Welcome note:

In this 2nd edition, We reflect on a selection of the many news, events and success stories for learners of the business studies about Business Department. We hope you find it interesting and informative. If you have any comments or suggestions to contact us on: bdn@hct.edu.om

Newsletter committee:

Mr. Hassan Sanadi
Ms. Entesar Al Mamari
Dr. Sanchita Ghosal

Designed by
Mr. Shanmuganathan Manickam

Upcoming Events:

ACCOUNTING SECTION:
10th Nov 2015: International Accounting Day Celebration, Extempore Speech Competition & Group Discussion

HR SECTION:
8th Nov 2015: Stress Management workshop for Staff
15th Nov 2015: HR Competitions

HR & MARKETING SECTION:
19th Nov 2015: National Day Celebration for Staff

HCT-ENTREPRENEURSHIP CELL:
16th & 17th Nov 2015: Entrepreneurship Day

Best Wishes,
Mrs. Zalkha Khamis Al Kharousi
Head of Department - Business Studies

From the HoD's Desk

It is with a great sense of satisfaction that I preside over the current semester 2015-16; for in the previous academic year 2014-15 the Business department has scaled many new heights and conquered fresh horizons. This would not have been possible without the amazing contribution of my staff and students, their sense of purpose and sincerity in achieving the department objectives.

However, there can be no room for complacency as attainment of excellence is a continuous process. One needs to remain passionate of the journey itself. Rather than rest on our laurels, we need to seek the exhilaration of new challenges and opportunities. This would no doubt require the creation and nurturing of an environment which fosters excellence. I believe that this would be our goal which we will strive for in the years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to impress upon our students the importance of reading beyond the immediate confines of their course material. Indeed, reading is like an elixir for our body and mind. If reading can be developed into a passion it can improve our self esteem and sharpen our mental acuity. Besides adding to our cognitive skills, reading also broadens the mind and adds to our personality and effectiveness in ways that bear fruit in every sphere of our life, no matter our age. A well educated populace constitutes the most valuable treasure that a country can hope for. So let us all pledge to improve ourselves continuously, in mind and in spirit, so that we can make a better future for Oman and the world!

BDN becomes a year old

Don’t limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you.
What you believe, remember, you can achieve

Mary Kay Ash, American Businesswoman & author

In this one year since BDN first made its appearance the Business dept of HCT, Muscat has seen off busy semesters, has heard the footfalls of young fresh faced enthusiastic students hurrying to their classes, welcomed new lecturers into its teaching fraternity and hosted fun filled get togethers. It has also been witness to its students participate in competitions and win laurels for the department and the college……. The Department corridors resonate with the cherished memories of a long procession of events which constitute the essence of a bustling undergraduate college.

During this period, Oman too has been witness to a momentous event. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who left the shores of his country to receive prolonged medical intervention, returned back to his beloved motherland to the utter joy and euphoria of the citizens. It has been a time of celebration, a time for all who love this beautiful country, to reaffirm their faith in building together a glorious future.

Of course life and living will always mean challenges. And Oman and its citizens have had their share… in volatile oil prices, in attracting investments for new businesses, ensuring access to meaningful work and jobs for all Omanis and so on. While each of these needs to be addressed comprehensively, there is little doubt that Oman has found its path, steered by its huge wealth of youth who are determined to take destiny in their own hands and shape the country’s future. The Business department of HCT Muscat and BDN feel proud and privileged to be part of this unfolding dream!

Dr Sanchita Ghosal, HRM, Business Department
Year after year the HCT accounting section is achieving leaps and bounds with the goals and objectives of the department. It is continuously involved in providing its students all the best guidance and support in the field of education. Its focus is to deliver all round development of the students’ community not only in terms of education but also personal and professional. The section is able to handle all its endeavors effectively under the support and guidance of HoS. Ms. Teresita Cudro. In this academic year the department was able to set new benchmarks in collegiate as well as inter-collegiate activities.

