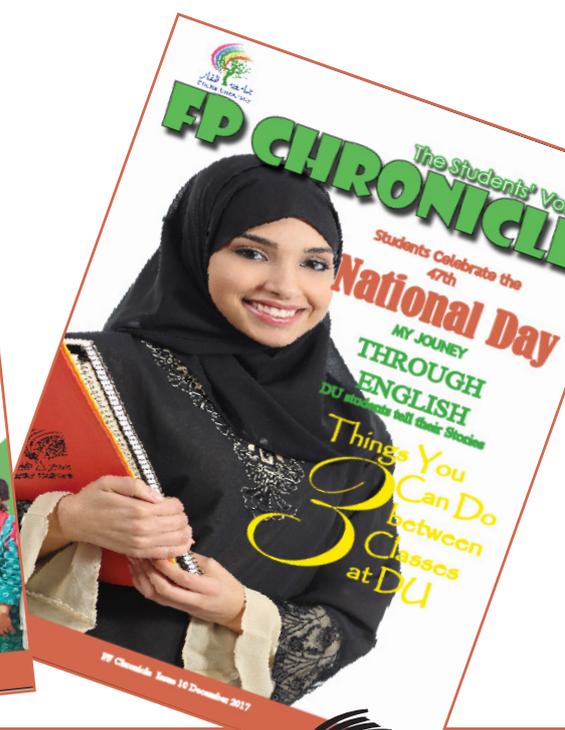
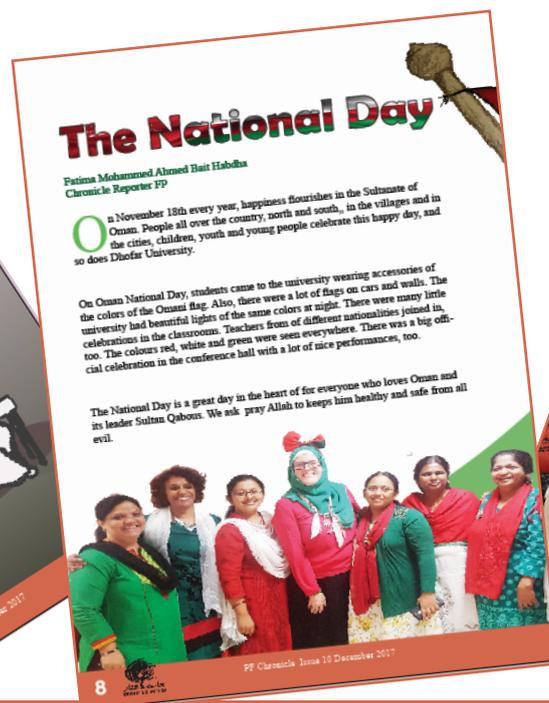
Greetings from our FP Chronicle team. This issue marks our first this academic year. It brings an entirely new format and focus to you. Our team has tried to compile a range of exciting and insightful topics. We are sure you will find something to capture your interest.

The first two articles are contributions written by two of our best FP alumni talking about their joy and challenges in learning a new language. Followed by a collection of short articles sent to us from students who love to share their experiences at DU with you. In this issue also, our student-reporters enrich the issue with some of their ambitious reports and interviews.

The issue includes other articles too that we are sure you will enjoy reading through and some creative artwork for you to look at as well. And don't forget to rack your brains with the math and IT quizzes at the end.

We wish you a pleasant time reading our issue. We are always happy to hear from you. Please write to us, call us or reach us in person when you have something to say, an article or picture to share.

FP CHRONICLE TEAM



My Journey Through English



MY STORY

Nour Kashoub
English Literature
Year Two

Everyone has a unique journey in learning English. Mine includes lots of challenges along the way. It started in 2001. I was a first grader, who excelled in all the subjects except English.

My first English teacher's attitude was the reason I didn't do well in that language. She was very harsh. She always ignored me and the likes of me in class. She liked good students only. Once, she asked me a question. I was happy to get the attention but scared to answer at the same time. I couldn't answer! "What a weak student!" She exclaimed.

A miracle happened in grade four. Suddenly my difficulties started to disappear. An angel of a teacher came to teach us. Her name was Lakyar. When she opened the class door, her cheerful smile brightened the whole room. She filled us with her kindness as if we were her own children.

She was an exceptional teacher. English started to be a subject I enjoyed. She asked

me a question once, just like my old teacher, and again, I failed to answer, but she gave me candy for trying to answer anyway. Teacher Lakyar danced with us, laughed with us, and cared about us. From that time on, my English book was the first book I opened when I did my homework in the afternoon. I started to love English and gained confidence in MY ENGLISH, and so my progress continued. I watched videos in English, read in English and memorized new words daily.

In 2015, I was selected by my English teacher to participate in the UNESCO competition. I did very well and gained myself a certificate from Paris. I earned the respect of the people around me. Little kids at school wanted to be just like me.

In that same year, I joined Dhofar University. I was placed in Level three directly in the FP. I was selected as one of the outstanding students in the level.

