Welcome to the June 2017 issue of this IT Newsletter!

This is the last issue of the IT Newsletter for the Academic Year 2016-2017. June had been a beautiful month as it had been aggrandized with holiness! The people had honored and experienced the Holy Ramadhan period since May, which had been considered as the best highlight of this month! The non-Muslim IT Staff experienced Suhoor with the Muslim staff. Other highlights of this month include staff development activities such as Oracle iLearning, Internet of Things, and Computer Security and Ethical Hacking. Olive e-Solution also delivered a workshop among students and alumni of HCT-IT.

As we are ending the academic year, the students’ learning experience and the staff’s concerted efforts may imprint footsteps that would lead the department to the threshold of next academic year... The achievements as well as the challenges may become the baseline of next academic year that caters to great expectations. The academic year 2016-2017 ended with a lunch gathering where all the staff joyfully felt the presence of everyone in a comfort zone, wishing everyone a happy and memorable annual vacation! Kudos to the IT Department for a job well done for the whole academic year 2016-2017!

Dr. Huda Al-Shuaily
Head of IT Department
The IT Department facilitated a 6-week special classes/trainings on Internet of Things (IoT) that started last May 8, 2017, simultaneously attended by nine (9) first year students.

The said undertaking was culminated with an awarding last June 14, 2017 which had been attended by the College administrators and management, namely: Dr. Khalid Abdulaziz Ambusaidi, College Dean; Dr. Khalid Al-Abri, Assistant Dean for Administration and Finance; Dr. Huda Al-Shuaily, Head of IT Department; and Mr. Talib Al-Mahruqi, Head of Multimedia Section.

As part of the learning outcomes of the said special classes/trainings, the students demonstrated practical knowledge on the basic fundamentals of IoT, basic electronics, hardware/circuit prototyping, Java Script programming, Arduino Board UNO microcontroller functionalities and how the IT-enabled devices can be integrated in an IoT-enabled environment. Also, they acquired a practical experience on a self-paced, online course Introduction to IoT in CISCO Networking Academy.

The facilitators of the special classes/trainings were the HCT-CISCO Academy Support Center and Academy Instructors, namely: Mr. Leopoldo Maglalang Jr., Mrs. Praba P. and Mr. Russell L. Diona.

Non-muslim IT staff had experienced Suhoor with muslim staff last June 19, 2017, in the Applied Sciences SAC area, HCT. The College Industry and Community Engagement Committee organized such event which was followed by a subsequent event in Multi-Purpose Hall that includes English lecture about Islam and the Importance of Ramadhan.
ORACLE ILEARNING

The IT Department conducted a workshop on how to use the Oracle iLearning last June 21, 2017 in N415, HCT. The workshop was facilitated by Database Lecturers, namely: Ms. Ronette S. Rabanal and Mr. Venkatesan Raghavendram. It was attended by staff who already have Oracle and iLearning Accounts.

Oracle iLearning is a learning infrastructure for online and classroom-based environments that may benefit the students and staff. Some of the available courses in the iLearning include, but not limited to, Java Fundamentals, Java Foundations, Java Programming, Database Foundations, Database Design and Programming with SQL, and Programming with PL/SQL.

The department is offering the opportunity to be part of the Oracle Academy’s free program by offering learning resources and technologies among its students and staff. ***

“Who dares to TEACH never ceases to LEARN.”
- Anonymous

LOGISTIC TRAINING WORKSHOP

The following students had completed the SAP Business One Training, with the module covering “Procurement Management, Sales, and Inventory Management” last May 7-11, 2017. The students who participated during the workshop are as follows: Jaleela Mohammed Al-Akhzami, Abdullah Amur Al-Harthi, Naser Saleh Al Blushi, AlMunther Saif Al-Kiyumi, and Nasser Al-Bulushi.

The speakers from Olive e-Solution are the following Vikas Verma and Bashayer Al-Harrasi. The workshop was organized by Dr. Kauthar Thani Al-Khailfi, Head of Industrial and Social Engagement Committee. ***

COURSE PROJECT MEETING BY STAFF

The staff of the ‘Internet and E-Security and Networking’ specializations conducted a meeting to discuss a better mechanism for course project last July 4, 2017 in N239, HCT. Dr. Tripti Sharma (Networking Lecturer) presented the proposed Reports, followed by the suggestions of Dr. Amando P. Singun, Jr. (QA Officer, IS Lecturer) regarding Plagiarism, APA Referencing, and Ethics Form. The Assessment details such as rubrics system criteria were discussed by Mr. Mohammed Al-Bahri (Internet and E-Security Lecturer).