Principles and Practice of insurance in Oman:

Accounting Section in Business Studies Department invited Mr. Ahmed Al-Harris from the Department of Compliance and Examination, Capital Market Authority, on 4th March, 2015 (Wednesday) for Bachelor level students. The main objective of this seminar was to provide students with an insight on the main principles and current practices of insurance with context to Oman.

The seminar was well received by the students and the guest speaker was able to deliver efficiently. Towards the end, the speaker addressed to the students queries. The seminar was very informative and helpful.

Nutrition day:

Business Studies - Accounting Club members has organized an event on 9th March 2015 to celebrate the Nutrition Day. A full day event was designed with an aim to promote healthy living. This event was conducted as a social activity targeting the faculty members and students of the HCT.

The event was inaugurated by Ms. Zalkha Al Kharousi, Head of Business Studies Department accompanied by Ms. Terisita Cedro Accounting Head of Section. The event mainly focused on nutrition and health with the involvement of external organizations. Number of counters were arranged to make awareness about healthy living and benefits of exercises.

Free health screening corner from Ministry of health helped staff and students to know their Blood pressure and blood glucose level. Hammer Gym offered special packages for the staff and students of HCT. Eat smart Corner was managed by students to promote healthy eating.

Other Activities from Accounting club student members involved learn and cook counter, Food photography (competition), Fruit yogurt counter, Intake of water is essential counter and Promise counter (Badge or Band) with a promise to eat healthy.

EY Students Excellence Awards:

Since 2012, business studies’ students from Higher College of Technology (HCT) participated in the annual search for EY Students Excellence Awards (EY-SEA) where they compete with the best students from top colleges and universities in the whole Sultanate.

Each year, the level of competitiveness of our students have improved as they continue to win the annual students’ excellence awards. The winning streak continues as our students won the top honors at the recently concluded Ernst & Young Students Excellence Awards 2015.

Tariq Suhail Ali Al Sheibani bagged the First Place in the Accounting Category beating the best students coming from top colleges and universities in Oman.

Other successful business students who were nominated as finalist in the Competition includes:

Ameena Saif Abed Al Harassi (Finalist) – Accounting Category
Ibtihal Abdullah Al Sulaimani (Finalist) – Accounting Category
Ghulam Hilal Abdullah Al Balushi (Finalist) – Finance Category

In view of these achievements, along with the conviction of the student’s belief on their abilities it was also the proper guidance from teachers a key driving force towards their success. The teachers’ team involved Mr. Jesus Obana, Mr. Hassan Sanadi, Mr. Ravi Sharma, Ms. Zam Zam Al Balushi & Ms. Sameena Begum. These accomplishments have indeed built a strong foundation for their future endeavors. Our department is so much to be proud of and we aspire for more and greater accomplishments for all our students in the coming times.
As the most active specialization section of the Business Studies Department, the marketing section as usual continued its sweat-earned efforts for the overall development of its students. Few of the commendable activities, to be essentially mentioned are:

An educational trip to ‘The Public Authority of Consumer Protection’ at Al Azaiba: 16 students of Diploma II year of Sales Management convoyed the field visit on 22nd March 2015. Authorities conveyed the students to learn the difference between original and duplicate or fake products prevailing in Omani market. Ms. Lamya Al Hinai and Mr. Inamul Hassan accompanied the students during their visit.

A mini project on ‘supply chain management’ was organized on 23rd March 2015. Top five logistics companies in Oman were identified for students, by our learned faculty member Ms. Arshiya Sultana. Group of ‘Al Madina Logistics’, namely Fatma Al Sukaili, Ibtesam Al Hattali, Buthaina Al Busaidi, Eman Al Mudsary, & Anood al Jandalani, was announced as winning team, followed

An industrial visit was organized on 26th May 2015 at Al Ellam LLC, Muscat – a kitchen appliances company. All the students of Diploma II year gained wisdom under the supervision of Ms. Saranya Ramesh, Ms. Sumaya and Mr. Naveed Khan.