In 2016, I joined the English Literature Major. My English teachers appreciated my confidence and seriousness, and I work hard to keep my grades around the 90s. A teacher once told me that it would be possible for me to reach the 80s but not the 90s. I took it as a challenge, and I got 91 in that course.

My story through English continues, and I will undoubtedly keep up the hard work.

"her cheerful smile brightened the whole room."

When I was six years old, I started going to school and had to study many subjects such as English, Arabic, and mathematics. English was the subject I disliked the most because I thought it was quite tricky. I wasn't that good in English. Actually, my marks in English were always the worst until the 9th grade.

The change in my attitude towards English changed just after I was introduced to the world of the internet. Many people on social media sites talk in English only (They don't speak in their native language even if they are from the same country) so I figured that if I learn English, I would be able to communicate with other people from all countries. I wanted to be able to be part of the whole world and talk to others from other countries.

I bought some general English language books and some stories from the library. I learned the basic roles of grammar by myself, so I was able to write simple short sentences. I learned how to pronounce English words and improve my listening skills by watching movies and Anime in English. There were always new words I didn't know, it was frustrating, but I was determined. I memorized them and started to read more.

I kept learning step by step. I have improved a lot by chatting with people from other

My Journey

Munther Al Amri
English Literature
Year Two



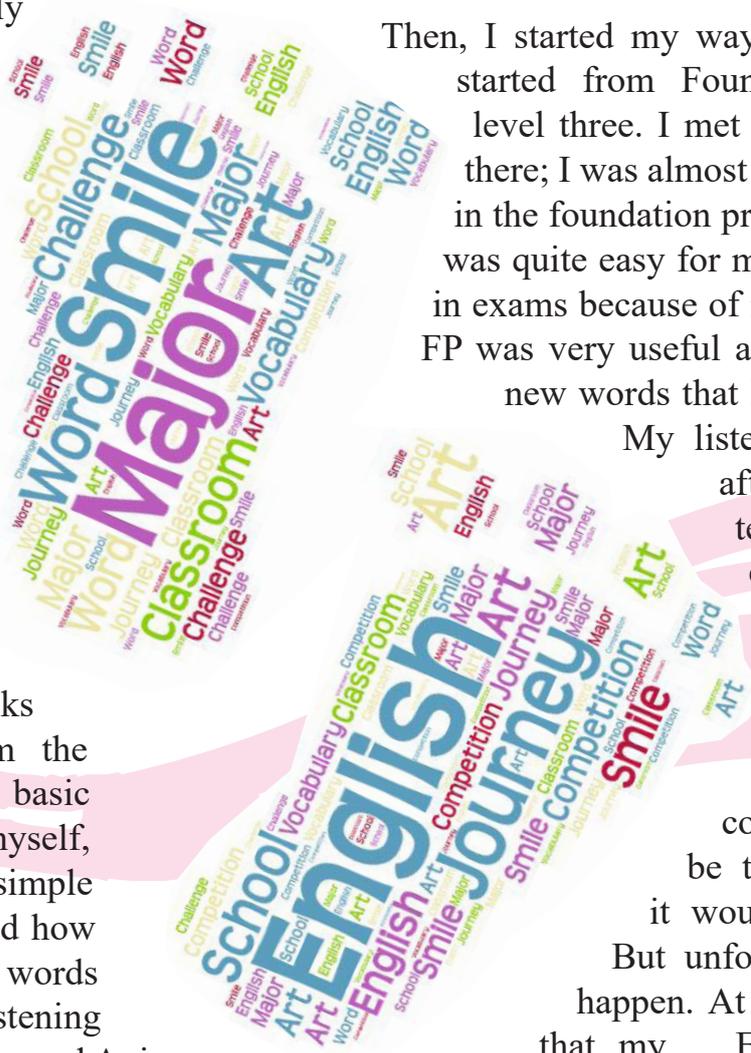
countries through social media sites and applications such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. I could avoid so many grammatical mistakes by imitating how native speakers talked and wrote in English. Luckily, I got a high mark in 12th grade in English.

Then, I started my way to the university. I started from Foundation Program on level three. I met many, great teachers there; I was almost the best male student in the foundation program at that time. It was quite easy for me to get good results in exams because of my experience. Also, FP was very useful and I learned a lot of new words that I didn't know before.

My listening skill improved after listening to my teachers for 2 hours in every English lecture.

I selected the English language as my major. I took many English courses. I thought I'd be the best student and it would be easy for me.

But unfortunately, that didn't happen. At that time, I realized that my English wasn't good enough. So I had to study hard and work a lot to be better. This is my 2nd year at Dhofar university. I feel like my English is improving gradually. I love English and I want to visit one of the countries like the United Kingdom so I'll be able to practice the language thoroughly and learn more about their culture in the future.



