HIGHER COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, MUSCAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER

ELC EVENTS GALORE 2016 TO 2018
Post-Foundation Program
Semester 1 (2016-2017)
Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati, the Academic Coordinator for the Post-Foundation English Language Program, organized a two-day staff development program that took place on 4th and 5th September, 2016. Both the presenters and attendees were post-foundation teachers. A summary of the program is given below.

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<td>Sunday (4/9/2016)</td>
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<td>Dr. Ramil Ecot</td>
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<td>Teaching scientific descriptive essays</td>
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<td>Monday (5/9/2016)</td>
<td>Teaching writing in large classes with reference to the post-foundation courses</td>
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<td>Dr. Mariam Tufekchyan &amp; Mr. Kamal Salah Balloumi</td>
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Written by:
Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati
Post-Foundation Academic Coordinator
Awareness Programme

Semester 1 (2016-17)

The Awareness Programme on the ELC support services and clubs was conducted on 4th October, 2016 by the Event Management Committee (EMC) in the English Language Center. The objective of the programme was to orient the new students about the support services of the center and also to choose and register a hobby club available for this Semester. About 500 students visited the Block-A foyer to learn about the various clubs which were going to start the following week. Counters were set up by the EMC student organizers, who explained the visiting students about the club activities and got them registered. About 276 students registered for various clubs such as – Reading club, Photography Club, Community Service, Cooking Club, Creative Writing club, Public Speaking club, Health & Safety club and F.A.V Club.

The club activities began from 11th October, 2016 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Mr. Khalid, ELC Director, Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi, HOS, the teachers-in-charge of the clubs and a few other teachers took a tour of the counters and acknowledged the good work of the student organizers and encouraged the students to register for clubs. It was indeed a good beginning for the Semester, with students showing interest in the events of the ELC.

Reported by Ms. Omniyah.
ELC Club Activities
Semester 1 2016-2017

Clubs were scheduled every week on Tuesday from 12:00 to 1:00 in the afternoon. There were eight clubs in semester 1, each with a supervisor.

1. **Public Speaking supervised by Mr. Reji and Mr. Ahmed Rafi.**

The main interest of the students was on how to improve their speaking skills. Every week, students watched a video. They talked about some of the methods that helped them improve their English language. Eventually, the students of the public Speaking Club went on participating in the level 4 speaking competition organized by the EMC. Abtihal Al Aisari won first place.

2. **Cooking Club supervised by Ms. Ishraqa.**

This club was about food passion. Students were to bring some dishes and share their favorite recipes with the club. The club didn’t run every week due to the lack of students.

3. **Photography Club supervised by Ms. Wafa Hussein.**

Every week the Photography Club discussed a theory and experimented by taking some pictures. Then, the pictures were analyzed based on what had been discussed. Students used visual aids to project their photos for everyone to see and participate in the discussion. They also had a presenter from the Photography department in the college.

4. **Fiction, Animation and Video Games Clubs supervised by Ms. Omniyah.**

F.A.V is about making connections through students’ mutual interest in fiction. Every week, students met to talk about their favorite films. They also watched animated series and had a discussion about the latest news in the field of video games. By the end of the semester, they worked on a short animation for a story, in addition to a dubbed clip.

5. **Story Writing supervised by Ms. Margaret and Ms. Gayane.**

The club aims to guide the students towards the art of story writing. Students worked on writing their own stories. The club aims at completing the projects next semester.

6. **Reading Club supervised by Ms. Jaya and Ms. Rithu.**

The club aims at helping students to get motivated to read. Students will learn tips and some techniques for faster and better reading. The club didn’t run due to the lack of students.

7. **Health and Safety Club supervised by Ms. Sana.**

The club aims at conducting workshops on health related issues. In addition, students will study safety measures and learn how to implement them. The club did not run due to the lack of students. Also, the main supervisor has been given additional responsibilities that conflicted with her duty as a club supervisor.
8. **Community Service Club supervised by Heidi and Jaya.**

Every week, students shared and brainstormed ideas to help the community. They discussed possible solutions for problems faced by students in the college. They also planned projects that can help their neighborhood. Also, the club participated in the Cancer Walk 2016 that aims at raising awareness on such diseases.