A poster competition with a theme of ‘entrepreneurship’ under the able guidance of Ms. Hadeel Al Tamimi, was organized. Taqir Al Hashmi & Humood Al Alawi projected ‘student center’ and Abdullah Al Haneedi, Ahmed Al Habsi, & Sanad Al Rahbi projected ‘tourism’ as business models. Certificates were issued to all.

An exploratory study under the erudite guidance of Mr. V.V.Varaprasad, was conducted regarding comparative pricing of FMCG products in major supermarkets in Muscat city. It was found that LULU seems to be most economical among majority of specified products.

Marketing students delivered their creative presentations on consumer buying decision factors such as psychological & demographical, pertinent in purchase of critical products like Cars (BMW, Toyota and the like), Television, Camera, Mobile Instruments etc. Our fetching faculty member Mr. Khan Saifullah expounded his wisdom to all students over the topic.

With the blessings & direction of our HOD – BSD, Ms. Zalkha Al Kharouisi, an exceptional initiative was unveiled by the marketing section, namely SAMA – A Marketing Hub, on 01st of June 2015. The name ‘SAMA’ was conceived by Ms. Humaira Mumtaz. ‘SAMA’ is an elite association of marketing students. It is fashioned exclusively for the personality & cognitive development of marketing students in collaboration with industries & alumni ties. The launch commenced with traditional prayers recited by Ms. Buthaina Al Tobi (faculty member). Our versatile HOS – Marketing, Ms. Seema Manchala, delivered prodigious welcome speech for all the honored guests and audience. Mr. Ahmed Al Gadhani, Head of OJT Department, inaugurated the ‘SAMA’ formally.

Mr. Faisal Nawaz from AUDI, Mr. Ali Al Lawati from United Business Day, Mr. Falah Hassan Al Lawati from Dar Al Ameeर Business Services and Mr.Faisal Al Alawati – an Alumni, shared their valuable experiences about marketing & business. All speakers inspired the present audience through an interactive session.

Mr. Abdullah who is also the President of ‘SAMA’, exhibited his extraordinary ‘acting’ talent with his creative skit with all his other group members. Mr. Mazin Al Shibli who is the Vice-President of the ‘SAMA’ anchored the whole show very enthusiastically. A ‘marketing quiz’ was organized by Dr. Sandeep Solanki. Hisham Amer Taleb Al Khanjari & Muhannad Qasim Abdul Rahman Al Zadjali won the quiz and Syed Saif Ali & Omar Hamoud Darwish Al Hasani were the runners up. All the participants were issued certificate of participation.

Our HOS – Ms. Seema M. also expressed ‘vote of thanks’ to all marketing students for their immense involvement. She conveyed special thanks to the esteemed faculty members namely – Mr. Essam Al Lawati, Ms. Hadeel Al Tamimi, Dr. Anupam Sharma, Dr. Vaidehi, Mr. Inamul Hassan, Ms. Saranya Ramesh, and Dr. Hatim Ramadan; for their volunteering contributions as & when required. The entire show was managed untiringly by – Ms. Arshiya and Mr. Anand. Special thanks to Dr. Christina Cruz for arranging the most imperative occurrence of the show i.e. Delicious Lunch - at the ‘Launching of Marketing Hub’.

Compiled By: Dr. Sandeep Solanki, Lecturer- Marketing Section
The HR section flagged off an eventful year with the “HR Competitions day” for the students on 17th November 2014 at the MPH to commemorate Oman’s 44th National Day. True to the occasion, the hall as well as the dress code reflected the colours of the national flag. The event was declared open at 9am by HR HoS Ms Hudham Al Mazroui following prayers by Ms Buthaina. The first event was power point presentations on HR themes. Three groups participated out of which the winner was the all ladies group of Aisha Al Wahaibi and Nouf Al Busaidi who made an informative and interesting presentation on the problem of unemployment in Oman and how to overcome it. This was followed by an amusing role play by a team of 5 boys from HR section on “Humour at the Workplace” which kept the audience in splits. Though it was not a competitive event, it got a standing ovation from the audience.

