



## HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum visits RAK Colleges

On Monday the 7th of September HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai, paid an unexpected visit to the RAK Colleges. HH Sheikh Mohammed toured both campuses encouraging students to achieve all that they can as they pursue their studies and career aspirations with the Higher Colleges of Technology in Ras Al Khaimah.

The Vice President began his visit with a tour of the Learning Center at RAKW delighting the students by taking a moment to sign his book "My Vision"; he also took a moment to discuss the students' needs at this stage. While at the women's campus, he spoke to students in their classes and praised them for their hard work so far, urging them to attain even greater levels of academic excellence. HH Sheikh Mohammed visited some temporary classrooms that were established for the very large student body. At the same time, he reviewed the current proposed plans of the new campus for RAKW. It was his wish that construction of the new campus should start immediately.

HH Sheikh Mohammed next traveled to the men's campus where he commenced his visit by meeting with students who presented recent end of year Diploma and Higher Diploma Mechatronics projects. Given the number of excellent students who have graduated from the Men's HD Engineering program, the Vice President proposed that resources should be set aside to establish a "top up" Bachelor's degree in engineering. Sheikh Mohammed visited many classes at the Men's College, including the CERT Military program. In the "Open Access Center" he met new Foundations students, sharing a smile and loads of encouragement for the challenges ahead.



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum signs the new design for Ras Al Khaimah Women's College – photograph from uae/pm.ae

## Khalifa Campus Opens

Abu Dhabi Women's College's extension campus at Khalifa City welcomed its first students on 30 August 2009. Over 600 new students in the Diploma Foundations, Higher Diploma Foundations, and Work Readiness Programs have chosen to pursue their studies at the Khalifa campus in contrast to about 120 new students who chose to study at the main campus in Abu Dhabi. Strategically located near many large new developments, it is estimated that over 75% of Emirati national students in Abu Dhabi city will pursue schooling in the neighborhood of this new campus.

Covering a total area of 385,000 sq ft, the Khalifa campus has been designed to accommodate around 2,000 students, with 88 state-of-the-art classrooms and labs equipped with the latest and most advanced technologies. The campus is expected to reach this capacity within 4 years.

The Khalifa campus also offers students opportunities for integrated development outside the classroom – students will be able to play a variety of indoor games in the spacious multipurpose sports center and have access to a fully-equipped gymnasium. A two-storey cafeteria will host a number of renowned national and international food outlets and provide students with a wide selection of healthy food.

The library is a spacious area with double-height ceilings and a floor area of 18,500 sq ft – the largest learning resource space in the HCT system. Designed and equipped as the Center of Excellence for Learning Resources for the entire HCT system, it will house: a mini theatre, multimedia centre, state-of-the-art e-Learning and enhanced learning centers, interactive meeting rooms, and private reading facilities. Training rooms for system-wide professional development of LRC and ELC staff are also included in the design. An exhibition space is being incorporated to facilitate hosting of special exhibitions by international publishers – both print and electronic media – for the benefit of all HCT faculty and staff. The entire team of the Central Learning Resource Services is now based in this Center of Excellence.

The main auditorium of the campus has a capacity of 600 and is being equipped with the most advanced audio-visual equipment to cater to major international and regional events and conferences hosted by HCT.

With a landscape area of 51,000 sq ft, the outdoor surrounds of the campus have been designed on sustainable agriculture principles using vegetation, plants and trees that can grow well under saline ground water and desert conditions.



## Nothing by Accident



### Our journey of success continues

As we begin another academic year, our 22nd year, I am proud to review our achievements.

And it has certainly been a season of achievements for the HCT. At the end of last year we celebrated the first graduating class from the Madinat Zayed Higher Colleges of Technology, and also the first graduation of students from the Masters of Innovation and Entrepreneurship program.

With the recent opening of the new Khalifa City campus in Abu Dhabi we now have 17 campuses across the breadth of the UAE, further enhancing our geographical reach. Further, we are set to have a record level of student enrolment for the coming academic year.

The path for the future of the HCT has been set out very clearly with the recent review process and the publication of our Institutional Development Plan, The Way Forward.

We are strongly focused on our aim of delivering career-oriented world-class academic and training programs and producing high quality graduates with the key elements of quality, responsiveness and

effectiveness continuing to be at the top of HCT's priority list.

Six task forces have been set up to manage issues particularly important to HCT: Program Quality Review, Redesign of the Foundations program, Diploma, HD/ BAS Articulation, Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Resource Allocation, and Organizational Structures and Processes.

I am delighted that we will be hosting the third Festival of Thinkers in early November. This conference provides a tremendous opportunity to focus on thinking, and for students to meet, engage, and learn from their interactions with eminent world thinkers.

Education is not just about learning facts, but learning how to think, and what better way to learn than to interact with some of the best thinkers in the world?

It is going to be an exciting year ahead! I would like to wish you all the very best for the coming academic year.

Dr Tayeb Kamali

## Annual Conference 2009



HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan.

### The Way Forward

As HCT enters the new academic year, the 22nd Annual Conference will present as its theme, "The Way Forward". The conference, to be held at Dubai Men's College is the time for faculty and staff to gather so they may learn about HCT's goals and objectives and as well as renew friendships and make new acquaintances with colleagues.

This year's conference will feature an opening address by His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Chancellor, an address by Dr Tayeb Kamali, Vice Chancellor of Higher Colleges of Technology and keynote speeches from Dr. Tapio Varis, a distinguished professor at the University of Tampere in Finland, Dr. Lowell Catlett, Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at New Mexico State University, and Otto Benavides, a professor from California State University, Fresno.

Dr Tapio Varis is the Chair of Professional Education, UNESCO Chair in Global E-Learning University of Tampere, Finland with particular reference to global learning environments at the Research Centre for Vocational Education. Prof. Varis has held various posts throughout his career, including Rector of the University for Peace (created by the UN) in Costa Rica; Chair of Media Studies in the University of Tampere, Finland; and Director of Tampere Peace Research Institute. He has been visiting professor in many parts of the world, including Mexico, Venezuela, United States and Austria.

Prof. Varis has authored approximately 200 scientific articles on topics such as "Global Peace through the Global University System", and "Values and Limits of the Global Media in the Age of Cyberspace". He holds a Masters and Doctor of Social Science from the University of Tampere, Finland.

Dr. Lowell Catlett is an exciting futurist with an extensive knowledge of technologies and their implications on the way we live and work. Dr. Catlett received his doctorate in Economics from Iowa State University, and has twice received the Don C. Roush

Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Burlington Foundation Faculty Achievement Award for Outstanding University Teaching. In 1994, he was awarded the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges "Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Award."

Dr. Catlett recently received the College of Agriculture and Home Economics Advisor of the Year as well as Teacher of the Year at New Mexico State University. He is a consultant to the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, Defense and Labor and to many Fortune 500 companies.

Professor Benavides is the Director of the Instructional Technology and Resource Center for the School of Education and Human Development and Director of the NASA Educator Resource Center California State University, Fresno. He is also faculty in the Department of Curriculum Teaching and Educational Technology. Before joining the faculty at CSU Fresno, he was an Assistant Professor at the College of Education at Memphis State University. He also taught audiovisual and other instructional technology courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. Prior to his employment at MSU, Professor Benavides worked at Shelby State Community College in Memphis, Tennessee. He was Assistant Director for the Instructional Media Center. He also taught TV Production and audiovisual courses in the two year associate degree programs.