*Written by Ms. Omniyah*

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**PICTURE WRITING COMPETITION**

On Tuesday, the 18th October, 2016, about 36 students of Level 2 from the Foundation Programme turned up for “Picture Writing” Competition, conducted by the Event Management Committee (EMC) of the English Language Center. The students were given a picture and few cue words to create a story of their own. In one hour’s time, the teams with 2 students came up with different stories in perspective. It was enthralling to see the students working in teams to create the story. Ms. Fakhriya Al Rashdi, HOS and a few teachers paid a visit to the venue of the competition and were a great source of motivation for the participants. The result of the competition was declared after a week by the EMC and the winners as well as participants were rewarded with Certificates and Prizes.

*Reported by Ms. Neeraja.*
READING RACE FOR LEVEL 3 STUDENTS

The Event Management Committee of the English Language Center conducted “Reading Race” for the students of Level 3, on Tuesday, 25th October, 2016. About 34 students in 17 teams participated very enthusiastically. “Reading Race” had 4 rounds - Find the word, Make meaningful sentences, Guess the word with the help of the meanings given, and finally Reading the text round. It was a treat to see the students totally engrossed and working in teams to get some points. A few teachers visited to encourage their students who were taking part in the competition. To quote some of the participants, they said it was a fun and interesting way to improve the vocabulary, reading, as well as, pronunciation. It ended with 5 teams making it to the top scores. Overall, it was a very successful event. The 5 teams received their prizes and certificates at the end of semester in Award Ceremony.

Reported by Ms. Neeraja.
The Community Service club’s first event was the OCA Walkathon, held on Tuesday 01 November 2016 at the Qurum National Park.

A week prior to the event, on 25th October, students from the club set up a registration station in Foyer A from 12pm – 2.30pm. About 20 students registered for the event. The students advertised the event with posters they had made and presented to everyone who stopped at the table with a pink breast cancer awareness ribbon. A few days later, on 30 October volunteers from the OCA registered about 17 students and teachers for the Walkathon, also in Foyer A.

Ms. Heidi and Ms. Vijaya accompanied a group of about 30 students to Qurum National Park on the 1st of November. They participated in the 3km walkathon, which lasted about 45 minutes, on a plotted course around the park.

The event raised awareness on the seriousness of cancer, preventative measures and stages in getting cures, amongst the attendees.

Reported by Ms. Heidi Manus
Poster Making Competition

The Poster making competition for the Level 1 students of Foundation Program was conducted on 15th November, 2016, by the Event Management Committee of the English Language Center. The topic was “I LOVE SULTAN”. There were about 6 teams with 2 students in each team. The participants sketched, coloured and beautifully crafted the Sultan’s picture on their posters and were very creative in their work. This was also a part of Oman National Day celebrations. The posters depicted the love for Sultan – the pride of people of Oman. The participants took about an hour and a half to complete their creative work and it was indeed a treat to the eyes to see the vibrant Sultan of Oman on the posters. Finally the best 5 posters were chosen the best based on a criteria.

Reported by Ms. Neeraja.

Public Speaking for Level 4 Students

The Event Management Committee of ELC, conducted Public speaking competition for the Level 4 students of the Foundation Program, on 29th November, 2016 in the MPH. 19 students of Level 4 participated and presented their views and opinions on the topics such as Science and Technology can only improve our lives; Oman 2025; Double cheese burger or Fresh Garden Salad?; Taste or Nutrition and Smile is a curve that sets everything straight. The participants showcased good oratory skills with clear opinions about the topic. Mr. Khalid, ELC Director and Ms. Fakhriya, HOS, heard the speakers and were glad to see the presentations. There were 3 judges to adjudge and finally the top 5 speakers who scored the maximum points were awarded the first 5 positions.
Reported by Ms. Neeraja.
On the 29th of Nov 2016 ELC Clubs organized an event to show the work they completed during the semester. Every Club had a corner to display the works of the students.

1. **Photography Club:** The table displayed a group of cameras and tools used to aid the photographers and improve the quality of their pictures. The members used a projector to display the pictures taken throughout the Semester.