In between there was a video clip on His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and songs played to wish him health and a safe return back to Oman as well as on the prosperity and happiness of Omani under his leadership.

The next item on the agenda was debate and the topic was “Omanisation- arguments for and against”. This event attracted students from our Foundation and Engineering departments and for 15 minutes there was a very scintillating war of words between the young minds on this very current issue. Though both groups made compelling arguments, the winners were Nafil Al Azri and Bashaer Al Balushi, the team speaking in favour of Omanisation. The highlight of the day was the stress interview where the participants had to keep their cool while replying to a volley of grilling questions by the interviewing panel. While most of the students responded well, the panellists unanimously declared Nafil Al Azri and Ghulam Al Balushi as the winners. The events came to a close with the distribution of trophies and appreciation certificates to the winners and participation certificates to the other participants.

It was indeed a day to remember where the students got to showcase their many and varied talents to their peers as well as to their teachers. Such events without doubt add to the abilities of the students by sharpening their soft skills and contributing to the all-round development of their personalities.

The HR Club of Business Studies Department was formed with the express purpose of familiarizing the students with the latest HR trends and practices of the industry and to orient them on what the industry expects of them as potential employees. The HR students take the lead in arranging events like inviting guest speakers, organising business quizzes and competitions etc under the guidance of the faculty members. The active involvement of the students undoubtedly promotes teamwork and contributes positively to their personality.

The HR Club of Business Studies Department arranged an interactive session with eminent HR professional Mr Masoud Al Maskary, Senior Manager, Mazoon Electricity Company on 24th May 2015. The theme of the programme was “The Competency Required from Fresh Graduates in Oman”. He made an extremely enlightening speech on the current HR practices in industry and shared his own invaluable experiences over the past 25 years. He emphasized on the importance of graduating students developing the right skills, competencies and attitude to be successful professionals.

The event generated enthusiastic response from students from other fields of specialization too like Engineering, IT, Science etc. The presentation was followed by a vibrant Q-A session wherein the students addressed many of their concerns and anxieties to Mr Maskary regarding job opportunities and were accordingly advised. The guest was presented with a memento and certificate of appreciation by the HR Head of Section Ms Hudham and HR club faculty.

“Tchnology is not used to enter a new field of life, but to enter a new way of life”

Dr. Sanchita Ghosal
HRM Section
With the social objective of developing the youth workforce of the nation, OJT Committee of Business studies Department organized a series of campus interviews and career guidance program for OJT - students.

The campus interviews aided the training and employment needs of students from various specialization offered by the Business Department Higher college of technology. Companies at both national and international level participated in these campus interviews organized by the committee. Business Gateways International LLC, Expeditors LLC, KPMG Oman, Mazoon Electricity Company SAOC, National Bank of Oman, Oman Refreshment Company S A O C … are a few corporates who have recruited and trained our students.

Expeditors LLC conducted a Career guidance and campus recruitment programme for graduating students. The company officials briefed the candidates with company profile, job description and company requirements before conducting the interviews. Short listed candidates appeared for the personal interviews by the assigned panel of Expeditors LLC Company. Eight students were able to clear the selection process. Four of the selected students started their training in February - 2015.

In the previous academic year corporates like Business Gateways International LLC, KPMG Oman, Mazoon Electricity Company SAOC, National Bank of Oman, Oman Refreshment Company S A O C participated in the campus recruitment and recruited a sizeable number of students.

A full day training program was organized for OJT students of Business studies Department on Jan 27, 2015 by the OJT Committee. Students were given an overview of the supply chain management and the career options available in the Logistic Companies. Mr Ananad Chaturvedi, Regional Trainer, Expeditors LLC conducted a full day extensive activity based training program to a group of twenty shortlisted OJT students with Accounting and Marketing Specialization. Expeditors LLC is a global logistics company headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Their services include the consolidation and forwarding of air or ocean freight, customs brokerage, vendor consolidation, cargo insurance, time-definite transportation, order Management warehousing, distribution and customized logistics solutions.