The conference theme "The Way Forward" is based on the Higher Colleges of Technology thorough review of many of the challenges that confront the institution. This elaborate pursuit of institutional development engaged all stakeholders in a critical examination of HCT's academic and administrative processes. This review process involving various internal and international experts, has particularly focused on credentials, assessment, the Foundations Year, General Education, scholarly activities, organizational structure, and HR procedures.

## Al Rawi

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### Quote

*"An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't."*

Anatole France

# Madinat Zayed graduates first class



His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the graduation ceremony.

On June 23rd, a historic event occurred at Madinat Zayed and Ruwais Colleges. A graduation of the first diploma cohort was held, with 60 students receiving their diploma certificates; 40 from Madinat Zayed Women's, 10 from Madinat Zayed Men's, and 10 from Ruwais colleges.

"It is truly an honour that you have graduated in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan. There is no better way for us to say thank you to you the first graduates. Congratulations to each and every one. And remember that just because you graduate you do not stop being part of our HCT MZC and RUC family", says Dr. Phil Quirke, Director of the colleges.

This was a landmark event in the lives of people in Al Gharbia, not only the parents and the graduating students, but the whole community who supported the establishment of HCT in the Western Region. It was a dream of the educational authorities in Al Gharbia to offer Higher Education to its students. The opening of two campuses by the HCT in MZ and RU has turned this dream into reality by offering the chance to gain a Diploma, Higher Diploma, Work Readiness Certificate and now a Bachelors degree.

"I am very happy because I will graduate with the first group that graduates this year from Madinat Zayed Men's College. We worked hard over three years and we now have many skills that I hope will help us in the future. Finally, I want to thanks all the teachers in the College and I hope we will meet again after graduation" stated Abdulla Ibrahim Maatooq Muftah Mohamed Al Hosani.

"Today we see them ready to take their place in employment and embodying the HCT's mission with their readiness to make the fullest possible contribution to the community for the good of all its people. They and we should be proud of what they have achieved and grateful for the investment of resources and investment of trust in them by the leadership of the United Arab Emirates, by their community, and by their parents and families," said Nial Farrell, Dean of Academic Programmes.

## HCT posts record enrollment

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Chancellor of the HCT, His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan signed the final admissions list on the 12th of July ceremony granting admission to HCT for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Sheikh Nahayan congratulated the successful students and encouraged them to work hard and enjoy their college experience. "The upcoming year will be a challenging time for all new students. By hard work and dedication they will succeed in the classroom and graduate in their selected program. They will find tremendous job opportunities and a wonderful future ahead of them," he said.

At the Higher Colleges of Technology's 17 campuses, the official enrolment is 18,204 students plus 710 students in our work readiness and cost recovery programs. This official enrolment includes 5,658 new students and 12,546 continuing students. There are 6,496 male students enrolled and 11,708 female students enrolled. Students are enrolled in one of seven divisions: General Education (6,378 students), Applied Communications (518 students), Business (5822 students), Education (628 students), Engineering Technology (1,976 students), Health Sciences (667 students) and Information Technology (2,209 students).

As a result of this record enrollment, the HCT will continue to hold the leadership position of the highest student enrolment in the UAE. The introduction of a student-based funding model by the Ministry of Higher Education has allowed the Higher Colleges to offer places for all eligible secondary school leavers this year.

## Minister of Health visits HCT

Minister of Health His Excellency Dr. Hanif Hassan toured the Health Sciences facilities at CERT in Abu Dhabi as a part of a fact finding mission for best practices in health care education.

HE Dr. Hanif had the opportunity to visit laboratories and classrooms as well as speak with students who are preparing for a career in health services. "It was an honor to meet Dr. Hanif," said Saad Mohamed Ahmed Abdulla Faris a Bachelor degree student majoring in Medical Laboratory Technology. "I showed him what we were doing in the labs and spoke to him about my courses. He was very interested in what we are doing here and encouraged us to join the healthcare professions".

"We need more Emiratis like Saad," said Pamela Cawley, Associate Dean Health Science. "There is a critical shortage in the entire UAE healthcare sector. I would encourage more

students to look to this field and find out why this is an excellent career path. It is important for the UAE to have its fellow citizens directly involved in providing quality healthcare and support."

On September 13th, the Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HCT for exchange of expertise and joint cooperation in healthcare research and studies.

Under the MoU, an accredited training program will be established for radiology technicians. The MoU also covers a proposed program for academic development for the nursing institutes. The MoU was signed by HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and HE Dr. Hanif Hassan, Minister of Health.



His Excellency Dr. Hanif Hassan Ali, Minister of Health (second from left), talks to students Saad Mohamed Al Hammadi (second from right) and Ismail Hasan Al Hammadi (right) at CERT Health Sciences with Dr Tayeb Kamali (left)."

# Students travel across the world

## Harvard conference in Korea

Madinat Zayed College students have made an impact at the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) Academic Conference in Seoul, Korea in mid-August. Mixing with peers from universities around the world the conference proved an opportunity for the MZWC students to discuss issues relevant to the Asian region and to experience the culture of their Korean hosts.

The four day conference centered on the theme Evolving Asia: Pathways in the Global Era. The conference was framed around a series of workshops facilitated by Harvard University graduate students, in which specific topics were more intensely discussed. MZWC students participated in the Education Innovation in the Global Age and International Politics and Economics workshops. Other workshops focused on health, security, and leadership issues. The MZWC students served as articulate professional ambassadors of the UAE.

Throughout the conference, they were able to provide a uniquely Arab perspective on the topics discussed. The students also engaged actively in cultural exchange, applying henna to Korean hands while sampling Korean cuisine. Students have now returned to the UAE with an enhanced global perspective having successfully attended their first high-caliber international conference.



Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) Academic Conference in Seoul, Korea in mid-August.”



Rashid Al Maftoul meets the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Taro Aso.

## HCT youth sailing for understanding and friendship

Rashid Al Maftoul, a Dubai Men’s College graduate and former Student Council activist, has been chosen to participate in the Ship for World Youth trip to Japan. The purpose of this program is to broaden the global view of Japanese youth, and to promote mutual understanding and friendship between Japanese and foreign youth. It also aims to develop a spirit of international leadership among young people. The seven week journey includes visits to New Zealand, Tonga, Vanuatu and of course, Japan.

Rashid talks of the trip, ‘The most valuable lesson I learned was that all of us onboard the ship, regardless of our field of study, regardless of our home country: be it the Far East, the Middle East, the North, etc. we all share the same concerns, challenges, problems. The experience fostered in me a real sense of the importance and value of working together and cooperating. After all, we all want the

same thing, so why fight and compete? Let’s work together!’

Rashid, who graduated last year with a Bachelor of Engineering Management from Dubai Men’s College, was honoured to be selected to deliver a speech to the Prime Minister of Japan on behalf of the delegates, that included 260 youth from 13 countries. The delegates also met the Crown Prince of Japan, Princess of Tonga, and the Mayor of Auckland.

“The trip added to our mutual cultural understanding since I lived onboard a ship with so many young people from all over the world” said Rashid. Rashid currently works with the Road and Transportation Authority as a Projects Engineer in the Roads Department. He is now looking forward to visits from some of his new friends from Japan and Venezuela, who are making a special trip with their families to see Rashid and visit the UAE.

## Summer school in Scotland

Seven Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) female students, along with twenty nine other UAE National students have participated in the Al Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies Summer School Program in Dundee, Scotland.

The focus of the program was on learning about Scotland through classes on Scottish history, traditions, and culture. The students also took part in practical sessions on Scottish culture including Scottish dancing and visited major Scottish cities, and centres such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen.

Maryam Al Meqbali one of the participants selected from Abu Dhabi Women’s College, thoroughly enjoyed her time at the Summer School.