CAMPUS LIFE & NEW EXPERIENCES

Maram Al Khzami, FP

FACING A PANEL

At the beginning of this semester, my class teacher chose me to represent FP in an interview. I felt so scared at first and said, “No, I don’t want,” but the teacher insisted. Then in two weeks, some teachers and administrators at FP started conducting awareness sessions for the chosen students. They taught us about the services available at DU. They gave us training on how to face the panel. They encouraged us to speak English to answer their questions. In all these stages,

I was afraid and nervous because I was the only girl from Level one in the group, but I was stronger than my peers and did my best.

From this interview, I learned new words to use while speaking and also I learned a lot about the Foundation Program. During the interview, I was a bit scared, but then the fear disappeared. I did an excellent job. The meeting was easy and straightforward. This was one of the opportunities that made me stronger, more self-confident and grown up. I wish to get similar opportunities to learn a lot in the future.





First Day at DU



It was the beginning of my university life. I was about to enter a new stage of changes; into the world of the rising future. I woke up to the songs of the morning birds. It was the first morning at the university. I was full of ambitions, eager to start and explore this new stage in my life.

When I reached the university, things were not as I imagined they would be. It took me ages to find my classroom. Another student guided me and helped me to reach there. I was late, the teacher had already started talking to the other students. I was a little scared when I entered the classroom. I knocked on the door and entered timidly. The teacher welcomed me and asked me to sit. I felt a bit relaxed then. The teacher proceeded to ask us about our dreams and goals. I had thought thoroughly about that, so I didn't hesitate to share my thoughts. "I want to build myself a strong base for a

future career," I said.

I continued to share my thoughts with the class, and that encouraged other students to talk to me after class. I was excited that I started to create new friendships already.

Some of the things that startled me though were few behaviors from other students. Many took arriving late to class as a habit. What caught my attention was also that students used their mobiles during the lecture. Not many students were as enthusiastic as I.

What a blessing it is! We have such a chance to learn and good teachers who are willing to make it happen. We should use that wisely. Every day at university is a busy day with a challenging adventure that taught me the sweetness of reaching and moving into the future.

Muna Ali Salim Alawaid
English Major, Year Two

The National Day

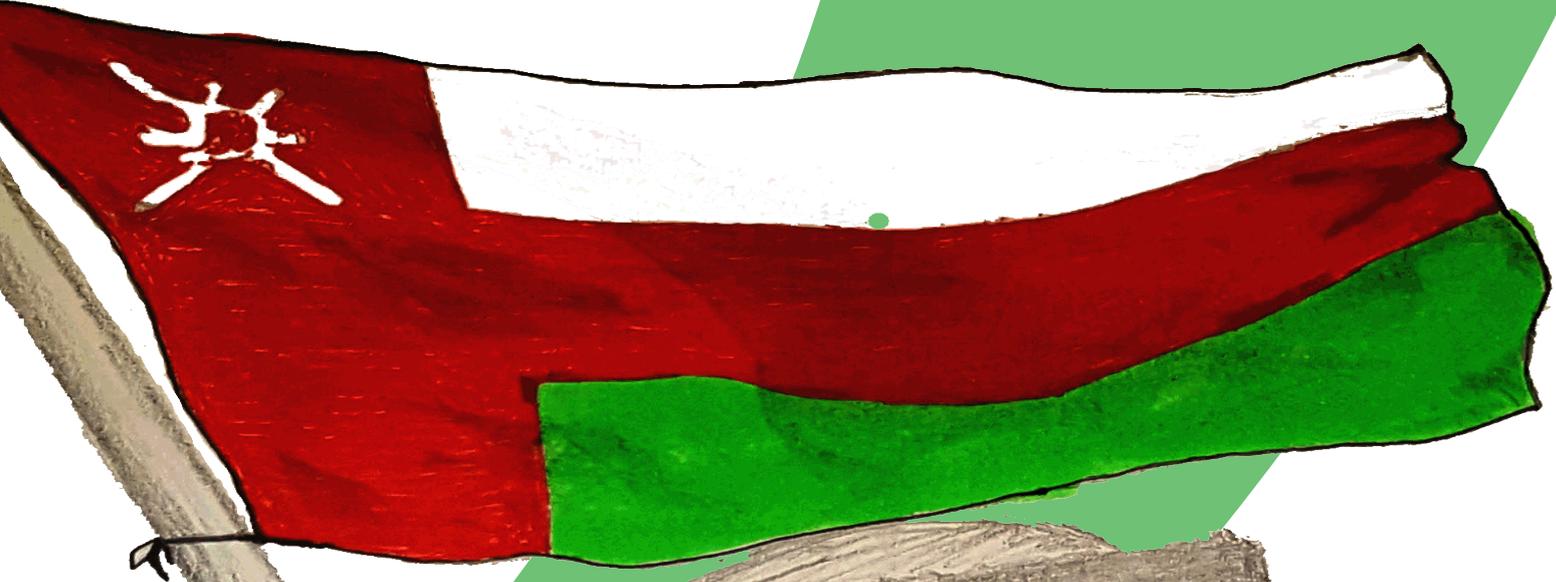
Fatima Mohammed Ahmed Bait Habdha
Chronicle Reporter FP

On November 18th every year, happiness flourishes in the Sultanate of Oman. People all over the country, North and South, in the villages and in the cities, children, and young people celebrate this happy day; and so does Dhofar University.