A team of five from the company were present during the training program. The team also included Mr Sajan John District Manager Oman; Sheraz Khan Information Systems & Trainings, Ms Shifa Naufly and Faisal Al Balushi.

In continuation with the Career progression programs conducted by OJT - Business Studies, another program titled, “Market Yourself Effectively” was conducted on March 16, 2015 (Sunday) from 10 to 12 pm in Multi-Purpose Hall. The objective of the program was not only to provide information about OJT, but also to make students aware of the expectations of the employers in the present day industry. The audience for the program were the students eligible to go for OJT in the next semester (Summer Semester 2014-15). Mr Essam Al Lawati explained about the transition they need to bring in themselves to become good future employees. Giving his personal examples he answered the queries of the inquisitive students about their future career path.

OJT Committee-Business Studies Department is highly motivated and committed in its objective of providing the best of opportunities to graduating students

OJT Team
Tips for the Students and Advisors

Business Department had 1708 students (Active and On Job Training) in the previous academic year 2014-2015. Over that past 7 years the registration process had moved from Manual registration to online registration.

From Diploma to Bachelor student has to go through three levels clearing 48 subjects. Main Objective of registration department in coordination with the advisors is to see that students sail smoothly all through in a given stipulated time.

Keeping the above objective in mind few steps have been taken to enhance student and advisors knowledge and awareness about the issue related to registration:

- Frequently Asked Questions for Advisors as well as Students is designed. It is uploaded in the college website link http://www.hct.edu.om/pdf/business/faqs.pdf. For next semester the given website will have an option for the students to ask questions as when the doubt arises, answers will be given accordingly.
- Interactive orientation will be organized for students and advisors next academic year.

Following are Few highlighted points which the student should carefully take note of:

1. In any online system; password is critical to get access to personal information like the timetable, viewing your personal data such as transcript etc. As Business Department Registrar I advise the students not to share their password. Change the password if it is similar to the ID number.
2. Students need to clear two foundation courses: Basic Math and IT for Foundation in diploma First Year or they will not be allowed to move to Diploma Second Year.
3. It is very important to update the phone number whenever you change it. So you could receive any messages from the system such as warning letters and the department could contact you wherever is needed.
4. Student should register all of the advised courses.
5. Do not attend section you did not register for.
Globalization has posed many challenges for ‘Corporate Leadership’: Restructure; Continuous Up-dating of Technology; Mergers & Acquisitions; Entering New Markets; Innumerable Security Issues; Handling Work-Stress of self as well as of colleagues; Taking leverage over experience curve of the workforce; etc. Challenging times are impelling organizational leaders to treat employees as business partners due to fierce competition in the market; delegation is just a beginning. Driving the whole organization in right direction is not as simple as gulping a drink.

For corporate leaders to exist ‘consistence performance’ is a pre-requisite. Leadership requires ‘courage to be in action’, alike an entrepreneur who takes the responsibility for ‘risk’. Leaders are responsible and accountable towards the investors’ confidence in every phase of business cycle, as well as responsive towards the socio-economic turbulence and cross-cultural working environment, to the changing stock value, government regulations, as well as competitors. Introducing creativity & innovation or moving the cheese is an indicator of effective organizational leadership.

Leader’s decision & policies immensely affect the performance of the employees as well as suppliers & distributors in the market. It affects the way the managers of the company will interact with external stakeholders. They know the fact that their exemplary behavior is a key source of motivation for their managers to act upon and take risk on the note of ‘more risk more gain, but not without more pain’. It is just like an art of getting things done but not without self-involvement of the leader himself. Moreover, influence without authority may not last longer. A business large or small, inattention to tiny details may stem irrecoverable losses.