2. **Cooking Club:** The table displayed some local and international dishes made by students.

3. **Community Service:** The club participated in a number of charity works. The table displayed posters and pictures of some of the projects done by the members.

4. **F.A.V Club:** The table displayed posters and items from popular films and animations. The club also prepared a video that shows all the projects completed in the semester. The video could be seen in the Clubs corner.

5. **Parkour show (free running):** Muhammad Saif, a student from the F.A.V club put together a show and dazzled everyone with his parkour skills. The event took place at Block A foyer, at around 12:00 pm as part of the Clubs End of Semester Showcase. The show lasted for around 4 minutes where Muhammad ran, flipped, jumped over objects and showed great flexibility.

*Reported by*

*Omniyah Mussaikhan*

*Club coordinator*
46th NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT ELC
Oman’s 46th National Day was celebrated in the ELC with great zeal and zest. The Center was colorfully decorated with the Oman flags and the Sultan’s posters. The EMC student Organizers took up the responsibility of organizing a small gathering to wish the Sultan and pay respects to him. The activities included a speech, singing of the National Anthem, a skit, a song by one of the support staff of the college, a game for the teachers to test their knowledge of Oman, and finally the cutting of cake by Mr. Khalid to commemorate the birthday celebrations of the Sultan.

*Reported by Ms. Neeraja.*
AWARD CEREMONY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2016

The Event Management Committee has always encouraged the English Language Centre Students and the teachers by appreciating their work, talent and achievements. As always, on 6th December, 2016, the Event Management Committee, ELC, organized the Award Ceremony.

The ceremony started at 11 a.m. with the EMC Coordinator, Mr. Reddappa reading out the report about the events and the challenges faced while conducting and organizing the competitions / events. The report was followed by a short film which was a clear picture of how the students participated in the various competitions enthusiastically. After the film, all the winners, participants and the active teachers were presented with certificates. Mr. Khalid, Director, Ms. Fakhriya, HOS and Mr. Mohammed Kharusi, HOS, graced the occasion and gave away the certificates to the winners and the mentor teachers.

The Club Coordinator Ms. Omniyah and the Club In charge Teachers were applauded by all present for the ceremony as there were some new activities this Semester, which involved the students. The Club In charge Teachers and the active students of the 6 clubs were also awarded with certificates, for their active participation in the club activities.

Mr. Khalid appreciated the work of teachers and the students and spoke a few words of encouragement. The ceremony ended with smiles and hopes of seeing more numbers of students’ participation and involvement in the EMC events in the forthcoming Semesters.

Written by Ms. Neeraja
On December 7, 2016, Group 21, Level 2 Foundation students at the English Language Centre (ELC), launched their creative writing anthology: **Last Weekend was a Good Weekend to Come Back to Myself.** The launch was attended by the teachers and the heads of the Centre.

The anthology has skits, poems (rather good), personal essays, imaginative tales, as well as one writing on critical thinking. A college is the place for critical ideas and a journal (in this case an anthology) is a good space to articulate such thought processes. The front cover photograph of Last Weekend is by Mohamed Al Siyabi, Group 21. The title, Last Weekend was a Good Weekend to Come Back to Myself, is Bushra Al Musallami’s, from Group 21. Art work has been by Jaifar Al Maashari of Group 21 and Khulood Al Busaidi, a level 4 student. Ully Andres, ETC photographer, took pictures and the writers were pleased as punch!

This group of writers has been quite special. They took charge of being editors of their own work. In the past, the task was wholly mine. It was a pleasure to see the writers pointing out glitches or sharpening an image. The group enjoyed words. Their vocabulary logs (part of their grade requirement) were insightful. They understood nuance and the vigor of words; this in turn, contributed to their craft. I call Group 21, “word-makers”. They have brought out a solid anthology.

_Yasmin Ladha_

*Editor and Class Instructor.*

*L2:21. ELC*
The English Language Center (ELC) has seen many interesting activities for the Foundation Program students in Semester 1, 2016, under the Event Management Committee (EMC).