On Oman National Day, students came to the university wearing accessories of the colors of the Omani flag. Also, there were a lot of flags on cars and walls. The university had beautiful lights of the same colors at night. There were many little celebrations in the classrooms. Teachers of different nationalities joined in, too. The colours red, white and green were seen everywhere. There was a big official celebration in the conference hall with a lot of nice performances, too.

The National Day is a great day for everyone who loves Oman and its leader, Sultan Qabous. We ask Allah to keep him healthy and safe from all evil.





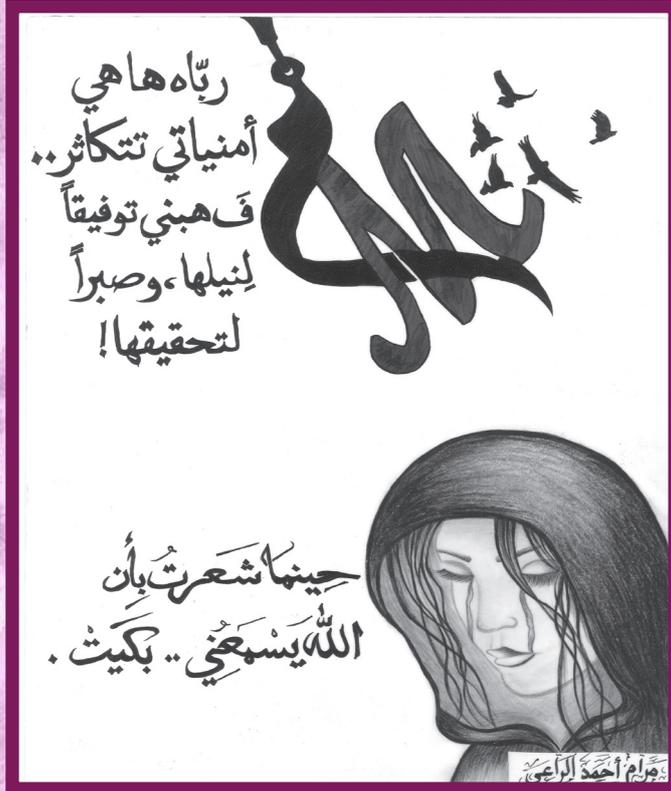
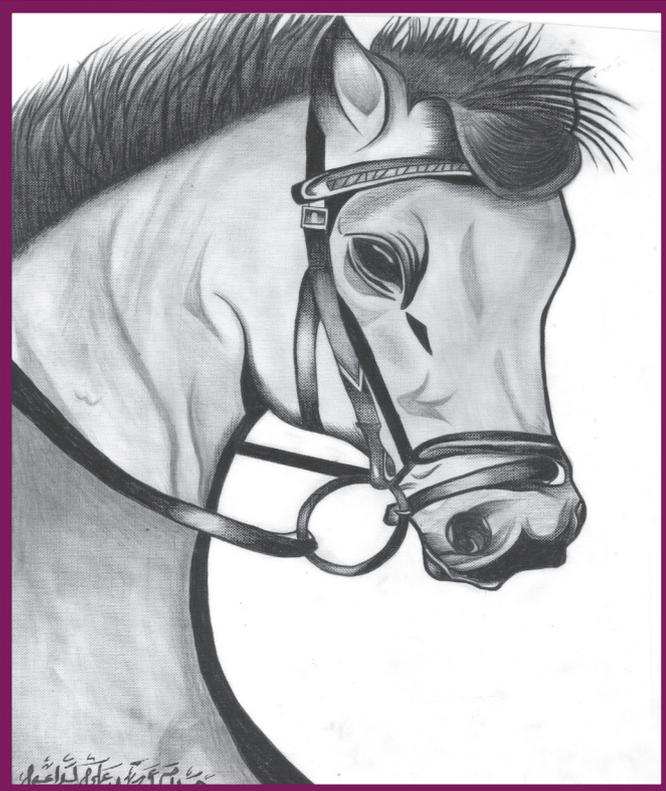
Illustrated by Suhail Ahmed AL Mamari FP