Regardless of the styles of leadership practiced in any organization, challenge is to build an intersection point where the needs & goals of the employees can be accorded with the organization needs & goals. Needs & Interests of Employees and the Achievement of Organizational Goals has to be interwoven as well as complimentary. A Leader knows the art of converting an employee into his follower. A follower looks at his leader with ‘a hope in his eyes’. Can you identify this hope in the eye of your follower? If yes, then you as a leader will feel a greater self-confidence within you, which helps to cultivate a stronger mind and character.

Leader is recognized as a Leader when there is a coalition, of essential traits of the leader and his decisions implemented, to turn an unfavorable situation into favorable results. Water will essentially satiate our thirst needs; Petrol is surely inflammable and direction of the football will be in the north, if kicked towards north. But there is no Law of Essential Leadership Traits which is applicable in all odd situations. Refining a definition of ‘leadership’ has always been difficult, despite of numerous research studies, because the execution varies with varying situations to counter. As said in accounting perspective, organization is a continuing firm, it do not have number of life-years. In fact, life of the organization depends on the ‘visionary outlook’ of its leaders on the top.

Surprisingly, are we looking for a ‘super-sensitive-human’ who possess all such qualities and courage at the same time in all situations?..........................MOOSHKIL!!

By: Dr. Sandeep Solanki,
Lecturer- Marketing Section
In order to manage the fast changing pace with which knowledge and information changes, today’s student must strive to achieve excellence in education or in life.

Achieving academic excellence is not just about getting good grades but rather the development of your knowledge, skills and capabilities in the service to people and society.

Academic excellence can’t be attained overnight. It is a gradual process of both formal and information education, starting from the time you were born until you reach your life as a student and then later in your career and professional life.

If you haven’t started pursuing academic excellence, well it is not too late. Perhaps you can get started by considering a few suggestions on how to achieve academic excellence.

**Take hard courses seriously.** Don’t take classes just for the sake of passing. Difficult courses such as your major (accounting, HR, marketing, e-business) can really teach you something. So pay attention to your teachers and make sure that you learn in those classes. If you don’t understand something, do not hesitate to ask questions.

**Trust your teacher.** When your teacher makes an assessment of your performance, it is based on his knowledge, expertise and years of experience. If you do not trust your teacher, you become un-teachable because you cannot learn from a teacher you do not trust. Practice humility and be respectful of your teacher.

**Take responsibility for your own learning and achievement.** Develop into an independent thinker capable of assessing your own learning and performance. Always think on how you can improve and become a better student.

**Study! Study! Study!** Do not study only when there is an exam. Study your course material before and after each class. I observed that most students only read their handouts during the lectures. Read your notes before the class so you can have an idea of the topics that your teacher will be discussing. It is also better if you can highlight and lookup for some words that you don’t understand and prepare questions for you to ask in the class. This will help you better understand the teacher’s lectures. After the lecture, review your notes immediately to make sure that you understand the information and reduces the time to relearn it again in future exams.

**Focus on understanding and avoid memorizing.** Although I have nothing against memorization, understanding something is far better than knowing something. In accounting for instance, understanding the reasons why an account is debited and credited in a transaction is far better than memorizing the debits and credits of a transaction.

At the center of achieving academic excellence it is your commitment to collaboration and continuous learning with educators, institute and the industry that matters the most. By having the urge to achieve excellence you open to yourself infinite doors of opportunities to reach your right potential and make your own destiny.
Despite a continuously changing economic environment, organizations remain committed to training and development. According to the Association for Talent Development’s (ATD) 2014 State of the Industry report in 2013, US organizations on average spent $1,208 per employee on training and development. There is another study conducted by the American Society for Training and Development, shows that as much as $210 billion is spent annually on employee training. Today, all organisations would like to know the effectiveness of training programmes.

What is the measure to know the effectiveness of training?

Transfer of training is the success measure for the employee’s training effectiveness. Training transfer is the “extent to which the learned behavior from the training program is used on the job.” (Phillips, J. 1991). It is closely related to concept in transfer of learning.