Dr. Manal Nasser Al-Rawahi (Networking Lecturer), being the moderator of the discussion, weighed the various comments and noted them for appropriate action. ***
COMPUTER SECURITY AND ETHICAL HACKING

A seminar entitled ‘Computer Security and Ethical Hacking’ was delivered by Mr. Ajith Vathakat Abraham among the IT Staff last June 15, 2017 in N330, HCT. ***

YEAR-END GATHERING OF IT STAFF

The Social Committee organized a lunch gathering for the department last July 10, 2017 in Multi-Purpose Hall, HCT. This year-end gathering provides an atmosphere among all the staff to meet in one place and enjoy the delightful foods prepared. ***

PLAGIARISM USING TURNITIN

The Policy Management Committee ensures that research papers, questions papers, exams and assignments shall be reviewed for plagiarism using Turnitin plagiarism software.

In this particular case, teaching materials shall be exempted as per the Oman Royal Decree 65/2008. Tolerance for plagiarism is less than 25% wherein any submission with a result of 25% or above will be considered plagiarized. This criteria has to be applied in all projects and OJT reports for all levels.

Moreover, the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style shall be used in all materials, reports, or documents. Also, the Course Delivery Plans shall be checked for proper referencing. ***

FIRST AID KITS INSTALLED

In coordination with the College Risk, Health, Safety and Security Committee, the IT Department received First Aid Kits for all the office rooms last June 13, 2017.

The kits have been placed in a conspicuous place away from obstruction. ***
I am Majid Abdak Al-Balushi, an alumnus of the IT Department of Higher College of Technology, Muscat, who graduated with a Bachelor degree in Information Systems in 2013. As a student, I had earned a remarkable GPA of 3.05 which has been so pleasing in the eyes of employers. Also, being a student leader, I had been so active in department and college activities that are boosted by sense of confidence, leadership skills, and other soft skills. During my final semester in the College, joining a company where I could gain job experience had been my dream so I prepared my CV and sought employment from Ooredoo and was granted and had worked with them for a year and four months as a Call Center Representative.

After my College graduation, I was given an opportunity to work in the same company but was assigned in the IT Department – Database Section. I earned the award entitled ‘Best Employee’ in the said company which yields to positive impact in my personal and professional image. In addition, within the same company, I got a number of offers from various departments and sections; however, my aim then was to let my dream succeed. When I was a little kid, I kept on telling my mom that I really wanted to become a Police Officer to serve my beloved country in a technical and professional way. Alhamdulillah, I am now working as IT Police Officer at the Royal Oman Police (ROP).

To the students and fresh graduates, I would like to leave my kind words for you to ponder on: “As a human being, every time we are learning many things in our lives and in the world, so keep going on and do not stop in one place. Instead, face the problems, learn more, and achieve your goals! In my opinion, to become a successful individual, one should face the failures! Do not let yourself just think of one direction. Think-out-of-the-box and always be professional! To cut it short, take note of these points: Speak, Participate, Face, and Take the Challenges and Responsibilities to do your best! Also, be smart and brave to gain other people’s confidence on you as you enrich your self-confidence! Finally, be proud on yourself.”

“Think-out-of-the-box...”

Lt. Majid Abdak Al-Balushi
DG of Airport Security
Royal Oman Police (ROP)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bank Dhofar will be conducting a TechMind Competition to develop innovative ideas for the future of smart banking, targeting the Millennials (aged 14-40) to participate as individual entry or a group entry of maximum three (3) members. The 1st winner will receive 5,000 OMR, the 2nd will receive 3,000 OMR while the 3rd will receive 2,000 OMR. Applications may be submitted through contest.bankdhofar.com/. For information related to the terms and conditions and mechanics of the completion, please contact Ms. Bashayer Obaid Salim Al-Ajmi, IT Lecturer.

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