The Semester Activities began with Awareness Programme on the ELC Clubs. It has been an enthralling semester as there were competitions for all the levels such as Poster making for Level 1, Picture Writing for Level 2, Reading Race for Level 3, Public speaking for Level 4 and last but not the least, Design a Flyer for the Post Foundation students. Overall about 450 students participated in all the competitions.

Moreover, the 6 clubs, under the coordination and mentoring of Ms. Omniyah, were also very eventful and motivated the students to take an active part in many interesting activities like photography, walkathon, Kahoot, etc.

The Omani National Day was celebrated in the ELC with great pride. About 40 students took the initiative and presented a great show by enacting the life in Oman before and after renaissance. The Dean, Dr. Khalid Abdul Aziz Ambusaidi along with ELC Director, Mr. Khalid Al Balushi witnessed the programme and appreciated the students for presenting a great show to celebrate the 46th National Day.

At the end of the Semester, the winners as well as the participants of all the competitions were awarded with certificates of appreciation by the ELC Director, Mr. Khalid Al Balushi, ELC-HoS for ELPs, Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi and ELC-HoS for CTM, Ms. Fakhriya Al Rashdi.

“Every ending is a new beginning.”

Reported by Ms. Neeraja.
AWARENESS PROGRAMME SEMESTER 2, 2017
REPORT ON WATCH AND REVIEW

The Event Management Committee conducted “Watch and Review” competition for the students of Level – 2 on Tuesday, 31st January, 2017 from 12 noon to 1.30 pm in the MPH, ELC. The Objective of this competition is to develop listening and observation skills of the students. At the same time to enable them to appreciate things around them and to develop team work.

About 17 teams with 2 students in each participated in it. Overall 34 students participated. The competition began with the participants going through the questionnaire. Then there was a first screening of a 30 minute short film –“War Game”. After the first screening, the students were given 10 minutes to discuss and answer the questionnaire, before the second screening of the film. The second screening of the video helped the participants to check and finalize their answers. Later, the first five teams that scored the maximum right answers in the questionnaire were declared as winners and were awarded during the Award Ceremony at the end of Semester.

The participants enjoyed watching the film and this kind of competition. They said it was fun and interesting and also conveyed that they would love to have this kind of competition in future. One of them said it was really good to improve their listening skills and understand English accents for correct pronunciation.

Report by Ms. Neeraja.

ELC Students’ Training on First –Aid.
The Health & Safety club of the English Language center conducted training on First-Aid for the students of the ELC on Tuesday, the 31st of January, 2017. The objective of this training is to form and prepare a Students’ Warden Team whose role would be to set a Health and Safety Culture among the people in the campus. Most importantly to facilitate the ELC staff, students and the society for the emergency situations. About 26 students and 9 staff members attended the training with zeal. The facilitators or trainers for this training were from the Al-Hayat Hospital, Muscat. The training session was conducted for almost about 2 hours in the ELC Foundation building. Mr. Khalid Al Balushi, the Director of ELC was also part of this session. He encouraged and appreciated the volunteer students and teachers for taking interest in taking up the training for the benefit of the Center.

*Reported by Ms. Sana Talib*
On 14\textsuperscript{th} February, 2017, the Event Management Committee of the ELC conducted a “Spelling Bee” competition for the students of Level 1, Foundation Program. The objective of spelling Bee competition is to make students familiar with words and spellings using different techniques.

The competition had 5 rounds – Spell the word, Fill in the gaps, Identify the picture, Jumbled letters and lastly Rapid fire round. Each team had 2 members and there were 13 teams from various groups of Level 1 that participated.

The competition witnessed great team spirit with the students working on the spellings together. All the teams played their turns with cut-throat competition. But the rapid fire round decided the winners. Finally the 5 highest scoring teams were announced as winners. The student organizers were present to take up their responsibilities in the smooth conduct of the competition. To quote a few students, they found it interesting and competitive.