‘In particular I enjoyed the academic studies, especially the lecture on Islamic Jerusalem which was very interesting and engaging. As part of his lecture Dr. Khaled Al Al Awasi took us on a virtual tour of the Al Aqsa Mosque which was fascinating as I have never been or seen it from the inside. All the topics which were covered enriched and enlightened me.’

The program was a combination of lectures, seminars, class discussions and debates. It also included study trips and other activities relating to the theme of the program such as visits to Dundee’s City Chambers, the Scottish Parliament, Loch Leven, Glamis Castle, and Aberdeen University.

Bushra Abdulhameed Bawazir another participant from Abu Dhabi Women’s College was equally enthusiastic about the summer school program.

‘The summer school was organized very well. One of the nonacademic highlights for me was the trip to Glamis Castle because of all the interesting stories and legends that surround it. I can see why it is known as one of the most haunted castles in Britain.’

‘I also enjoyed the visit to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, and the opportunity to meet the female Member of the Scottish Parliament Anne Mclaughlin. She spoke to us about social issues as well as the role of women in Scotland. She was very motivating and encouraging.’

The Al Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Dundee is sponsored by His

Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance and Industry of the United Arab Emirates.

The participants were Bushra Abdulhameed Bawazeer - Abu Dhabi Women’s College, Maryam Mohamed Al Meqbali - Abu Dhabi Women’s College, Amal Abdulrahman Al Tamimi - Ras Al Khaimah Women’s College, Kholoud Saeed Hefaity - Fujairah Women’s College, Majida Mohamed Al Awar - Dubai Women’s College, Noura Saeed Al Kaabi - Sharjah Women’s College and Muna Mohammed Al Awar - Dubai Women’s College.



Students and teachers from the summer program at the Al Maktoum Institute, Scotland.

# Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Scholars announced

The second class of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Scholars, an initiative of New York University Abu Dhabi has been announced with twenty students from UAE Universities having been chosen for the high-profile scholars' program that will see them travel to the US, take classes taught by the president of New York University, and attend courses in English and leadership.

A panel of judges from NYU Abu Dhabi, and NYU New York looked over 43 applications for the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Scholars Program, now in its second year. Nine students from the Higher Colleges of Technology were selected among candidates from Zayed University and United Arab Emirates University.

For this academic year, the program is offering two academic courses along with the English language enrichment program and leadership development program. They will also attend lectures in religion and government taught by NYU President John Sexton, Robert Shrum, the political strategist and senior NYU fellow, and James Traub, New York Times Magazine journalist. In addition, the Scholars class will again be invited to travel to the United States and meet with important leaders in New York and Washington, D.C. – as well as take part in classes, meet with NYU faculty and students, and visit some of the key intellectual and cultural sites in the nation.

Mohamed Abdul Razaq Al Bastaki an HCT student attending Dubai Men's College was one of the twenty selected, "I am looking forward to the coming class in politics where we will discuss the "Making of the President 1960" and analyze the readings and the elections at that point of time."

"They represent the very best qualities of academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, leadership potential, creativity, skills, and accomplishments among the top university students in the UAE," said Diane Yu, Executive Director of the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program. Class for the program began on September 26th and 27th.



The 2008 Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Scholars in Washington D.C.

## HCT's Fulbright Scholars travel to the US

This year two HCT graduates were awarded Fulbright Scholarships – Amira Al Dhamani, from Dubai Women's College and Tayeb Zainal from Dubai Men's College. Both are studying for their MBA – Amira at Gannon University, in Pennsylvania, and Tayeb at La Salle University in Pennsylvania.

Amira attended the pre – MBA program at Boston University which she found to be enjoyable and valuable. She stated "in fact, I have learned a lot about other people cultures during the team discussions. The pre-MBA program enables me to represent and enhance the image of U.A.E.'s women leaders globally by exposing the status of women in the U.A.E. and their impact on economy, decision-making and society – locally and internationally."

Tayeb is similarly finding the experience valuable. He talked of his trip, "I really can't express how enjoyable this trip has been so far. . . I first landed in Miami for an orientation program after more than 14 hours of flying and the first question that came to my mind was "what have I done?". . . However, once I went to the hotel I saw 50 other students from 50 different countries who looked just like me "confused and hungry", which made me realize that I'm not the only one having issues. . . It's worth noting that Professor Maureen O'Hara treated us like her children "literally" . . . I honestly couldn't imagine having more than 90 friends from more than 60 countries in

just 4 days. Even though that each one of us is in a different state, I still get in touch with some of them on a weekly basis."

"The second challenge was getting started as an MBA student. I was very nervous the first couple of weeks because everything seemed new to me. I wasn't also familiar with the American way of teaching and graduate studies. It's a big deference between being a graduate student and undergrad. . . Nevertheless, I am coping with these changes and challenges slowly."

The Fulbright Scholarship program is sponsored by the United States Department of State aiming to "enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries."

The program enables graduate students, young professionals and artists from abroad to research and study in the United States for one year or longer.



Amira Al Dhamani  
Photo: Faten Ayoub for Campus Journal.



Tayeb Zainal.

## Executive MBA graduation

On June 16, 2009, the Higher Colleges of Technology celebrated the graduation of the first cohorts graduating from the Masters in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EMBA) program. Twenty-four students from the Class of 2006 and eighteen students from the Class of 2007 received their degrees.

His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research and Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology congratulated each graduate as they were presented with their testamurs.

The EMBA program was designed for ambitious and innovative students who wish to concentrate their studies in entrepreneurship.

"Entrepreneurial people are visionaries and innovative problem solvers. They are opportunity focused, calculated risk takers, people who are comfortable with change and frustrated with the status quo," said Dr. Tayeb Kamali, Vice Chancellor, HCT, who attended the graduation. "We are very proud of our graduates and feel confident that we have prepared them well to excel in their chosen fields and wish them every success."

Adam Saad, a graduate in the first cohort, explained the program, "The MIE program places a very professional and expert lens by which you perceive and deal with situations and opportunities in your day to day challenges."

2007 Graduate Sultan Karmostaji was similarly pleased with the program, "This masters puts before you all the components of entrepreneurship, and gives you a clear understanding of each component, with live examples of companies and organizations. It's one of the best programs in understanding the entrepreneurial world."

The program consists of a series of interdisciplinary courses that endow students with specific insights across multiple career management disciplines. Students utilize this knowledge to create and develop their own personal business plans to new ventures, spin offs, or other innovative outcomes. Core areas of focus include: marketing, sales, strategy, finance, new product development, human resource management and other value-chain activities required for the creation and growth of new high-tech ventures.

# The Way Forward Accomplishments of academic year 2008

HCT's 21st year of operations, academic year 2008/2009 was a year of introspection, forward planning and consolidation in quality of programs and services through strategic planning and development initiatives to move the system forward to the third decade.

## Student enrolment

In the Academic Year (2008/09) just completed HCT posted a record enrolment of over 16,800 students. HCT continues to remain the largest higher educational institution in the UAE – private and public sector included – for the third consecutive year.

College	Student Enrollments
Abu Dhabi Men's College	2,320
Abu Dhabi Women's College	2,569
Al Ain Men's College	581
Al Ain Women's College	1,798
Dubai Men's College	1,806
Dubai Women's College	2,113
Fujairah Men's College	418
Fujairah Women's College	1,289
Madinat Zayed Men's College	64
Madinat Zayed Women's College	292
Ras Al Khaimah Men's College	504
Ras Al Khaimah Women's College	1,321
Ruwais Women's College	232
Sharjah Men's College	803
Sharjah Women's College	2,094
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,204</b>

We are set to continue our leadership position with the highest student enrolment in the UAE in Academic Year 2009/2010.