DU's Creative Artists

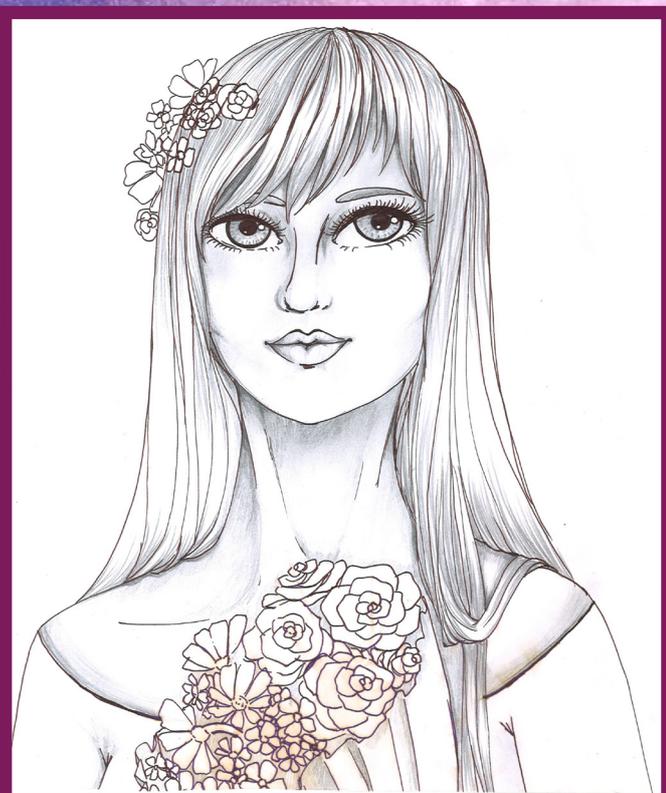


Amal Ahmed AL Yafie

Amal Ahmed AL Yafie FP



Maram Ahmed Ali AL Raie FP



*AbRAR Salim Musallum
FP*

*Suhail Ahmed Al Mamari
FP*

OFM My Memories

Alumni Gateway

In our lives, we have had many experiences. It could be in our personal life or academic life or in our professional lives. We may have experienced successes and failures in some or all aspects of our lives. In fact, these failures and success do probably inspire us to achieve our goals. Failures do not necessarily mean that we lost something and hence stop trying to achieve our goals. We must work towards achieving our goals. The following lines will throw light on some of mine in my academic life at Dhofar University.

My pleasant experience in life started in September 2011 when I joined the university. Of course, it was not easy in the beginning. Everyone would undoubtedly face challenges when they enter a new phase in their academic life. I too had to meet challenges. I had no idea what a university would look like and what it feels to be a student at the university. Neither I had the required confidence nor did I have any friend to depend upon.

What I did was to be determined in achieving my goals. I set the goals, and I also made it a point to gain self-confidence. For this, the first step I took was to acquire the English language skills so that I become self-confident. Then, I set my eyes on getting better grades in my subjects of study. In a few weeks, I overcame these challenges, and I felt more confident than ever. I succeeded in every way, and I didn't relax with that but continued even after that until I graduated from the university.

DU was one of my best experiences in my life, if not the best and the most important. I really enjoyed it, and in spite of the difficulties, I was able to overcome them with determination and perseverance and achieved my goals and I graduated from the university with distinction.

Noor Mohammed AL Maashani
Graduate of year 2016
Social Work



3 Things to Do between Classes at DU

Wafi Mubarak Al-Rashdi
Civil Engineering
Year One

If you are at DU and you have a long and tedious break between your lessons, don't worry I will give you some tips to kill time.

First of all, you can watch movies. We have a big and fantastic cinema in the Foundation Program building. It's open 24 hours and for free. Invite your friends and start watching entertaining documentary movies that can enrich and amuse you and your pals.

Having coffee and relaxing is really good indeed. You can drink any kind of coffee. In the Student Activity building, there are many lovely coffee shops, for instance, we have Costa, Starbucks, etc....

On top of that, there is a vast sports center behind Commerce College. If you are interested in sports, you have to visit it, or it would be a shame. There are lots of lovely stuff including a gym, a swimming pool, and a bowling hall.

But, ...

Honestly, there's nothing of that in DU nowadays. However, this is how I imagine, and I wish DU will be after

30 years when the next generation of students come.

To say the truth, at present, We can list the following things:

1 We have an electronic library which is free for every single student at DU. You can also search, study, or do your project as long as you want in one of the many computer labs.

2 Another place that each student should know about is the Student's Affairs building. It's not only a place for shopping and eating, but you can participate in many activities of your choice there. They may help you get a temporary job at DU too!!! So, go for it...!!!

3 Lastly, as far as I know, the most brilliant relaxing thing at DU campus is drinking your favorite hot-drink on the bench next to the Classroom building, while chatting to your friends, especially when there is a drizzle in the rainy season. It is really priceless...!!!





THE LEGEND OF A TREE

**Ali Mohammed Ali Al Raafit
FP**

The blood of a Phoenix tree or the blood of Dragon tree relatively strange for naming trees. However, they are extraordinary trees because of their external appearances as well as forms.

These trees grow, only in Socotra Island, Yemen, in the Indian Ocean. The common word between the names of these trees is 'blood.' The reason behind that is, there is a thick red liquid which comes out from these trees, and it is similar to blood.

This tree has a famous name among the local people of Socotra which is the two brother's blood. Okay, but why do they call it so?!

Because they say that there is a legend behind this name. The legend is about the first murder ever in the history of mankind. And this murder took place in Socotra Island.