“What transfer of training defined as the effective and continuing application in the job environment of the skills and knowledge gained in a training context”. (Baldwin & Ford, 1988).

What are the major reasons for Low level of transfer of training?

Even though the training programmes are developed with due care, still training transfer is low in many of the training programmes. Some of the reasons are:

Training Design: It refers to the content of the training programme. In some situation too theoretical nature of the content programme reduces the degree of the interest among the trainees.

Delivery of training: It refers to trainer’s pedagogy. He may choose inappropriate method, media or delivery style.

Trainee characteristics: Trainees level of skill, knowledge, motivation level leads to low level of training transfer.

Organisational Culture: The negative effect on a unaccommodating organisation climate leads low level on the transfer process. The failure of organisation policy, management and supervisor’s support are the main inhibiting factors for training transfer.

Thus in order to curb the low level of transfer of training inhibiting factors and to increase the likelihood of the transfer of training, lot of emphasis should be given to the above said reasons.
Key success of being entrepreneurs!

Too many people think that Entrepreneurship is about running a business and that to prepare for that task you need to be accumulating business skills and hopefully getting one of those MBA things! My experience of working with businesses over many years is that the Business Plan is a guarantee of success!

I personally believe that entrepreneurship is a key component in every part of your life. Yes, an entrepreneur may end up devising and running a successful business, but they may also end up being Entrepreneurial in the way that they carry out their role as an employee of a company or in the way that they run their life generally.

I see an entrepreneurial approach as simply someone that takes a course of action in the expectation that it will be successful, but with no guarantee and without fear of failure. That lack of guarantee is likely to come because it is innovative in order to create the uncertainty. So to prepare for Entrepreneurship we need to practice putting ourselves in situations where we can develop our free thinking skills, our listening and feedback skills and where we can learn to see failure as an event that leads to better understanding rather than seeing failure as a person.

Humaira Mumtaz
Course Coordinator of Entrepreneurship
humaira.mumtaz@hct.edu.om

Ms. Entesar Al Mamari is one of the teaching faculty and an active member of HCT - Entrepreneurship Cell. She asked out students of different specialization “Would you like to be an Entrepreneur” and here is what students said:

Waood Yahya Al Mashari
Engineering
First Year Diploma

Yes I would like to become an entrepreneur because it is challenging and I will have more freedom as compared to working for a company and I think that challenges makes any person stronger than before. It will be great experience to manage your own business.

Mohammed Khaifan Al Nadabi
Accounting
First Year Diploma

I want to be an entrepreneur because I learn from the college how to be a good entrepreneur. Moreover I have different ways to organize and develop a successful business, as well as how to help my society and cover their need. I feel I have developed through my studies the skill of managing teams, which will help me in the future to manage my employees.
Abdullah Ibrahim Al Zadjali
Chemical Engineering
First Year Diploma

Firstly I would like to work in a company in oil and petroleum production. The reason is to gain experience and earn good salary which will help me start my own project in petroleum Refining. I hope to be one of the big companies in the country one day. But until then I have first to learn how work is done professionally so that I can plan my future well.

Jafar Sadiq
Accounting
First Year Diploma

Yes! I would love to be an entrepreneur, because you can do things which you like and you are a master of your own. It will also test my skills and knowledge in doing business. And moreover been a boss will also give the advantage to go to work whenever you want to as well as taking breaks, but with due responsibility!

Suhaila Said Al Ghusaini
Engineering
First Year Diploma

I prefer to open my own company. I would like to lead it myself, because I have the managerial and organizational skills to lead. Moreover working in someone else’s company there are so many rules and regulations that will hinder my creativity and motivation.

Tariq Suhail Ali Al Shaibani:
Graduated with Bachelor’s Degree—Accounting in the academic year 2014-2015. He is been known in the department not only for his excellent academic performance but also the way he has planned his career and grown up as individual. He surely stands as a role model for many students who firmly believe in giving their best in whatever they do. Ms. Entesar Al Mamari had put forth a few questions to him so as know his journey in acquiring education in HCT.