The participants liked the competition and said they look forward to more such activities. The HOS Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi witnessed the competition and congratulated the students for their participation and encouraged them. The results were announced immediately after the competition.
Report by Ms. Neeraja.
PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION FOR LEVEL 3

About 14 students of Level 3 enthusiastically participated in the Public Speaking competition conducted by the Event Management Committee of the ELC. It was conducted on 7th March, 2017 in the MPH. This time the topics were –

1. Youngsters are obsessed with labels and brands.
2. Technology makes the youth motionless.
3. Real wealth is never measured in money or possessions.
4. Junk food's popularity relies on marketing.
5. Color effects the way people feel.
6. A sense of humor is essential.

Each student took about 3 minutes to present on one of the above topics. It was adjudged by 3 teachers from the ELC. And the top 5 scoring participants were declared the best speakers. The Director of ELC, Mr. Khalid appreciated the efforts of the speakers and applauded their participation in the event.

Reported by Ms. Neeraja.
Awareness Drive on “What are we eating?“
The students of Level 4 group 15 conducted research on the topic -**What are we eating?** as part of their Project and Presentation Course. As the topic is quite relevant to the health and diet concerns of our students, the students and I decided to conduct an awareness drive to increase awareness on this issue and promote healthier food alternatives.

This awareness drive was held on Monday, March 13, 2017 in Block A Foyer. The drive was well received by staffed and students, who actively participated in the event. The students had various stalls targeting a number of themes such as, ‘Local Food &Imported Food’, ‘Processed Food &Organic Food’, ‘The Psychology of Eating’, ‘High- Sugar Foods’, ‘What’s wrong with What we Eat’ and the ‘Favourite Foods of the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH)’. The students provided information on these issues using posters, slides, power point slides, videos and props. The students encouraged questions from visitors and were able to give informed answers to their queries.

*Review Submitted by: Shaista Shaikh*

**ROLE PLAY COMPETITION FOR LEVEL 4**
The EMC conducted a Role-Play for Level 4 students of the ELC on 14\textsuperscript{th} March, 2017 in the MPH. The students had to present a situation on the themes given to them. Each team had 5 students. There were 5 teams in all for the competition. The themes given to them were Anger Management, A new neighbor, A day in the life of a teacher in HCT, Customer service, Team spirit.

Role plays presented by the 5 teams were on A new neighbor, Customer Service and Anger Management. Each team got 5 minutes to convey the message through their role play. It was an interesting treat to watch the students perform and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the role plays.

The competition was adjudged by 3 judges. The HOS Ms. Fakhriya and Mr. Mohammed witnessed the role play and were a source of encouragement for the participants.

\textit{Reported by Ms. Neeraja.}
Kudos to **Raya Saif Al Kiyumi** of Level 4 and **Jawaher Nasser Al Rawahi** of Level 3 of the Foundation Program of the English Language Center. They are the Winner and the First Runner-Up of the **Intercollegiate Spelling Bee-3, 2017** contest conducted by Scientific College of Design, Muscat. The Higher College of Technology has been the defending champions of Spelling Bee 2, 2016. And this year too, we have done it by securing it and also the first runner-up position.

7 students from the Foundation program, ELC participated in the competition held on 20th March, 2017, at Scientific College of Design. About 35 students from 6 different colleges participated in the contest. It had about 5 levels in which the HCT students presumably did very well. In a tough competition, finally the first two positions were bagged by our two students. Congratulations to the winners, the teachers, the Event Management Committee and the ELC Management for supporting the students to participate and winning laurels for the college.

*Reported by Ms. Neeraja.*
“We Are Simple Families Going Home” - A Creative Writing Anthology

Every Semester, Ms. Yasmin Ladha, Lecturer in the Foundation Program of the English Language Center, launches a creative writing anthology by her group students. This Semester the launch was on 28th March, 2017. It was attended by the ELC Director, Mr. Khalid Al Balushi, the ELC HOS, Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi and some teachers of ELC. The highlight was the interactive dynamics between the writers and the audience. It just sprung up! What a boon! Room No. B120, the venue of the launch, was supercharged. Ulysses Andres, the college photographer, captured the wonderful moments in his camera.

There were 35 contributors (30 from Group 21 and 5 from Group 22 of LEVEL 2.) *We are Simple Families Going Home*, the title, is from Ahmed Ali Bin Rasheed’s poem. He is a visiting Yemeni student. The front cover painting of a yelling girl is Arwa Al Harthi’s. The back cover has Al Julanda Al Mandhari’s photograph of an elderly woman with incredible wrinkles.

