FAST School of Management Islamabad campus has achieved yet another milestone. It has been granted accreditation by the National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC). NBEAC was established by the Higher Education Commission with an objective to assure quality in business education degree programs and carries out comprehensive accreditations. A team of three academicians and an industry expert visited FSM from October 22 to October 25, 2013. They inspected the campus, met Director, departmental heads, managers of various departments, faculty, students of FSM and staff over three days and assessed the school on nine key areas of strategic management, curriculum design, student quality, faculty quality, research and development, social responsibility initiatives, resources, corporate linkages and admission policy. With the award of NBEAC accreditation, FAST-NU Islamabad campus becomes the first campus to have all of its programs accredited by respective accrediting bodies.

Daira’14, 1st Olympiad of FAST-NU, a 4-day event from February 28 to March 3 marked great success by providing youth a platform to express their thoughts and explore innate talent. The event was organized by FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad campus. Daira’14 was attended by more than 1800 students from over 120 institutions from across the country.

Daira’14 organized 47 events in categories of Bol – Art of Articulation, Arfa Kareem Techno Art, Abdul Khaliq Sports Battle and Colors of Creativity. Daira’14 officially started when Mr. and Mrs. Amjad Karim Randhawa (parents of Late Arfa Karim), Mr. Shahzad Nawaz, Director Chambaili, Rana Ghulam Shabbir, Secretary General, FAST-NU, and Mr. Ali Zaryoun arrived to open the event. Pigeons were set free as a symbol of peace and freedom and marking the start of the event. Dr. Aftab Maroof, Director Islamabad campus, Dr. Zia ul Qayyum, Director CFD Campus, Mr. Haider Miraj, Head Daira’14, faculty and staff were also present on the occasion.

Rana Ghulam Shabbir appreciated the efforts of the management team and emphasized on the need to organize such events in other institutes as they focus on personality development of students. Mr. Haider Miraj welcomed all the participants and guests. He highlighted that Daira aimed to motivate the youth.

The participants also set free sky lanterns in the night to pay tribute to Arfa Karim Randhawa. It was a sight worth watching when the lanterns glowed in the sky above Arfa’s village.

Total 47 events of sports, creative and literary activities, declamation, technical and educational competitions and recreational events were organized in Daira’14. All events started on the second day of Daira’14. On Day 3 many exciting events again enthralled the participants.

On the last day, closing ceremony was held in which shields, certificates and prizes were given to the winners and runner-ups of various competitions. Rs. 500,000 was distributed among the winners. University of Sargodha won Daira Trophy for the year 2014. FAST-NU Lahore campus was the runner-up. Dr. Zia ul Qayyum congratulated the winners and thanked the guests for honoring Daira with their presence. He appreciated the efforts of the faculty and the management team for making Daira a huge success.
Electrical Engineering students from FAST-NU Lahore campus succeeded in the SOFTEC 2014 competition with distinction. In their Final year Projects (FYPs) a team comprising Mr. Shehwar Hussain, Mr. Usama Nisar, Mr. Anas Imtiaz, Mr. Haseeb Khalid, Mr. Waleed Usman and Mr. Mujtaba Ali received first prize in Engineering Project Competition. The title of their project was “HANDROID — a glove based interface to translate hand gestures for sign language vocalization & control of an anthropomorphic robotic hand.”

Another team that included Mr. Faisal Abbas, Ms. Shaheera Muneer, Mr. M. Awais Ali and Mr. M. Sameed won second prize for their project titled “FLAMES — an autonomous fire detecting and extinguishing mobile robotic platform”. While in Software Project Competition, FAST-NU’s team comprising Mr. Saif-Ullah, Mr. Saad Saif, Ms. Fatima Shujaat, Mr. Hassan Rashid, Mr. Junaid Iqbal and Mr. Aqeel Abbas grabbed third prize. They presented “SMART-PAL — an application of kinect-based strategy to track human limbs for tele-robotic manipulation and tele-presence tasks” as their project.

The research paper of the students of Electrical Engineering Batch 2010 has been accepted in the First International Young Engineers Convention (FEICITYEC-2014) being collaboratively organized by Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Federation of Engineering Institutions of Islamic Countries (FEIIC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Marmara University Istanbul, Turkey, National Textile University, Faisalabad, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore and Malaysian Society for Engineering and Technology (MySET).