Important things you learned as a student in HCT:
The most important thing I learned so far is that you never stop learning. This lead me to realize that independent learning and thinking is what you need to become an educated man; and a college degree helps you in that. The degree is the key for us to take our knowledge further.

Any occasions where you challenged yourself:
My biggest challenge was trying to balance my ACCA studies and the college’s bachelor degree. I’ve often been asked by many students on how I manage to do that. It was actually simple; I matched the subjects I took in HCT and ACCA. I always made sure of that I NEVER MEMORIZE rather I understand the concepts. It takes little bit of hard work to do that but everything gets easier after that. I’ve also lately challenged myself by entering and in the EY Student Excellence Award. I’m the first HCT student to do that.

Any achievements you are proud of:
I have very strong ambitions, I enrolled under the CAT Program, took my bachelor degree after it and was doing ACCA all at the same time. In among all of those things, I’m also a social entrepreneur as the Founder and President of Scoliosis Awareness in Oman. They were days where I doubted myself on how am I going to manage all of this and I cleared that doubt every single time.

Here I am today, graduating with my degree in HCT and right on track on becoming a Chartered Certified Accountant by ACCA, as well as being proudly the founder & president of the lead organization in Scoliosis Awareness in middle east.

Any advice you want to give to HCT Business student:
They were many opportunities in this college and the only limit is the one you set yourself. I’d say think of what and where you want to be 10 years from now and be that person now. Always be strategic, they are many opportunities out there but make sure you choose those who add value to you. Your GPA isn’t everything; it’s only part of the puzzle that would make you successful. Learn more than what’s taught in the classrooms, as they are only the key to a world of knowledge. Always remember, if you want to shine in your career, make sure you have a competitive advantage. Ask yourself, what do you have that the other students don’t?
If you dream big then let us help you to achieve it

It is immense pleasure and achievement of Business Department to establish HCT-Entrepreneurship Cell. Keeping in mind Oman’s Vision 2020, College’s Strategic Plan Goal -3 and also successful Entrepreneurial achievements of HCT-Students for past three years in INJAZ Competition, HCT- Entrepreneurship Cell has started functioning since Jan, 2015. It is a full-service resource hub for students/faculty which will assist them in all stages of the Business Development spectrum from Education, Enhancement and Empowerment.

Its vision is to foster Oman’s entrepreneurial traditions and to strengthen the national economy by encouraging entrepreneurship, innovation, and creation of new enterprises. Its mission is to establish as a preeminent support Center focused on teaching students and graduates to think differently, identifying new opportunities and convert their innovative ideas into viable enterprises. Based on the vision and mission the cell was further divided into two Cells .One for Entrepreneurship Training and Events and other for Business Development and Database.

The Cell was actively engaged in many activities since its initiation. It made its first presence by participating in 2nd Seeh Al Shamekat forum Review at Sultan Qaboos University, January 2015. Took part in the debate of innovation and creativity Week, February 2015 and participated in the Capital Markets Forum (CMF) 2015 from 2nd to 3rd March 2015, at Grand Hayat Muscat, ‘Empowering Private Businesses towards Long Term Sustainability’. Moreover an Entrepreneurship Day was organized on the 11th March 2015, by inviting Entrepreneur Guest speakers from SMEs and Student Companies graduated from HCT. The Cell also conducted a training session for lecturers on April 29, 2015 on delivery of entrepreneurship course.

Finally at the end of Academic year on June 2, 2015 an orientation day was organized along with industrial guest speakers from renowned enterprise. Its core objective was to develop the entrepreneurial Culture among the students & Staff.

HCT- Entrepreneurship Cell solely aims towards continuous development of its staff and students in the field of entrepreneurship and expects to grow and positively contribute to the economy of Oman.

For further information you can visit http://www.hct.edu.om/hct-entrepreneurship-cell
Department’s Melange