In Ms. Yasmin’s words, “Submissions for this anthology arrived like spluttering electricity: Some submitted promptly. Others needed “teacher-sit-with-me” hand holding. A chunk let another day pass by.”

The content of *We are Simple Families Going Home* is about family (matters deeper than the ubiquitous beach barbeques), death, allowances and stipends, genetic diseases, the sinister road cutters (bent on looting passengers in countries at war), holiday, “move!” as in self-confidence and self-worth, and chocolate in its many avatars.

There are HCT students who are painters and photographers, where are the writers?

Bionote: Yasmin’s *Blue Sunflower Startle*, a novel, is currently being read at the University of Calgary. She and a Delhi based writer have just finished a manuscript of their joint collection of poetry.
AWARD CEREMONY – SEMESTER 2, 2017

As it has been customary to appreciate the work of students as well as the teachers, every semester The Event Management Committee (EMC) takes it as a privilege to award certificates and prizes to the winners and the teachers who took initiative and mentored the students to participate in various competitions conducted by the EMC. This semester, on 29th March, at 12 noon, in the MPH of ELC, it was time for the Award Ceremony. It began with the EMC- student organizer welcoming the three Heads of the English Language Centre – Mr. Khalid, Director, Ms. Fakhriya, HOS, Mr. Mohammed Kharusi, HOS. Then a report of the whole Semester 2 events was read out by Ms. Hamas, EMC student organizer. Later the prizes and certificates were presented to all the winners, the participants and also the mentor teachers, to appreciate their support and initiative to encourage the students to participate and experience the competitions. Mr. Khalid and Mr. Mohammed Kharusi congratulated the students and motivated them to be more active in future events too. They also appreciated the work of Event Management Committee for their dedicated work in organizing and conducting various competitions and events for the betterment of the students as well as the center.

Written by Ms. Neeraja.
ELC Curriculum Development and Review
Focused Group Discussion 2016-2017
Feedback on General Foundation Program and Feedback on Courses
The ELC QA Coordinator Ms. Inez Lobo successfully conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGD) in two sessions as follows.

1. **Session 1:** 17th April, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. feedback on the General Foundation Program (GFP) courses (English, Mathematics (Basic, Applied and Pure), IT and Study Skills) and the Post Foundation Program (PFP) courses (Technical Writing 1, Technical Writing 2, Technical Communication, Public Speaking and Pharmacy English)

2. **Session 2:** 17th April, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. feedback on General Foundation Program (GFP)

All the teachers were grouped for the purpose and a moderator was nominated for each group. All the moderators had a meeting on the 16th of April at 11:30 a.m. when Ms. Inez Lobo (ELC QA Coordinator) briefed them on their roles as moderators and provided them with the required materials; such as the aims and objectives of the GFP, and the questionnaires. They were also requested to bring the most current course outlines to refer to during the FGD.

The purpose of this activity was:

1. To collect feedback on the GFP and Courses.
2. To collect feedback on PF Courses.
3. To review the GFP Aims and the Level Objectives for English & Course Objectives for Math & IT based on the decisions informed by the result of this FGD.
4. To provide a platform for active participation of all stakeholders in the curriculum development and review.
5. To triangulate data collected from surveys with this FGD.

On the 17th of April the QA coordinator briefed all the participants of the FGD in each session on the purpose, process and the focus of the discussion for the first 30 minutes and then let them work in groups to give feedback according to the focus of the questions for 60 minutes. Each moderator discussed the questions in their groups and recorded the participants’ responses/opinions and recommendations, in the space provided below each question. The session moderators; Mr. Manoj Manuel, Ms. Bhuvana Shankar and Mr. Reji K. Samuel assisted all the groups clarifying doubts and attending to any other needs of the participants. The final reports will be sent to the English, Math and IT Specialization Committees of the Ministry of Manpower for further action.

