This is a moment of pride for us that Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector FAST-NU, has been awarded “Dr. Borlaug Lifetime Achievements Award” by the President of Pakistan, His Excellency, Mamnoon Hussain in an impressive ceremony organized to mark 50 years of Pakistan-US cooperation in agriculture and to celebrate hundred years of Dr. Norman Borlaug.

Dr. Amir Muhammed has been given this prestigious award in recognition of his lifelong contribution in the field of agriculture research and development in Pakistan.

This is worth mentioning that Dr. Norman Ernest Borlaug was born on March 25, 1914 and died on September 12, 2009. He was a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and father of the Green Revolution.

Dr. Amir Muhammed is a very dynamic agricultural professional with vast experience of institutionalizing agriculture in Pakistan including network of National Agricultural Research System. He is the founder and first Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and also established the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) in Faisalabad in 1970 and was its first Director. He has also been a Consultant to several organizations including World Bank, FAO, UNDP, IFAD and World Commission on Dams (WCD). He served as Advisor for Food and Agriculture to the President of Pakistan during 1977-78 and Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from 1974 to 1977.

Dr. Amir was a member of the prestigious Technical Advisory Committee of CGIAR. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ISNAR (The Hague, Netherlands) and was also a member of the BoT of ICARDA (Syria), IWMI (Sri Lanka), CIP (Peru) and IFDC (US). He is a Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and was elected President of the Academy from 1992 to 1996. Dr. Amir is also a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy and a member of the BoG of ICIMOD based in Kathmandu.

Dr. Amir got his M.Sc (Honors with gold medal) from Punjab University and Ph.D from Oxford University (UK) in 1959. He was awarded an honorary D.Sc. by the Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, India.

Business Idea Competition 2014

FAST Business Club at FAST School of Management Lahore campus organized the fifth edition of Business Idea Competition (BIC) from April 11 to 12. More than 30 teams from different parts of Pakistan presented their business ideas to a panel of distinguished judges from the industry. The jury panel consisted of 26 judges, 10 out of which were CEOs of major companies and senior industry experts from Nestle, Telenor, Sufi and various other leading companies. Plan9 collaborated with FBC for an entrepreneurship conference on the topic of “bringing out the entrepreneur in you.” The speakers of the conference included Director Plan9 Mr. Nabeel Qadeer and other entrepreneurs with thriving personal ventures.

Prizes up to Rs. 100,000 were distributed to the top three business ideas evolving from technology, energy, agriculture, entertainment and services categories. A motivational speaking session was also organized on the topic of youth empowerment by Saad Rasool. The event was a great success in terms of national participation, diverse pool of judges and incubation of ideas from different platforms. Lecturer FSM Ahmad Qayyum along with other faculty members and students organized the event.
The students of FAST-NU Karachi campus got top positions in Speed Programming and Mobile Application Development Challenge held at IBA Karachi from March 20 to 22. Hatim Ameer Baloch was awarded the best brand ambassador award. Saqib Shahzad Vohra and Zohair Mirza won the Toyota mobile application development challenge, prize money of Rs. 75,000 and a chance to work with Toyota Company. K-team comprising Vikash Lal Dodani, Vishal Kumar and Paras Kumar were the winners of speed programming competition with Rs. 15,000 cash prize. Silent Coders team comprising Abeer ur Rehman and Muhammad Noman came second in the competition. In photography competition, team Black Storks comprising Hadi Babul, Hamza Ali Siddiqui and Ahmed Shah Badar got third position after a close contest. Overall FAST-NU Karachi got third position among all the participating universities at IBA Probattle’14.

Blood donation camp at Islamabad campus

Following its tradition, FAST-NU Islamabad campus organized blood donation camp in collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Islamabad. The camp was scheduled for two days on March 3 and 4. Around 170 students and staff members donated blood for a noble cause. The donated blood will be distributed through Red Crescent among the needy and deserving patients of deadly diseases. Islamabad campus organizes blood donation campaigns every year.

