FAST-NU establishes Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization

Given the importance of research and innovation in today’s era, FAST-NU has established the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) to promote the culture of research and innovation within the university. ORIC is a reflection of FAST-NU’s commitment, as a leading university of Pakistan, towards promoting a vibrant culture of graduate research and innovation. The key vision of ORIC is to encourage and support the culture of academic inquiry and research in varsity’s five campuses across Pakistan. This vision believes that an environment where the passion for inquiry and research is cultivated will yield serendipitous innovation.

Consultative meetings of the ORIC Management Committee (OMC) are held regularly to rapidly approve the policies being developed at the new office. OMC is chaired by the Rector FAST-NU, Dr. Amir Muhammed, and includes Director ORIC, Dr. Syed Affan Ahmed, Dean Academics, Dr. Ayub Alvi and Registrar, Dr. Muhammad Latif Virk as its members. ORIC has already started formulating policies regarding the streamlining of hiring under research projects, as well as building policies to promote creation of funded research groups through incentives that research inclined faculty can control to support research activities.

For further information about funding opportunities please visit ORIC website which is updated on regular basis. http://www.nu.edu.pk/oric

FAST-NU alumna brings international laurels

FAST-NU Islamabad campus takes pride that the “Girl behind Maleficent’s Wings” is the alumnna of FAST-NU Islamabad campus. Starting her journey by winning the first prize in Inter FAST-NU Movie Making Competition 2002, Novaira Masood, an alumna of FAST-NU Islamabad campus (2000-2004), unabatedly continued her journey towards excellence. After BS in Computer Science from FAST-NU, she completed her MS in Computer Science from University of Minnesota in 2007. She worked for Disney Motion Capture Studio called Imagemovers Digital. Currently, she is working for Microsoft in the USA.

Her recent accomplishment as the software engineer of the movie “Maleficent” won her popular acclaim as being the “Girl behind Maleficent’s Wings”.


Novaira Masood proudly attributes the core of her achievements to her years at FAST-NU. “Studying at FAST-NU helped me in laying down the foundations for my career,” says Novaira.

“The intense Software Engineering program helped in moulding my work ethic and instilling the high standards that are required in the workforce,” she further elaborates. “At FAST, my final year project was based on motion capture. We created a system called “expressions imitator” that mapped facial expression onto 3D characters.”

FAST-NU family, while congratulating her, is proud of her great accomplishments.
RANG-Arts Society of FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad (CFD) campus organized “La Mela De Art – where science meets art”, an art exhibition on October 26. Students participated in sketching and painting competition with topping of nail art and other tempting stalls.

Mr. Saleem Ansari, Associate Professor National Textile University, Faisalabad, was the chief guest. He collaborated with art exhibition by sharing his paintings along with the art work of Mr. Imran, Mr. Arshad, Mr. Haider, Ms. Adeela and Ms. Nehal. The art work stirred up aesthetics in students to nourish their thoughts. Mature expressions of painters were revealed by means of splendid sculpture and paintings.

Mr. Saleem Ansari distributed certificates and shields to winners and participants of the competition. Mr. Usman Ashraf, mentor of the society, presented souvenirs and shields to the guests.

The Electrical Engineering students of Lahore campus, working on their final year project (FYP), have won second prize in the Engineering Project Competition at GIKI Innovation Summit 2014. Several teams from renowned engineering schools including NUST, SZABIST, COMSATS, UoL, Shareef College of Engineering and Technology, and GIKI participated in the event organized by GIKI.

FAST-NU team comprising Babar Ali, Nouman Shafqat and Daniyal Iqbal won second prize for their project titled “Attitude & Steering Control of a Self-Balancing Platform”.

The project aims to vertically balance and steer an inherently unstable two wheeled structure using inverted pendulum theory.

The robot uses inertial measurement unit and non-linear filters to compute body’s tilt angle and the rate of change of angle. The onboard controller tends to counter the effect of any deviation of the robot’s orientation from the vertical reference position by controlling the direction of rotation and speed of the motors accordingly.

Microsoft officials visited FAST-NU Peshawar campus on November 24 to hold Microsoft Campus Day. Microsoft Campus Day is an initiative of Microsoft in collaboration with Higher Education Commission to provide an insight into programs that are designed to benefit faculties and students.

The purpose of the event was to gather campus feedback and provide highlights on HEC-Microsoft alliance, initiative and roadmap, and HEC-Microsoft Initiatives for Students, with special focus on Imagine Cup and Microsoft Student Partner Program.

ICE-NUCES student chapter Lahore campus organized a seminar on “Civil Engineering: Experience around the World” on November 19. Renowned expert in the field of engineering Mr. Abdul Salam delivered a lecture in the seminar to provide guidance to hundreds of aspiring students on their future preferences in engineering.