*Report by*

*Ms. Inez Lobo*

*QA Coordinator, ELC*
Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati, the Academic Coordinator for the Post-Foundation English Language Program, organized a training program that took place on 24th April 2017. Both the presenters and attendees were post-foundation teachers. A summary of the program is given below.

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<td>Teaching Business Descriptive Essays: A Sample Lesson</td>
<td>Ms. Sanaa Talib Khamis</td>
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<td>Teaching Scientific Descriptive Essays: A Sample Lesson</td>
<td>Ms. Mumtaz Shaikh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using Graphic Organizers in Teaching Writing</td>
<td>Dr. Thuraya Al-Riyami</td>
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The training program proved to be very interesting and informative.

Written by:
Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati
Post-Foundation Academic Coordinator
Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati, the Academic Coordinator for the Post-Foundation English Language Program, awarded the Post-Foundation English language teachers with “Thank You” gifts in appreciation of their hard work. The event, which took place on 27 April 2017, also included fun games and a potluck lunch. Mr. Khalid Al Balushi, Director of ELC, commended the teachers with a few words of appreciation.

Written by Dr. Nasrin
Every 3rd Semester of the year, the Event Management Committee conducts the Spelligator competition as a League competition. This League was conducted the last two years and this time it was Season 3. This Spelligator is an open competition for the students of all 4 levels and one of the criteria was that the students can make a pair with a different level student.

This season there were about 76 students, that is 32 teams who took part in the preliminary round that was conducted on 16th May, 2017. Only the first 16 teams were selected for the quarterfinal round. Thereafter 11 teams proceeded to the Semifinals and the finals had 6 teams battling for the first 4 places. Indeed it was heart-warming to see the enthusiasm and preparation of the participant teams during the complete league. The four teams who attained the first four positions were awarded at the end of the Semester Award Ceremony.

Over the quarters, semi, and finals, there were rounds like jumbled letters, missing letters, MCQs, picture round and rapid fire round. And each participant learned about 300 words. It was indeed very appreciable.

During this season, there were also some consistent teachers or mentors like Ms. Syama, Ms. Heidi, as well as student organizers who were in the MPH well in time for the show and made it successful. The EMC thanks them wholeheartedly for their support and cooperation.

The EMC thanks the Management- Mr. Khalid, Mr. Mohammad and Ms. Fakhriya, who are strong pillars of support for the EMC. They have always been there during the conducting of the rounds in spite of their busy schedules. It’s a great encouragement for the students as well as the team, EMC.

*Reported by Mr. Reddappa.*
FAREWELL TO RETIRING TEACHERS IN ELC

The English Language Centers’ Social Committee Coordinator Ms. Ishraqa organized a get together of the Management and staff at the end of the Semester. This gathering was also to bid adieu to a few lecturers as they retired from their Services. The retiring Lecturers were Ms. Syama, Ms. Rithu, Mr. Haroon, Mr. Fathi.

Mr. Khalid addressed the gathering and expressed his gratitude to the retiring lecturers for their services towards the center and also mentioned the void that would be created by the absence of their services. He wished him a very happy retired life and good luck for their future endeavors. Ms. Ghada and Ms. Fakhriya also expressed their heartfelt gratitude and extended their wishes.

Ms. Rithu and Mr. Haroon spoke a few words of thanks and shared their happiness on having served the Center for quite some years. A few other lecturers also spoke some encouraging words as well as expressed ‘miss you’ to the retiring teachers.

As a token of love and gratitude, the Center Staff and Management presented gifts to the retiring lecturers as a remembrance.

Written by Ms. Neeraja.
English Language Center

Events in the Year 2017-2018
As part of the Risk, health and safety (RHS) committee’s commitment to increasing awareness on health and safety, a college-wide general orientation was conducted during 11th and 14th September 2017. For the ELC staff, it was conducted in the Multi-purpose Hall, APS-PH building on the 12th September, 2017 between 12 noon and 1 pm. The brief orientation was on emergency evacuation in preparation for an upcoming emergency evacuation- mock drill.