Victory in football

The football team of FAST-NU competed in Lahore School of Economics Annual Sports Gala 2014 held recently. In the 4-day competition, FAST-NU team fought with LUMS, LSE, FC College, LMDC, LGS and UMT teams. In the final, the team fought valiantly and won the trophy after beating LSE.

The team comprising Muhammed Abubakr (Captain), Ahmed Bilal, Moazzam Warraich, Shah Bakhsh Raisani, Haris Ahmed, Sarib Mahmood, Abu Bakar Ghumman, Ayman Saeed, Ayyaz Lone, Umer Mazhar, Hassaan Fayyaz, Abdul Sami, Muhammad Wahaj, Syed Faizan, Anwar Ch, Moeez Ali, Khurram Saeed, Muhammad Irtaza, Harun Zafar and Ahmad Alauddin acknowledged and thanked Sports Advisor Dr. Zahid Raza and Director Dr. Zafar Iqbal for their continuous support to promoting sports activities among students.

FLS launches newspaper

FAST Literary Society (FLS) Islamabad campus successfully launched its first issue of newspaper “The FAST Panorama” as a students’ engagement initiative. The FAST Panorama will enlighten its readers about curricular, cross-curricular and extra-curricular activities of FASTians. This is not just a newspaper; this is a symbol of creative capabilities the brilliant students of the campus possess. The pioneering team comprised President FLS Adnan Shahjehan Mir (EE), Head Newspaper Sara Tariq (FSM) and Azfar Imtiaz, Qubas Khan, Saad Iskander, Vashma Abid (CS) as members of editorial board. The content writers included Moiz Hashmi, Shah Muhammad from EE department, Nida-I-Zamir, Karwal Tariq, Arej Javed, Bisma Zia, Haris Bin Naeem, M. Shariq Nazar, Kazim Hassan from CS department, and Sareer Ahmad, Saad Sohail, Usta Zahid, Immara Aslam, Maryam Bashir and Eman Aijaz from FSM.
CFD campus wins photography competition

Muaze Nakhez, Muhammad Hashim and Ahmed Tehsin from FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad campus represented Fast Photography Society at LUMS Annual Photography Summit 2014 held at LUMS from March 28 to 29. Above 30 institutions participated in the competition. FPS won the light painting competition where participants have to take innovative pictures while drawing from light.

The summit was an opportunity for students from all over Pakistan, who wished to learn and develop their photographic skills. The event proved to be a platform for networking, interaction and learning not only from each other but also from other great names in the field of photography, through workshops and seminars.

Carnival of Creative Arts’ 14

FAST-NU Islamabad campus recently organized a “carnival of creative arts” to highlight the cross-curricular talents of the students. The week-long carnival encompassed variety of competitions including writing, poetry, debates, declamations (British Parliamentary & Pakistan National Assembly), elocution, graffiti, sketching, painting, singing, and stand-up comedy.

M. Qabas Khan (CS) headed the team which not only displayed their commendable artistic skills, but also demonstrated their excellent managerial skills while maintaining a perfect balance between their studies and the carnival.

Papers accepted at IEEE conference

MS Computer Science students Ms. Nabiha Iqbal and Ms. Naila Sharif presented their papers in IEEE-iCREATE 2014 conference held at NUST, Islamabad from April 22 to 24. This research work is supervised by Dr. Kashif Zafar and Prof. Waqas Ziad of Department of Computer Science at Lahore campus.

Ms. Nabiha Iqbal’s paper titled “multi-objective optimization of test sequence generation using multi-objective firefly algorithm (MOFA)”, while Ms. Naila Sharif presented “optimization of requirements prioritization using computational intelligence techniques.” Both the papers have been accepted in the conference.

PYF ICT competition

A team of 13 individuals from Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Departments, FAST-NU Islamabad, under the supervision of Engineer Umair Hafeez, participated in exhibition and competition of ICT Innovations and Student Projects at Punjab Youth Festival (PYF) 2014 recently held in Lahore.

A total of six final year projects were displayed in the event from both departments and were also nominated for the competition. The overall activity was supported by the Faculty and Student Affairs Department.