Mr. Abdul Salam started his speech by sharing his experience in different regions of the world especially in the Middle Eastern and African countries. Sharing his experience as a geotechnical engineer, he enlightened the audience about the engineering involved in construction of dams, spill ways, flood management systems and mega structures. Later, Head of Civil Engineering Department FAST-NU Lahore campus Dr. Syed Irfikhar gave the vote of thanks.
The cricket team of Fast-NU Islamabad campus thrashed Media XI by 160 runs in the First FAST-NU Cricket Match played at the university ground on November 25. FAST-NU’s skipper Bilal after winning the toss opted to bat first. The university scored 254-6 in stipulated 20 overs. Skipper Bilal top scored with 62 while Mohib (54) and Ali (53) also hit half centuries. Mudassar Chaudhry took 5 for 40 runs. Chasing the target, Media XI bowled out for just 94 runs. Only Media XI skipper Adil Gill was the best batsman from his side scoring 35 runs. Mustafa Mehdi took 4 for 15 while Bilal grabbed 2 for 35. FAST-NU Director Islamabad campus Dr. Arshad Ali Shahid was the chief guest on the occasion. Sports Officer Aoun Abbas Hashmi and other university officials were also present.

NUCES WIE Affinity organized its first activity with a seminar by Women Business Development Center (WBDC) on November 21. WBDC is a project of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) working to provide hands-on support and business related services to women entrepreneurs of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa. WBDC speakers enlightened the audience, mainly comprising female students, that the mission of WBDC was to accelerate the rate of growth of women’s business and micro-enterprise ownership, increase the economic impact of women-owned businesses on families and communities, build awareness of business ownership as a viable means of economic self-sufficiency, and to stimulate public policy and system changes which support and strengthen women’s economic impact. The seminar proved to be a source of encouragement for female students of the university.

HR Department at FAST-NU Islamabad campus in collaboration with Islamabad HR Forum arranged a 2-day training workshop on Strength Based Performance Management on November 8 and November 22, respectively. The trainer for the workshop was Mr. Abdullah Saqib. Mr. Abdullah is a marketing professional and currently working for Telenor Pakistan. 13 employees of Islamabad campus along with professionals from the industry attended the workshop. Strength Based Performance Management follows a practical approach in introducing methodology that ensures peak performance at individual, team and organizational level.

FAST-NU Peshawar campus organized a Startup event with active collaboration of ACM/IEEE Peshawar chapter on November 18. Global Entrepreneurship Week sponsored the event. Mr. Asad Iqbal, CEO HIWAAS, and Mr. Uzair Khan were the speakers at the session. Mr. Uzair Khan, in his welcoming speech, gave the students a very resourceful insight into the nature and scope of startups. He briefly explained the steps involved in pursuing the idea that makes a difference. In the second part of the session, Mr. Asad Iqbal encouraged the students to think and come up with their ideas to bring about technological advancements. Mr. Asad shared his experience of converting any idea into a fully functional smart-phone application.

**FAST-NU marks World Diabetes Day**

FAST-NU Islamabad campus in collaboration with The Diabetic Center arranged a seminar to create awareness on diabetes on November 14 in connection with World Diabetes Day. More than 250 participants including faculty members, staff and students participated in the awareness session.

Blood samples were taken for free screening. A few of participants were diagnosed with hypertension and low blood sugar level. In the awareness session an endocrinologist gave a presentation highlighting the facts, prevalence, causes and symptoms of diabetes while guiding the audience on how they could prevent this disease. Later, a quiz was conducted by the doctor. Gifts and souvenirs were given to the successful participants.

**International award for FAST-NU faculty**

Ms. Durdana Habib, Assistant Professor at School of Electrical Engineering, Islamabad campus, has been presented with the Change Agent Award at the opening ceremony of the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (GHC) 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. GHC is the world’s largest gathering for women technologists. It is produced by the Anita Borg Institute (ABI), and presented in partnership with Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) to bring together research and career interests of women in computing and encourage their participation. Among the participants were 8,000 women from about 67 countries and representatives from over 900 organizations.

**FAST-NU students establish library for ‘out of school’ children**

A group of students from Sales Management class of MBA at FAST-NU Islamabad campus led by Mr. Sarfraz Kiyani raised Rs 120,000 through fundraising as a term project and built a library for ‘out of school’ children in Sector H-9. The small room, converted into a library has now eight huge book shelves, one desktop computer, fifty educational CDs and over 400 new books for the underprivileged students of the community.

Renowned cartoonist Ms. Nigar Nazar inaugurated the library. Director National Book Foundation and Rozan NGO officials were also present on the occasion. It is indeed a proud moment for all the students and faculty members of FAST-NU Islamabad.

“For this project we conducted various activities which included spending lots of time with the kids,” said Aalishan, one member of the group. The group included Hussain, Aalishaan Mahboob, Arslan Qazi, Huzaifa Mateen, and Zeeshan Ashraf.

**Seminar on entrepreneurship organized**

FAST-NU Islamabad organized a seminar on “entrepreneurship” on November 19 to create students’ understanding about entrepreneurship and its challenges. Mr. Usman Chaudhry, Assistant Professor at FAST School of Management, arranged the event.

This seminar was an initiative under the “Global Entrepreneurship Week”, which was being celebrated globally from November 17 to 23.

The theme of the seminar was “From Dream to Reality – An idea of Dream Management”.

Mr. Wahaj-us-Siraj, CEO Nayatel, Mr. Mustansar Tinhauli, a designer and a social entrepreneur, and Mr. Adnan Faisal, Head NUST Incubation Centre, were the guest speakers at the seminar.