## Graduation

The Graduating Class of 2008 had 4,243 graduates which is the largest graduating cohort of HCT thus far in its 21 year history (excluding Certificate credentials that are no longer awarded). About 13% of these graduates received distinction or honors. With this 18th graduating cohort, HCT has now awarded over 40,000 credentials.



## Conferences and events

**Education Without Borders 2009** This year, HCT hosted the fifth biennial "Education Without Borders" conference in Dubai. Almost 4,000 international students expressed interest in attending this conference. Over 1,000 paper abstracts were submitted by students on the theme of the conference: Innovative Solutions to Global Challenges. About 600 international students were approved – almost all of them had submitted full length papers at acceptable standards – representing 120 countries and over 300 universities from around the world. In addition, another 400 students from HCT and other UAE universities also took part. In every one of these respects, the 2009 conference achieved record highs.

Following an extensive refereeing process, 44 papers and multimedia presentations were delivered at the conference by student delegates of 19 different nationalities studying at institutions across the world, including two UAE national students from the HCT.

The Toshiba Award for the most outstanding paper was won by Irina Pleva, a Latvian student studying at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. In addition to the trophy, she received a Toshiba computer and an internship at the Toshiba laboratories in Oxford, UK. Irina's paper investigated the burden industry puts onto



the environment, and proposes solutions that create eco-industrial networks by establishing correlation between nature's ecosystems and man-made industrial networks.

In celebration of the diversity of the cultures of the world, the Gala Dinner featured entertainers from many corners of the globe. From Ireland and Armenia to South Africa and India, expressions through the common language of music and dance let the students imagine a better world.

Over 100 leaders from government, academia and businesses attended EWB 2009 as student mentors – this included Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India; Sir John Rose, Chief Executive Rolls Royce; HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, Chairwoman, Belgium Red Cross; Cecilia Maria Velez White, National Minister of Education, Columbia; Margaret Spellings, former United States Secretary of Education; Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; Anousheh Ansari, 1st Female Private Space Explorer and many Presidents and Vice Chancellors of leading universities of the world.

### Education Without Borders Regional Forums

As envisioned and guided by the Chancellor, EWB regional forums are being organized by HCT in the major regions of the world for university leaders to discuss globalization and internationalization and the challenges and opportunities in higher education. The EWB North American Forum was held, in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, in October 2008. Over 30 university presidents and leaders participated in this interactive forum. EWB South Asian Forum was hosted in New Delhi, India, in February 2009. In the current academic year, plans are under way to host another EWB North American Forum, an EWB European Forum and an EWB East Asia Forum.

The 3rd Festival of Thinkers will be hosted by HCT in Abu Dhabi from November 2 – 4, 2009. Already 15 Nobel Laureates and 80 world thinkers have confirmed participation in this unique festival. About 200 outstanding young leaders, research scholars and innovative students from the UAE and the region would join these thinkers in the Festival.

# Looking ahead to academic year 2009/2010

## Seamless articulation – restructured Higher Diploma / Bachelor of Applied Science Programs

In line with the Chancellor's direction to provide effective articulation between programs and lifelong learning opportunities for students, effective August 2009, a seamless pathway has been structured for Higher Diploma students to optionally continue on to pursue a Bachelor of Applied Science. In this academic year, a task force has been set up to design similar efficient pathways for Diploma students to proceed towards Higher Diplomas and Bachelors of Applied Science. This new stream of Diploma – HD – BAS is planned for implementation in the next academic year.

## Enhanced Budget

The student based formula funding model is being applied from this academic year by the UAE Government to fund the Federal higher educational institutions. This additional support is a significant encouragement to the HCT that is projected to cross the 18,000 enrolment level this year, as HCT has the mandate to provide open access to all eligible UAE national youth to pursue higher education. This

model brings in a new era of reward as well as accountability for student success in the Federal universities and colleges.

## Institutional Development Plan "The Way Forward"

Upon entering its third decade of operations, HCT undertook a thorough review of many of the challenges that confront the institution. This elaborate exercise in pursuit of institutional development engaged all stakeholders in a critical examination of HCT's academic and administrative processes. This review process involving various internal and international experts, has particularly focused on credentials, assessment, the Foundations Year, General Education, scholarly activities, organizational structure, and HR procedures. Our Chancellor's feedback on these reviews has further challenged us to prioritize our objectives and move forward with the implementation of our institutional development plan.

**This Institutional Development Plan operates under the following overarching goals:**

1. HCT must remain a unique institution delivering world-class career-oriented academic and training programs and facilitating effective universal access to

higher education for all UAE national students.

2. HCT needs to produce quality graduates who can continue to progress well in a competitive career market.
3. HCT must continue to respond to the needs of the local community through its program offerings.
4. HCT needs to develop effective articulation and pathways between its programs.
5. Learning outcomes of all courses and programs must be clearly articulated and assessed consistently.
6. All HCT students must have equal access to high-class facilities and resources.
7. HCT must maintain its "technology" focus
8. The above quality enhancement strategies should be phased in within the resource constraints.
9. Research will be undertaken by CERT as part of its mandate.
10. Graduate programs will be delivered by CERT as part of its mandate.

## Task Forces for 2009/2010

To implement these goals, task forces have been formed under six categories of actions to complete the implementation details by June 2010.

**Task Force 1: Program Quality Review (Chair: Dr. Bob Richards):**

### Mandate:

HCT needs to review and enhance current programs, and produce quality graduates who can continue to progress well in a competitive environment. The depth, breadth, and rigor of every HCT program must be internationally benchmarked. All programs will be reviewed against key parameters such as academic rigor, student demand, graduation rates, job placement, and competitiveness with similar programs offered by other institutions in the country. Towards this end, in August 2009, a major program quality review process will commence for all diploma, higher diploma, and bachelor level programs - involving appropriate external specialists to benchmark HCT programs. A draft schedule for comprehensive program review will be presented to Policy Council in September 2009.

**Task Force 2: Redesign of the Foundations Program (Chair: Dr. Farid Ohan)**

### Mandate:

Foundations program must be redesigned to better meet the learning and developmental needs of our students. The development of the curriculum and the mode of its delivery should be flexible enough to accommodate the varying needs of entering students, and increasing the number of students entering HD/BAS programs is a top priority. During the next academic year, a detailed curriculum re-design of a new single Foundations program will be developed with multiple entry/exit points and pathways for students to enter the HD/BAS track or an enhanced Diploma program.

**Task Force 3: Articulation between HCT programs (Chair: Dr. Simon Jones)**

### Mandate:

A Diploma/HD/BAS articulation strategy must be developed to allow diploma students to continue their studies with a minimum

loss of time by giving them credit for courses already completed (advanced standing and exemptions)

**Task Force 4: Accreditation and Quality Assurance (Chair: Dr. Howard Reed):**

### Mandate:

Review the current quality assurance system and develop a formal structure for internal quality assurance including the needed organization structure and additional resources necessary for the central Quality Assurance and Accreditation Division. Review the quality and reputation of all agencies and commissions that have already accredited HCT programs, and revise as necessary. Continue with the application process for institutional accreditation.

**Task Force 5: Resource Allocation (Chair: Dr. Senthil Nathan):**

### Mandate:

Compile, assess and validate additional resource requirements to implement all of the above initiatives to incorporate these in the budget plan for AY 2010. Rationalize academic credits required for programs using internationally compatible definitions of credits and teaching hours. Consequently, assign reduced teaching load in terms of these new credits. Prepare and implement resource plans and timelines to develop state-of-the-art technology provisions consistently across the system and to maintain HCT's lead in technology enabled teaching and learning.