They believed that the son of Prophet Adam, peace be upon him, Cain killed his brother Abel on this island. When Abel was killed, the earth was soaked with his blood. After that, these magical trees grew on the island!!!

Today, the story and this magnificent tree which is full of secrets have become part of this beautiful island.

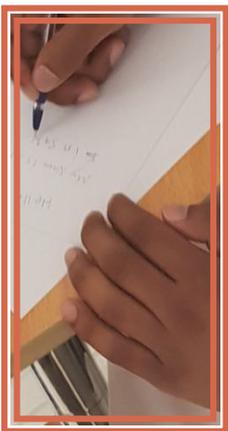


WORKSHOPS BY STUDENTS FOR THE STUDENTS

Fatimah Al Maashani & Rawan Yasser Ali Said
Chronicle Reporters FP

The Alumni committee organized two presentations for the FP students. The first one was about Presentation Skills by Khaloud Salim Al-Amri and the second one was by Weam Al-Jelani on Attitude in Class. The presentations were attended by nearly 36 students along with some teachers. The sessions were interactive, the presenters gave their own views on the topic and also got the students to share their ideas and opinions. The students said that they usually feel nervous and shy while presenting because they are anxious that they might make pronunciation mistakes. The presenter gave some tips to overcome these issues. She suggested five steps to create an interesting presentation. The first step is to choose the right topic- a topic you like. Then she advised the students

to read about the topic. Practice is the next step - practice until you are confident. When asked how to grab the attention of the audience, the presenter suggested that graphs and photos related to the topic can attract the audience. She also spoke about presentation programs like PowerPoint. The slides should be clear, with big fonts and simple notes. The second presentation was on 'Attitude in Class'. She brainstormed positive and negative attitudes in class. Regular attendance is the key to be successful. Students should be organized, take notes during lectures and ask questions if they need more clarification. These were the steps she followed to be the best student in her class and to reach the top. The presentations were useful and informative. The participants benefitted from the ideas shared in these sessions.





INTERVIEW OF THIS ISSUE

MR.HASSAN KASHOUB

DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS AFFAIRS

The students' affairs building is one of the very important places in the university that not many students use effectively to improve their various hobbies and talents. On November 20th, The Chronicle interviewed the director of the students' affairs Mr. Hassan Kashoub to ask about the importance of the place and what it has to offer.

1. Can you tell us when have these activities started?

These activities started from the beginning, when the university was first opened.

2. Do you encourage students to participate in activities?

Yes, of course, these activities build the students' personalities by involving them in social life and activities-such activities help in building the student's self-confidence.

3. What are the events that you hold in the university, which help DU students develop their talents?

We hold different competitions like sports, photography, art activities each year. We also build teams for our different activities to keep the events going and to keep the students motivated.

4. Are there other activities to be added in the future?

We welcome new ideas, and we love to develop.

5. Some students are shy and do not want to show their talents- what would you recommend?

I would tell them that these activities can help you overcome your fear and develop your personalities as I said earlier. I also advise them not to hide their talents, because they are treasures that need to flourish.

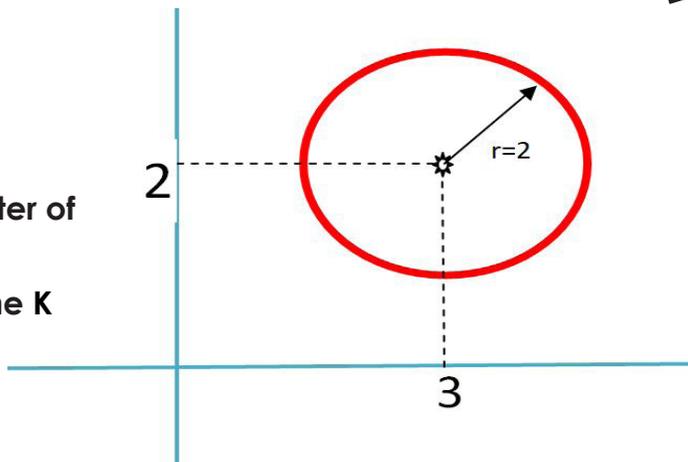
Shamma Nasser Juma Al-Routali
Chronicle Reporter FP

THIS ISSUE'S MATH QUIZ

PRIZES TO THE FIRST TWO CORRECT ANSWERS THAT REACH US

Problem Solving Question 1:

- 1) Write the equation of the circle.
- 2) Find the distance between the center of the circle and the origin.
- 3) Write the equation of the straight line K that passes the center and the origin



Question 2

$$15^2 = (1 \times 2) \text{ hundred} + 25 = 225$$
$$25^2 = (2 \times 3) \text{ hundred} + 25 = 625$$
$$35^2 = (3 \times 4) \text{ hundred} + 25 = 1225$$

What is the value of 45^2 ?