Tree plantation campaign held

FAST-NU Islamabad campus initiated a comprehensive plantation campaign from March 3 to March 15. More than twelve hundred plants were planted during the campaign. Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector, and Secretary General, FAST Rana Ghulam Shabbir planted a sapling at campus to formally inaugurate the campaign. Similarly senior officials of the university and respective Departmental Heads also planted trees. More than 25 kinds of plants including evergreen, shady and fruit-bearing plants were selected for plantation drive.

A large number of students and faculty participated in the campaign with zeal and zest. Motivational banners were placed at the campus to highlight the importance of plantation. Senior management also avowed to organize such campaigns regularly in the future.
FASTECH’14 held at Karachi campus

FASTECH is one of the most distinctive events organized by Think and Create (TnC), a student society of FAST-NU Karachi campus, every year. It provides a platform for the entrants where they can compete and test their technical expertise and skills.

FASTECH’14 was organized on March 11. Students from all over Pakistan actively participated in the event. FASTECH’14 included seventeen well-planned competitions for Computer Science, Engineering and Business Management students. These competitions helped participants polish their skills for working in IT, management and engineering industries.

The concluding session on “how to become an entrepreneur” was arranged and the speaker was leading entrepreneur and politician Mr. Asad Umar. He motivated the students to work hard to achieve their goals.

Ph.D thesis defended

Ms. Zareen Alamgir of Computer Science Department at Lahore campus defended publicly her Ph.D thesis titled “Combinatorial Generation Algorithms for Subgraphs” on March 29. She happens to be the second Ph.D in Computer Science from Lahore campus. She was supervised by Dr. S. M. Husnine. The foreign reviewers were Prof. Lynette van Zijl from South Africa and Ioan Tomescu from Romania, while the local external examiners were Prof. Asim Karim from LUMS and Dr. Imran Farid from PUCIT Lahore. From her Ph.D thesis, Zareen Alamgir has two publications in ISI Journals.

IYS organizes seminar on Explore Pakistan

Idyllic Youth Society (IYS) at FAST-NU Lahore campus recently organized a seminar on the topic “Explore Pakistan” and the importance of March 23.

Mr. Orya Maqbool Jan, senior analyst, and Dr. Rafique Ahmed, Vice Chairman Nazarya Pakistan Trust and Member Board of Governors FAST-NU, were the guests of honor. Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Director Lahore campus, gave the vote of thanks.

Mr. Orya Maqbool Jan emphasized on the efforts Pakistan did after independence and also the future threats to our beloved country. He also said that the country was going far away from our traditions.

Dr. Rafique Ahmed discussed the events leading towards making of Pakistan. He said we were fortunate that we had gotten an independent country.

President Idyllic Youth Society Ehtisham Khaliq in his welcome address said “youth is being derailed from its path. We should focus on our responsibilities as a Pakistani and a Muslim.” The event was attended by a large number of students. It ended with the National Anthem.

MEGA-IDEA competition

Two projects from Electrical Engineering Department, FAST-NU Lahore achieved first and second prizes in MEGA-IDEA competition at IEEE-WEEK, 2014.

The first prize was given to the team comprising Gohar Kibria Khan, Ahmed Saeed, Abdul-Moiz Waheed, Rafia Nadeem, Marium Tariq and Hummed Yousuf for their project title “Low-Cost Voice Operated and Mind-Controlled Wheelchair for Paraplegic.”

The second prize went to the team consisting of Danial Azam, Saad Zaidi, Shaheryar Baig, M. Shahzeb and Wahaj Afzal. The title of their project was “Automation of Lathe Machines to Optimize Manufacturing.”

Welcome on board

Dr. Inam Bari has joined FAST-NU Peshawar campus on April 8 as Assistant Professor Electrical Engineering. He did Ph.D in Electronics and Communication Engineering in 2014 and MS in Communication Engineering in 2010 from Politecnico Di Torino, Italy on fully funded scholarship awarded by Higher Education Commission. He received his BS (TE) degree from FAST-NU Peshawar Campus in 2007 with distinction. He has six international conference papers and one book chapter to his credit. Dr. Inam Bari’s area of interest is optical communication. We welcome him on board.

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