**Team 6: Organizational Structure and Processes (Chair: Dr. Tayeb Kamali):**

### Mandate:

System and college organizational structures and decision-making processes must be reviewed to ensure that they effectively and efficiently meet the needs of our students. More of our resources must be channeled to the direct support of the teaching/learning process (equipment, learning resources, new programs, professional development, faculty workload, and facilities).

## Industry Support

HCT Foundation: Within 12 months of establishing the HCT Foundation to structure sponsorship relationships between the Corporate sector and the HCT, 29 international and national companies have joined the 100 Club of HCT Foundation by committing to support HCT through named Deans and Chairs, named laboratories or Centers of Excellence.

## Abu Dhabi Industry Awards

The scope of Abu Dhabi Industry Awards was expanded this year to cover the all the HCT colleges in the UAE. This year, about 20 organizations, primarily based in Abu Dhabi emirate provided funding to award over top graduates of HCT in 50 program majors. The Chancellor presented the awards to top graduate in every program in the presence of industry leaders.

## Research Initiatives

HCT's research initiatives are channeled and coordinated through CERT. Two developments were noteworthy last year:

Wharton Entrepreneurship and Family Business Research Centre for the Middle East at CERT – Abu Dhabi: The Higher Colleges of Technology – Centre of Excellence for Applied Research and Training (CERT) signed an agreement with the world famous Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in June 2009 to establish this research center at CERT campus.

## Science and Technology International Cooperation Network for Gulf Cooperation Countries (INCONET-GCC)

The research arm of the Higher Colleges of Technology – CERT – is a major partner in a 18 member GCC – European consortium that just won a major research grant, on competitive basis, from the European Commission to pursue a project entitled "Research to promote dialogue between GCC and EU institutions on Science and Technology". This 3-year research project would establish a Science and Technology International Cooperation Network for Gulf Cooperation Countries (INCONET-GCC) aiming at the promotion of bi-regional dialogue between GCC and EU institutions.

## Information Technology Developments

Central Services continues to build on the system developments of the past year to help colleges measure and monitor their performance and compile essential quality improvement data through the Business Intelligence information warehouse and Quality Improvement System. In the current year, eGrade Book is being implemented for the entire system enabling faculty to enter all course related assessment data and the final grades. Such course grading details would allow analysis relevant to system program quality assurance. Also, an electronic Attendance Recording and Reporting system has been developed in-house and introduced at the system level and the annual HCT Fact Book – that had been published so far in print version – has been changed to an online version.

# Higher Colleges of Technology 100 Foundation



## HCT Foundation sponsored positions named

The HCT has named eight Professors, Chairs and Deans to faculty positions as a result of financial support from corporations who have joined the HCT -100 Club. The HCT-100 Club was established as an exclusive group of corporations who committed a minimum of AED 1,000,000 over three years.

"The commitment of these corporations make it possible for HCT to name these outstanding individuals to these critical academic positions," stated Dr. Senthil Nathan, Acting Director of Academics. "Many students will benefit from the experience and expertise these people bring to our colleges."

### Standard Chartered Professor in Corporate Finance – Imre Reczey



Imre Reczey is the Chair of the Business Programs in Abu Dhabi Men's College. He has 10 years of senior industrial experience in Financial Services and Marketing for international corporations in Europe, and he has 15 years of University Teaching and Industrial Research experience

for Hungarian, UK, and Australian Universities, and the Industrial Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

He has published several articles, and is the author of four university textbooks in the area of economics, quantitative methods, and finance. He had lived in Hungary, Ireland, USA, and Singapore before joining HCT in 2001.

### Aldar Dean of Business Studies – Gordon Brown



Gordon currently is the ALDAR Dean of Business at the Abu Dhabi Women's College, Higher Colleges of Technology. He combines real-world expertise, first rate academic credentials and innovative and critical thought. He has lectured widely and published dozens of

scientific articles and critical reviews.

From 2006 to 2009, he was Head of the Real Estate Management and Development Group, Eindhoven University of Technology in The Netherlands, one of the largest graduate real estate programs in Europe.

His degrees: BS, University of Illinois; MBA, University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School; MSc (Architecture) University of London, Bartlett School; Doctor of Technology (higher doctorate), University of Ulster.

### Barclays Dean of Banking and Finance – James Pounder



Dr. Pounder is Associate Director (Academic Programs) for Higher Colleges of Technology. In his 25 year academic career he served in a variety of senior higher education positions including Higher Colleges of Technology, Abu Dhabi University, Lingnan

University, and Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His doctorates are from University of Leicester in education, and Brunel University in Management. He has been published over 60 times and an Editor of a major international Middle Eastern journal.

### Toshiba Chair of Mobile Computing – David Kelly



David specializes in development systems for microprocessor systems, having developed in-circuit emulators for various processors. For the past 30 years he has been deeply involved in the pioneering of microprocessor technology and microcomputing in education, setting up labs and facilities

for training and applying the technology. Before joining the HCT and Abu Dhabi Men's College, David worked extensively in the R&D for cutting edge industrial control and simulation systems. He continues to specialize in development systems for microprocessor systems, having developed in-circuit emulators for various processors.

### Al Fara'a Professor of Civil Engineering – Lazlo Bodi



Lazlo Bodi is a member of the HCT Abu Dhabi Men's College and has been involved in civil engineering since the age of 14. He has taught and consulted in Hungary, Germany and Canada and was a key member of Trow Consulting Engineers Ltd. in geotechnical and mining.

In 1995 Lazlo met Dr. Kamali in Toronto and subsequently joined ADMC's Civil Engineering Department in the spring of 1996. He is a graduate of Technical University of Budapest with a Master's degree in Civil Engineering.

### TRA Professor in ICT – Peter Heath



College. He has been teaching and researching in IT and related fields for 20 years. Previously he worked at Algonquin College and Nortel Networks in Canada. His academic interests include Open Source Software, Network Security, Telemedicine, E-learning and New Media. While at ADMC, he has chaired various E-learning committees and presented at several E-learning conferences.

### NCDR Professor of Archival Studies – Arif Al Nahdi



Arif Al Nahdi is a Faculty of Information Technology at Abu Dhabi Men's College. He has been teaching programming and web development since he has joined ADMC in 2001. In addition to his teaching duties, he has been developing curriculum for many courses

in the field of programming and web development. He is currently serving as the curriculum leader for the web development program. Prior to joining ADMC, Arif was working at Intel Corp., California, USA, as a component design engineer.

Arif Al Nahdi received his B.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering from UAE University and his M.Sc. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Louisiana State University, USA.

## HCT Foundation announces new support program

In celebration of its 20th year of operation, the Higher Colleges of Technology established the HCT Foundation. The Foundation's mandate is to provide partnership opportunities for the corporate and government sectors, fulfilling the HCT's mission to develop UAE national youth for effective nation building. Since the launch, the HCT has entered its third decade of operation and the Foundation continues to grow. In less than two years, the Foundation has secured over Dhs 55,000,000 in sponsorship from high profile national and multinational companies, as well as the UAE Government.

After garnering financial support from 29 organizational partners, the HCT Foundation has decided to launch its next phase, focusing on the HCT's most loyal supporters, graduates.