The paper titled “hand gesture extraction and recognition using normalized correlation” is written on image processing as the final year project of the students Naima Munir, Rabia Naheed, Arfa Saif and Shireen Khan. Mr. Azeem Hafeez was the project advisor of the students.

Mr. Osama Haq, team lead at the SysNet Research Lab, under the supervision of Dr. Affan Syed, got his paper titled “Titan: Enabling Low Overhead and Multi-faceted Network Fingerprinting of a Bot” accepted at IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN) 2014. DSN is an A+ ranked security and privacy conference, having acceptance rate of 20-22 percent. This work was a part of National ICT R&D funded project granted to SysNet Lab. This is also the first fully indigenous (all authors from Pakistan) publication accepted at DSN, placing FAST-NU in the international research limelight. This is the second A+ conference publication by the SysNet Lab in 2014. As both publications, previously by Mr. Naveed Bhatti in IPSN, represent diverse fields — DSN is computer security while IPSN is embedded and sensor networks. It reflects the scope of quality research being conducted at SysNet. Mr. Osama is a BS Telecom Engineering alumnus from FAST-NU Islamabad Batch 2003 and is currently pursuing MS (CS).

Two research papers of Assistant Professor FAST-NU Peshawar campus Mr. Shibli Nisar have been published in international journals. A paper titled “Iris Recognition using Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficient” is published in the International Journal of Engineering Research. Mr. Mushtaq Ali Khan and Mr. Muhammad Usman are co-authors of this paper.

The second paper titled “Text-to-Speech Synthesis using Phoneme Concatenation” authored by Mr. Shabli Nisar and Ms. Mahwash Ahmed has been published in the International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Technology.

A research paper by Mr. Atif Jilani, Assistant Professor at FAST-NU, Islamabad campus has been accepted for publication in International Conference on Model Transformations (ICMT 2014) to be held in York, UK. ICMT specializes in model transformations and is highly selective, with an acceptance rate of approximately 20 percent.

A research paper by Dr. Zohaib Iqbal, Assistant Professor at Islamabad campus and lead scientist at QUEST Lab is accepted for publication in Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO 2014) and is one of the two contenders for the best paper award, to be announced on the day of the conference. GECCO is one of the premier conferences in evolutionary computation and search based software engineering.


Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Dr. Sadia Nadeem, Mr. Usman Zafar Chaudhry, Ms. Sara Qazi and Ms. Sarah Ibrar represented FAST-NU School of Management Sciences in the conference.
Mr. Javed Jabbar, author, analyst and former federal minister, recently visited and interacted with the faculty and students of FAST-NU Karachi campus on the request of the Literary Club, a university society that holds extracurricular and literary activities. Mr. Jabbar spoke on his topic — Pakistan: Dream, Nightmare, Vision.

Mr. Jabbar motivated the students and urged them to read and observe for having a broad vision that would not only pave a way to achieve their individual goals but also put our country on the road to prosperity. Having a vision was not important but it was crucial to work hard to achieve your goals, he said.

Two final year project groups from Electrical Engineering Department FAST-NU Lahore grabbed first and second positions in the Engineering Project Competition (TECHNISTAN) held at Daira’14 Faisalabad on March 2, 2014. It was a tough competition with two rounds of evaluation and demonstration. The teams won the competition titled “Autonomous Fire-Fighting Robotic Platform”. Mr. Faisal Abbas led the team comprising Ms. Shaheera Muneer, Mr. M. Awais Ali and Mr. M. Sameed Faraz. While in the “Beacon based Navigation for Motion Collaboration of a Robot Flock” competition a team including Mr. Awais Ahmad, Mr. M. Umair Anwar, Ms. Mahnoor Zahid and Ms. Mehak Jamal stood runner-up. Mr. Omer Saleem Bhatti was the advisor of both the teams.

The students from FAST-NU Karachi participated in Daira’14 Olympiad and succeeded in obtaining top positions in various activities.