Question 2

$$1 + 3 = 4$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 = 9$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 = 16$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 = 25$$

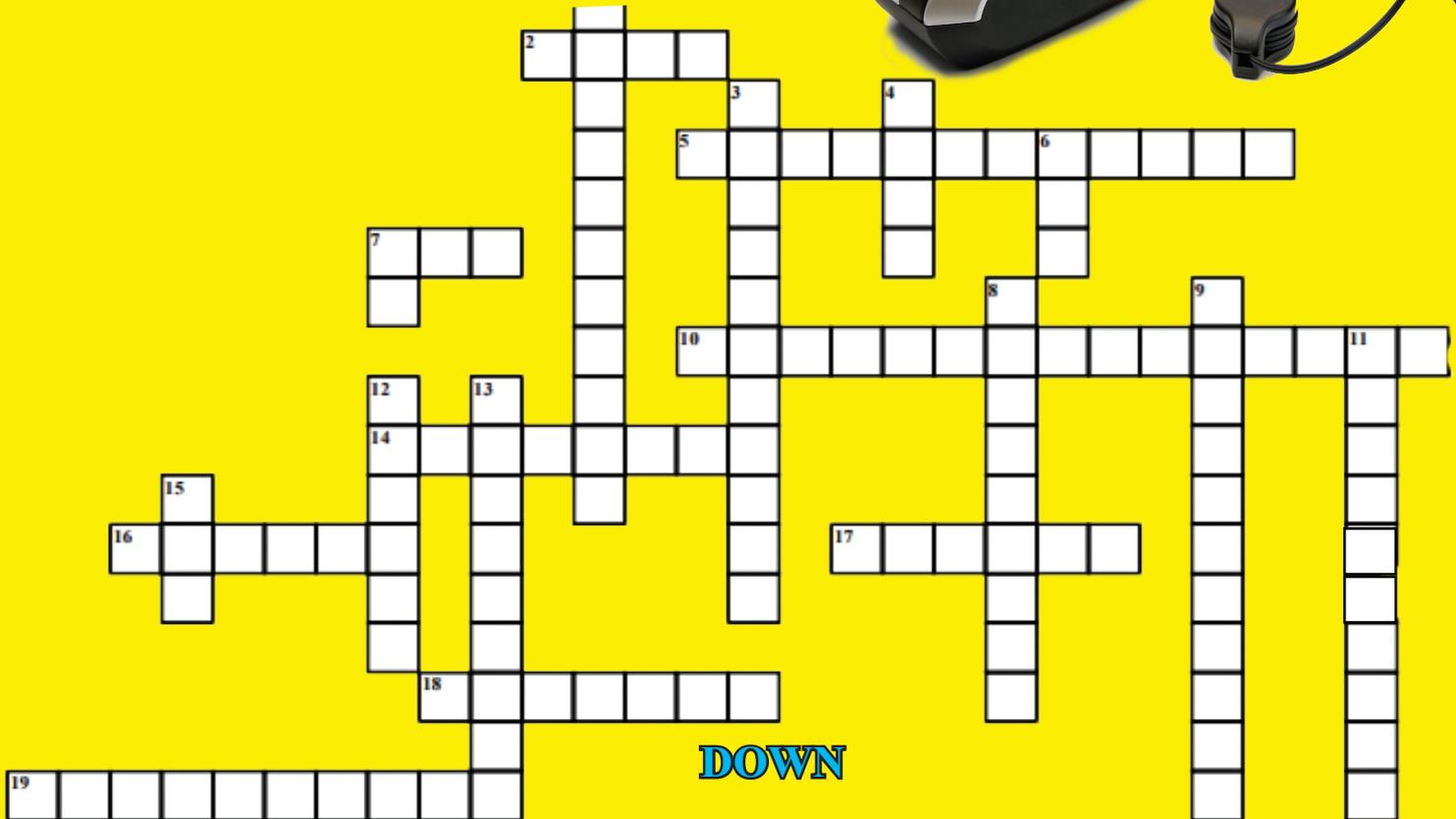
$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 + 11 = \underline{\quad}$$

Puzzles

Send us your answers before March 1st
wesam@du.edu.om

THIS ISSUE'S IT QUIZ

PRIZES TO THE FIRST TWO CORRECT ANSWERS THAT REACH US



ACROSS

- 2 When a computer is switched on, the booting process performs a test called _____
- 5 Software required to run the hardware (2 words)
- 7 Keyboard shortcut for creating a chart from the selected cells
- 10 A portion of the worksheet displayed on the screen can be viewed through (2 words)
- 14 To access a mainframe or Supercomputer, users often use a _____
- 16 "V" in VDU stands for?
- 17 Rules of a language
- 18 Creating single cells by combining two or more selected cells
- 19 A key that is used to alternate the input mode of a group of keys on a keyboard (2 words)

DOWN

- 1 The part of CPU which coordinates all function of computer and other components (2 words)
- 3 To add text to a slide without using the standard placeholders. (3 words)
- 4 Symbol/ Illustration on desk pointing to a specific program
- 6 Component used for short-term data storage in a computer
- 7 Shortcut key for a "Spelling check" in a document
- 8 "V" in DVD stands for?
- 9 The amount of vertical space between lines of text in a document is called (2 words)
- 11 A program that controls the computer's resources (2 words)
- 12 Keys to select the entire document (3 words)
- 13 Cursor control keys (2 words)
- 15 Smallest unit of storage