The Higher Colleges of Technology has announced the establishment of the HCT Leaders Program. The HCT Leaders Program is an opportunity for alumni to provide financial and in-kind support to address the HCT's most pressing needs and opportunities, playing a key role in the success of HCT students and graduates. Alumni in leadership positions and who have the financial means, will be asked for five-year gift commitments totaling a minimum of 1,000,000 Dhs to become a member of the HCT Leaders

Program. Contributions will support: financial aid; career placement; technology and facilities; and the flexibility to seek out new opportunities and act on them quickly. The UAE is a rapidly changing environment. To respond to such changes effectively, such as the development of a new program based on industry needs, funding flexibility is necessary. Non-financial contributions such as mentoring or hiring students will be equally important as they better prepare them for their careers after graduation. The HCT Leaders Program will also allow HCT alumni the opportunity to stay connected with their alma mater.

"The HCT Leaders Program is the next logical step in establishing an ongoing financial support program to assist the HCT in fulfilling its mission," stated Vice Chancellor Tayeb Kamali. "Tens of thousands have graduated from the HCT since 1988 and many are in senior leadership positions. The education they received at the HCT is a significant part of why they have been so successful. It's now time for alumni who have the economic wherewithal to assist HCT students who need support. We hope to build a culture of philanthropy which will filter down to the students so they are prepared to give back upon graduation."

Peter Heath is an IT Faculty Member at Abu Dhabi Men's

## The Wharton School announces agreement with CERT

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania announced an agreement with the Centre of Excellence for Applied Research and Training (CERT). The cornerstones of the agreement include two initiatives that are aimed at the creation and dissemination of Wharton research. Wharton and CERT will establish a research center where Wharton faculty will study entrepreneurship, innovation and family business in the UAE. In addition, Wharton and CERT will collaborate on the development of an Arabic language version of Knowledge@Wharton (K@W) Wharton's award-winning online business journal.

"The Wharton-CERT partnership is a key example of an innovative collaboration that helps pave the way for putting global knowledge into practice," said University of Pennsylvania President Amy Gutmann. "At Penn, we are committed to using our vast intellectual resources to gain knowledge and insights for use in the search for solutions to some of the most vexing problems facing our world today. This new initiative will advance our understanding of the Middle East and provide our faculty with rich new areas for research."

"This collaboration between CERT and Wharton represents a significant milestone in our continuing quest for promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in UAE and the region. Hosting the Arabic edition of Knowledge@Wharton portal provides tremendous opportunity for disseminating knowledge on a broad range of research projects involving family businesses and entrepreneurship," stated Dr. Tayeb Kamali, Group Chief Executive of CERT and Vice Chancellor of HCT.

The Arabic edition of Knowledge@Wharton will disseminate knowledge in print and through video and podcasts. The site, by making extensive use of mobile technology, will analyze business trends in the Middle East and their impact on the larger global community. The Arabic edition will become the first site in the Middle East to join the Knowledge@Wharton Network, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary.



His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan talks with Dean Thomas S. Robertson from The Wharton School.

K@W has a global audience of 1.3 million subscribers via editions in the U. S., Latin America, China and India. Mukul Pandya, Executive Director and Editor in Chief of the Knowledge@Wharton Network said, "We expect the Arabic version to be a source of global insight for people in the Middle East and a source of knowledge about the region for the K@W audience."

On November 1, 2009 a senior delegation from the University of Pennsylvania will travel to Abu Dhabi to take part in the Festival of Thinkers and celebrate the signing of this agreement.

## Academic partnership with Waterloo begins

Following two years of careful preparation, Canada's University of Waterloo (UW) in partnership with the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) has launched its Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Applied Science Chemical Engineering in the United Arab Emirates at Dubai Men's College. The academic partnership was agreed between His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Chancellor of the HCT and UW President, David Johnson. Students will study for two years at the UW UAE and complete the final two years in Waterloo, Canada, joining some 28,000 students currently studying there. Graduates will qualify for an engineering degree from both the HCT and UW.

Classes began on August 28th with the enrollment of 23 students. Dr. Peter Douglas, Associate Dean of Engineering (Graduate Studies) and a chemical engineer, serves as director of the UW UAE programs at Dubai Men's College.

Outstanding professors from the University of Waterloo have been assigned to the campus at Dubai Men's College and will provide the same program content and quality of instruction as is offered in Canada. The programs will be offered under a "co-operative" education model that has students alternating four-month work terms in the business world and academic terms on campus. The University of Waterloo was the first university in Canada to develop the co-operative education program, now a global gold standard for professional programs.

The HCT and UW are currently preparing articulation agreements that will see the offering of two new Bachelor degrees in the 2010/11 academic year; the Bachelor of Mathematics in Information Technology Management and the Bachelor of Mathematics in Financial Analysis and Risk Management. These programs will follow the 2 and 2 format with students qualifying for degrees from both HCT and UW.

UW's Vice-President International, Dr. Leo Rothenburg said: "The University of Waterloo looks forward to building a strong presence in the important Gulf region. We are pleased to be working with the Higher Colleges of Technology as well as the Centre of

Excellence for Applied Research and Training. I would like to thank His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan for his vision and support which has been instrumental in the forging of this exciting partnership."

The University of Waterloo has consistently demonstrated high performance in the Maclean's magazine's Canadian university rankings. Maclean's describes the university as "internationally recognized for the unparalleled success of its more than 100 undergraduate and graduate co-op programs." UW's technology park is the home of many high-tech companies including "Research in Motion", founded by a graduate of UW, the company that developed the Blackberry.

The strategic plans of both HCT and UW call for significant internationalization to ensure graduates are global citizens. Achieving that goal involves sending more students abroad, bringing more international students together and expanding the institutions' presence around the world.



Professor Leo Rothenburg, University of Waterloo's Associate Vice President, International, talks with students on the opening day of the Dubai campus.

## New academic programs announced

To keep pace with the changing economy of the UAE and the evolving needs of the local industry and community, HCT constantly engages in dialogue with major employers of the country through program advisory committees, CERT, and career fairs. Through such interactions, many new programs are introduced every year while some existing programs are rationalized or revised. New programs that are being introduced or designed this year include:

### Higher Diploma / BAS programs in

- Transportation Engineering
- Printing and Publishing Technology
- Biotechnology
- Interior Design
- Sustainable Development
- Telecommunications & Satellite Technologies

### Diploma programs in:

- Telecommunications
- Medical Coding

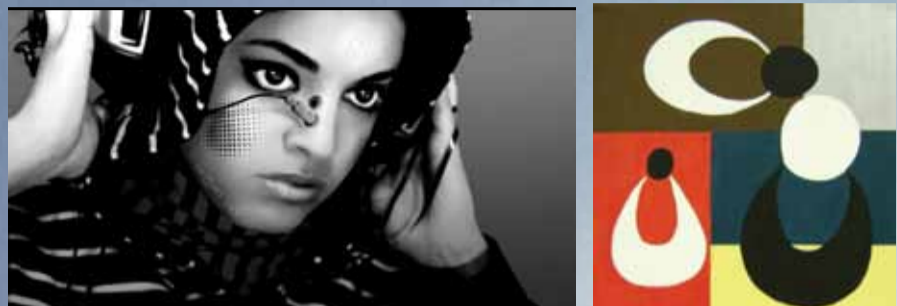
Graduate Programs are being planned for delivery through CERT, primarily as concurrent degrees with reputed international universities including:

- Masters in Digital and Analog Forensic
- Masters in Social Development
- Master of Education

## HCT's talent on show

The talent of the students and staff of the HCT was on show at the end of last academic year, with exhibitions across the nation. The first HCT *Art and Media Festival* took place at the Emirates Palace in June, the Ghaf gallery hosted the Abu Dhabi Women's College's Annual *Desert Rose Exhibition*, Dubai Men's College showcased the talent of their applied communications students in the exhibition, *Noise*, and Dubai Women's College hosted the exhibition, *Fingerprints*.