The event was organized by FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad campus from February 28 to March 3. Over 120 institutes from across the country participated in 47 different competitions ranging from sports and theatrics to more technical technology and engineering competitions. Delegation from FAST-NU Karachi managed to reach in top three spots. A team of Mr. Usama Noman, Mr. Umair Ali and Mr. Abdul Rehman acquired third position in the web application development competition.

In the other competition titled “speed programming”, Karachi’s team comprising Mr. Muhammad Arsalan Badar and Mr. Osman Ali won the runner-up prize.

Dr. Waseem Shahzad, Assistant Professor, Islamabad campus, has been awarded with the “Productive Scientists of Pakistan” Award 2013 by Pakistan Council for Science and Technology on recognition of his research contributions. He has been a regular publisher of high quality research work. Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST) is mandated to advise the government on the development of science and technology at the national level.
FAST-NU Islamabad wins GIKI NEO 2014

FAST-NU Islamabad campus won GIKI National Electronics Olympiad 2014, held from January 31 to February 2, 2014. The campus received “Champions of NEO” trophy for its overall performance in the Olympiad. Different universities and colleges from across the country participated in NEO.

The event incorporated different competitions including robo war, robothon, robo maze, MIC night, speak it up, engineering project exhibition, race to innovation and PCB designing. FAST-NU participated in robo war, robothon, MIC night, speak it up, race to innovation and stood runner-up in speak it up. Islamabad campus also won 3rd position in robo war and MIC night.

The participants especially thanked IEEE Counsellor Engr. Aamer Hafeez, Dr. Waseem Ikram and Director Dr. Aftab Maroof for their support.

Students thrive in auto project contest

The students of Electrical Engineering FAST-NU Lahore succeeded in innovative project competition in Pakistan Auto Show 2014 organized by Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) from March 6 to 8.

Team-A’s project “RFID Landmark Guided Indoor Service Robot — for Logistics industry” got third position in the competition and won PAPS-Innovation Award-2014 with cash prize of Rs. 65,000. The team included Mr. Umer Khan, Mr. Faiez Afzaal, Mr. M. Waleed Rafique and Mr. Usman Khalid.

While the Team-B, comprising Mr. Danial Azam, Mr. M. Shahzeb, Mr. Shaheryar Baig, Mr. Wahaj Afzaal and Mr. Saad Zaidi, won Outstanding Idea Award and Rs. 25,000 cash prize.

The title of their project was “Automated Cylinder Boring and Honing Machine”. Mr. Omer Saleem Bhatti was the advisor of both the teams.

The objective of the competition was to seek innovative project nominations that could aid in automotive industry. Universities and technical institutions from all over Pakistan participated in the competition.

Students succeed in Intl competition

FAST-NU Islamabad has won National Round of IIT India TechKriti 2014. The National Round of TechKriti 2014 was held at Air University on February 19. The event focused on international autonomous robotics competition, consisting robotic line maze solving. Four students of Electrical Engineering Batch 2011 including Mr. Mohsin Ali, Mr. Naveed Hussain, Mr. Nazeef Ansar and Mr. Bilal Munir took part in the event and won first position. Renowned universities of the region participated in the event.

FAST-NU team succeeded to enter in the final round of TechKriti 2014 to be held at IIT Kanpur, India, very soon and will be competing against teams from Japan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Interface: annual literary magazine relaunched

FAST-NU Lahore has revived and relaunched “Interface”, the annual magazine of Lahore campus after seven years. A team of students comprising Mr. Zeeshan Jamil, Ms. Myra Imran, Mr. Zeeshan Ali Khan, Mr. Wajahat Abbas Kazmi and Ms. Mishal Tauseef, under the guidance of faculty advisor Dr. Bushra Anjum, worked enthusiastically to relaunch the magazine.

The magazine provides a platform to students to explore their innate qualities and contribute in the form of literary compositions, prose and poetry, both in Urdu and English languages. The publication has been received with a lot of enthusiasm and deemed as a commendable intellectual activity.

The team has been acknowledged across the board for motivating the student body to contribute in creative writing endeavors and received tremendous positive feedback from Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector, and Dr. Ayub Alvi, Dean Academics. Students, staff and faculty agree that such quality publication is an evidence that our students are good not just technically, but also in the creative art of writing and expressing thoughts.