Send us your answers before March 1st
latha@du.edu.om

APP REVIEW

TALK: ENGLISH SPEAKING PRACTICE

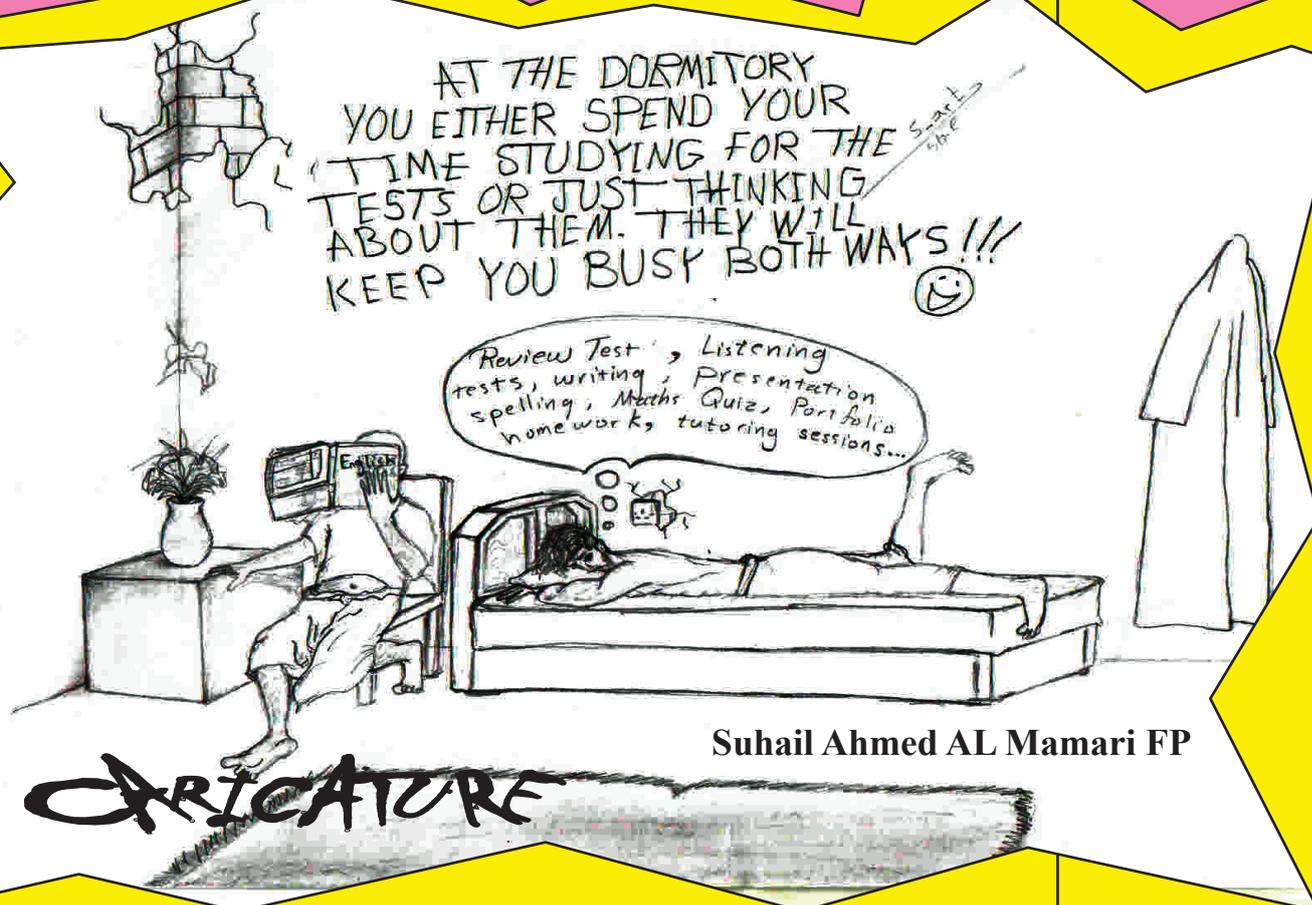
Learn and improve your English conversation skills by practicing your English speaking using this interactive conversation practice tools.



The English conversation lessons will help us with our English speaking and English listening while giving us the confidence to speak with native English speakers. This app has basic English conversation lessons for general and business English

I like this app because it helps me to improve my speaking skills.

Muna Said Amir Al- Shanfari
FP



Suhail Ahmed AL Mamari FP



جامعة ظفار
Dhofar University
FP CHRONICLE COMMITTEE

FP Chronicle seeks to give DU students a voice by involving them in journal writing and reporting in an appealing and fun format.

Editorial Team: Ebaa Momani (Chair & Design Director), Chinta BhagyaLatha, Carmel Hankins, Sucharitha Gopalan & Wesam Al Karadsheh

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