## HCT's Art and Media Festival



HCT's inaugural Arts and Media Festival showcased a great diversity of creativity with artworks displaying beauty, ideas and skill. Opened by His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, it delighted attendees from 3- 10 June at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. All staff and students from the HCT were eligible to submit artworks and the resulting display included films, paintings, photography, sculpture, graphic design, fashion design and computer art. The awards, presented by HE Sheikh Nahayan went to Suqrat Al Tenaiji from Dubai Men's College, Maha Al Kaabi from Al Ain Women's College, Alya Al Nagi from Sharjah Women's College, Salma Dalmook, from Dubai Women's College, Muna Al Mazam from Sharjah Women's College. The staff award was presented to David Cox from Abu Dhabi Men's College.

## Noise

Noise, the first media exhibition organised by the department of Applied Communications to showcase the works of the second and third year media students of the Dubai Men's College, attracted huge media and industry attention. Held on 6 June 2009, the exhibition was very well received by various stakeholders within and outside the college.

Noting the high quality of the work, Dr Bob Richards, Senior Director of the Dubai Men's College, said: "This exhibition has once again demonstrated that the talent of our students compares favorably with the very best. The quality of their work and their ability to explain the creative and intellectual process behind their projects demonstrates an impressive depth of learning. I'm delighted that "Noise" has connected students with a wide audience. The opportunity to showcase one's work and invite constructive criticism and appreciation is a fundamental aspect of artistic endeavor".

## Desert Rose 2009: Out of the \_

Abu Dhabi Women's College Applied Communication students put on a show of their own in early June – 'Desert Rose 2009: Out of the \_'. Sixteen senior students displayed work produced throughout their three years at the HCT. The exhibition, now in its eighth year, was held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology.

Desert Rose was held at the the Ghaf Art Gallery and was sponsored by of the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and the Kanoo Group.

## Fingerprints

His Highness Sheikh Majid Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, inaugurated "Fingerprints" Art and Media Exhibition, at the Dubai Cultural and Scientific Association in Al Mamzar. Sponsored by Emirates Foundations in collaboration with Dubai Cultural and Scientific Association and Dubai Ladies Club, the three-day exhibition displayed the projects created, designed and produced by Dubai Women's College (DWC) Year Three Applied Communications' students over the past three years.

Fingerprints aimed at showcasing the students' artistic and creative works in the fields of design, media, photography, journalism and film to the public including experts, employers, art and media supporters among others

Some of the work displayed at Fingerprints received international recognition and awards such as the AIGA Aspen Design Challenge, the Gulf Film Festival (first and second editions), Dubai International Film Festival, and Ibda'a Awards. Students have also created children stories in collaboration with DWC's Education Department and Jerboa Publishing in Dubai.

DWC's Applied Communications students produced very strong documentaries, public service announcements and feature films discussing issues of importance and interest not only to viewers in the United Arab Emirates, but also to international viewers. These issues and topics included censorship, marriage, plastic surgery and the global water crisis.

## In celebration of thought



In 2008, the Higher Colleges of Technology celebrated its 20th anniversary. A highlight of the anniversary was the publication of the first of a series of anthologies of essays, speeches and reflections, entitled 20. The Higher Colleges is now planning to publish its second anthology in the series, 22, at the time of its 22nd anniversary.

Edited by Dr. Tayeb Kamali, Vice Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology, these anthologies are intended to celebrate thought. By collecting together pieces of writing of eminent thought leaders and from the international community, they allow the reader to both benefit from the ideas and opinions of these wordsmiths and also to provoke and encourage thinking.

22 will feature speeches/essays by eminent world leaders, Nobel laureates, and leading educators. Dr Abdul Kalam, Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Dr. John Sexton, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs are among the eminent world leaders who have contributed to the new volume.

22 will be published by HCT Press, the imprint of the HCT.

## HCT facts on the web

The HCT's Academic Facts and Figures Handbook is now available on the HCT's website ( www.hct.ac.ae) under the heading: HCT at a Glance . The new edition being published in October is the official source of information presented annually to all Higher Colleges of Technology stakeholders.

The annual HCT Fact Book – that has been previously available only in print – is now available in an online version including provisions for ongoing updates to the statistics. Interested stakeholders, such as the employers, will be able to print select statistics (in as much detail as they desire) or the entire fact book.

This fact book provides interesting and useful statistics about the HCT, such as details of the number of credentials awarded. Did you know that the HCT has awarded over 40,000 credentials since the first graduating class?

It also provides information on current enrolment – over 17,500 students are currently enrolled in the HCT. Information is given in graphical formats and is presented by gender, by credential, and by division.

The Fact Book assists in finding the latest list of programs offered, college campuses program offerings, and details of the numbers of students in sponsored programs, and HCT's Work Readiness Program. In addition, the site provides data on staff and graduate employment.



# Alumni Interview: Putting into practice

Our search for distinguished HCT graduates in the UAE business sectors is always successful and their stories are encouraging. Shamma Ibrahim Al Suwaidi, graduated from the Dubai Women's College Higher Diploma program in Computer Networking in 2006. She is currently enrolled in the final semester of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Networking and due to her efficient performance during work placement in Dubai World, she soon received a rewarding job offer from this global company.

**HCT:** Please tell us some quick facts about Dubai World, particularly its local and global projects?

**Shamma:** Dubai World is a semi-government Holding company that generates socio-economic growth through diversified investments and executing innovative projects and strategic partnerships. Its portfolio comprises some of the world's best known companies like DP World, one of the largest marine terminal operators in the world; Economic Zones World which operates several free zones around the world, including TechnoPark in Dubai; Nakheel, the property developer behind key projects such as The Palm Islands, and Dubai World Africa which oversees the regional development of investments in Africa.

**HCT:** What are your main responsibilities as a network engineer? What, in your opinion, have you contributed to this global institution?

I started working one and a half years ago as a network engineer and member of an operation team overseeing the Nakheel, Palm Jumeirah, and Dubai Waterfront projects. Dubai World provides IT services to all the companies under its umbrella. I thereafter moved to the project team where I was responsible for implementing the network in different locations, and mainly for the device configuration. I am proud to say that I was part of the team that did the configuration of Customs Offices in Terminal (3) of Dubai Airport.

**HCT:** How did your education at the HCT help you in building your career at Dubai World?

**Shamma:** At Dubai World I am now putting into practice everything I studied at the HCT. The implementation of projects at the HCT, the independent learning, and work placement were all beneficial in my professional life. I was able to deal with working under pressure and managing my time well. The Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) courses were a big help. Indeed, the HCT did prepare me to meet the requirements of the labour market.

**HCT:** In what ways did your family support your professional and personal growth?

**Shamma:** Working in the IT field, especially networking, is challenging, as engineers are sometimes required to work after office hours or during weekends and holidays. My family motivates me to study hard and work hard, to attend training, to travel on college trips, and to do my utmost in every mission I undertake. They encourage me to pursue my Masters and PhD degrees, which I am planning to do. In short, their parental advice to me is: the journey is long, never stop. I am grateful for their support.

**HCT:** Where do you believe your ambition will take you down the road in light of the challenges that UAE Women face in the workplace?

**Shamma:** I am facing the challenge of studying and working at the same time in order to achieve my goals. My days are long and tiring. In this challenging field, I am expected to work on weekends and even until midnight in some

situations. That's why there is a limited number of women in this field, even among non-nationals. Yet, I love my career and plan to enjoy optimum opportunities. I compare the IT field to medicine in terms of the continuous developments and major breakthroughs that ensure maximum benefit to people. My nature rejects routine work. I believe I will follow my parents' advice to seek more and go through open doors. I hope that in the near future we will see more females in this field.

**HCT:** In your opinion, would your future national spouse appreciate your knowledge and ambition?

**Shamma:** I believe that understanding and supportive UAE national men do exist in our society. I am assured by the example of several national colleagues and friends, who are managing to fit in their domestic and professional responsibilities without problems. Their spouses are quite supportive of their future career plans. In the future, I aspire to gain more experience and knowledge in order to become a team leader or manager of a division, which would enable me to play an effective role and delegate responsibilities to ensure time flexibility.

**HCT:** What inspirational advice would you like to give to national young women?

**Shamma:** I would like to assure them that women can excel in the IT field. I ask them to not listen to misconceptions and stereotypes about difficulties and inconveniences. It is a vibrant and forever developing field that revives you. In fact, they should be certain that women can excel in any field.



## Campus news and notes

Dr. Bob Moulton has been appointed the new Director of HCT's Ras Al Khaimah colleges. He joins HCT after serving as Interim Executive Vice President and Provost / Dean, College of Education at New Mexico State University, USA where he spent the last 9 years. Prior to that, he was the Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. He received his Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science at Michigan State University in 1974. As an undergraduate at the University of Utah, he completed majors in psychology, sociology, and communication disorders. He has a master's degree in audiology and deaf education from the University of Utah and additional graduate work at the University of Montana and at New Mexico State University.



*Dr. Zoheir Ezziane at Harvard University in Boston.*

Dr. Zoheir Ezziane spent a very productive summer conducting experimental research at Harvard Medical School and the Wyss Institute. He received the invitation following his presentation of a paper about the potential of using natural products to reprogram human skin cells into other cells such as neurons or pancreatic beta cells.

He has now initiated an on-going research collaboration with various researchers at both Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The collaboration covers many projects in biomedical engineering and stem cells, and includes a project directly linked to diabetes, concerning the identification



*Dr. Christina Gitsaki.*

of the appropriate molecules that lead to differentiate induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells into pancreatic beta cells.

Dr. Christina Gitsaki has been appointed as the new UNESCO Chair at the Sharjah Higher Colleges of Technology. Christina holds a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Queensland in Australia, and has worked in Japan and Australia. She is internationally recognized for her expertise in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the teaching of English. She is the author of a number of publications including a book titled "Second Language Lexical Acquisition", and a co-author of a web-

based textbook titled "Internet English" published by Oxford University Press. It has been used by more than 75,000 students learning English as second language.

Dr. Gitsaki has presented her research at international conferences and published numerous papers and book chapters on the use of ICT and in particular the use of the web for teaching English. She is a member of EuroCALL (the European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning) and ALAA (the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia) where she is currently serving as the Executive Secretary.

As the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research in Education at the Sharjah Women's College, Dr. Gitsaki plans to provide expertise and foster partnerships with both the academic community and high-school teachers in the UAE in order to strengthen the UAE's capacity to offer quality education for all.



2 - 4 NOVEMBER, 2009

# Festival of Thinkers

Designing the future through thinking

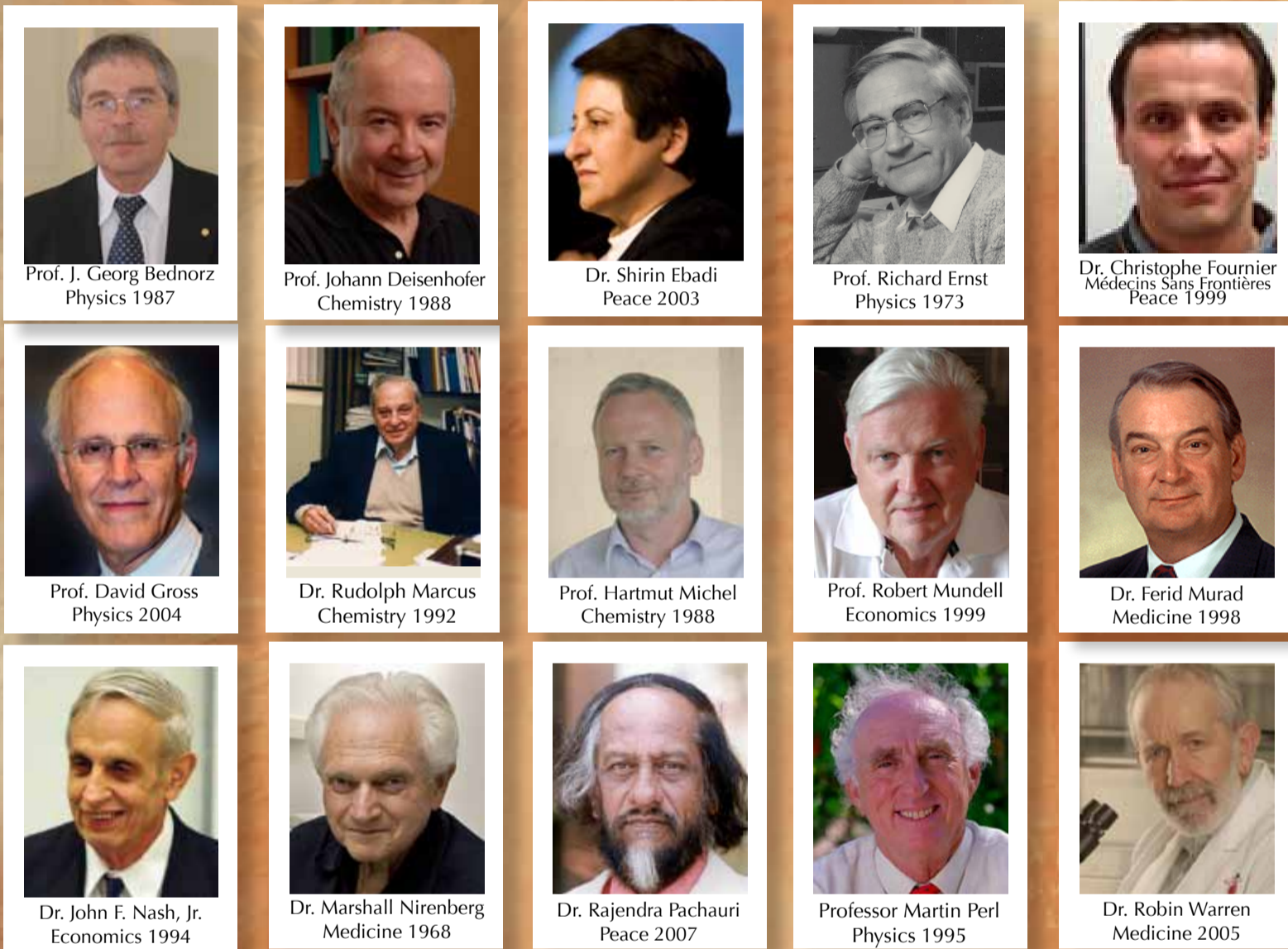
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## Festival of Thinkers attracts world's best for 2009

Festival of Thinkers 2009 is set to play host to some fascinating discussions from 2 – 4 November, 2009. The Festival of Thinkers is a forum which explores thinking by bringing together thought leaders of the world, including Nobel Prize winners, economists, scientists, business leaders and others. The Festival uses the challenges faced by our world as subject matter in this process. The format of the conference includes round table discussions where the youth of the region have an opportunity to discuss important global challenges with Nobel laureates and global thought leaders.

### NOBEL LAUREATES



### WORLD THINKERS