The orientation was organized by the RHS committee chaired by Dr. Khalid Al-Abri and conducted by Ms. Sana Talib (RHS Coordinator, ELC)
The launch of the anthology, *Hear Me*, took place on December 13, 2017, at the English Language Centre (ELC). The contributors were Level Two students, Group 12. The event was attended by the heads of the Centre, coordinators and ELC teachers. The photographs were taken by Ully Andres, HCT’s official photographer.

Some in Group 12 already wrote in Arabic and continued, but first time, in English. At the launch, many read with élan. Others I had to coax centre-stage. “No, not in front of everybody” was a shell I had to pry open: for now, their words belonged to a reader as well.

My reasons for the anthology projects (I try to bring one out every semester): for students to experience their own joie de vivre writing in this dynamic and global language; to polish their craft, like working on the power of detail or practicing the old writing adage: “‘Show, don’t Tell.” Another thing the writers grappled with was new vocabulary. A “launch” they might have heard as “lunch;” a “plant” (as in a tomato plant or a factory plant) as “plan”. These humps (which they looked back on with a chuckle) *connected* them to English in a personal way.

This is why I am in the business of anthologies: to aid Omani writers find their own groove writing and performing in English.

Bionote: Yasmin Ladha is the author of three books and a chapbook. A joint book of poetry with a Delhi-based writer is making its rounds to publishing houses. Yasmin’s current project is non-fiction.
The Event Management Committee (EMC) of the English Language Center (ELC) always strives for the betterment and development of the students. The main objective has always been to make learning fun and enjoyable. With this motto, this Semester too, the EMC has brought innovation with regards to competitions.

The events gala in the ELC began with the Awareness Programme on 26th September, 2017. It was a program to make the new as well as the old students, aware of all the services available at English Language Center (ELC). It was organized and conducted by Event Management Committee in coordination with the clubs and other services in-charge members. It has witnessed a large number of attendees and many students registered their names for the clubs.

This Semester, the EMC introduced two new competitions for Level 1 and Level 2. For Level 1, it was Dumb Charades, conducted on 31st October 2017. This competition got a very good response from the students. There were 5 teams with 2 students in each. The participants were very enthusiastic and very sportively acted out the words. It was well enjoyed and appreciated by the participants.

Another pilot competition was “Convince Me”, for Level 2 students conducted on 21st November, 2017. In this competition, the teams had to enact or convince the audience for a given situation. Here, there were 9 teams with 2 students in each team. It was very entertaining to look at the creative, convincing solutions brought out for the situations. A few teachers witnessed the competition and were convinced that the students can develop the language skills through such activities.

The last competition conducted by EMC was Public Speaking for Level 3 students. About five topics were given to the students, to choose one of them to speak on. The topics covered technology, environment, stress, and textbooks vs I pads. We saw a large number of students – about 26 students took part in Public Speaking. Of this, five top scorers received prizes.

Under club activities, this semester, there were 6 active clubs, namely, health & safety, cooking club, ELC media club, Animee Club, Public Speaking club, Community Service club. Ms. Omniyah, the clubs coordinator, engined the club activities. Every Tuesday the clubs had an activity in their respective venues and on 28th November, 2017 a grand Open day was organized. Many foundation students visited the open day and had a great time. Mr. Khalid Al Balushi, Director Ms. Fakhriya Al Rashdi and Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi, HOSs, graced the Open day with their presence and appreciated the students for their splendidiferous display.

The National day program was organized with a great grandeur by the EMC Student Organizers, under the ardent supervision of Ms. Nusaiba. The celebrations included a speech, poetry recitation, a role play and painting a picture of the His Majesty Sultan and a few games for the teachers. Indeed, it was a great show.
On 12th December, 2017, the EMC awarded all the winners, participants, active club members, Student organizers and mentor teachers for their contributions, efforts and achievements. Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi presented the medals and certificates to the awardees and addressed the gathering with very encouraging and appreciative words.

The EMC is thankful to the Director ELC, Mr. Khalid al Balushi, the HOS ELP Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi and HOS-CTM, Ms. Fakhriya Al Rashdi for their constant encouragement, support and their presence during the events. Without their energy and vitamins, the EMC wouldn’t be able to exercise all the events successfully.

HCT - WINNER of Spell Bee 4, 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mathlaa Maher Al Barwani on winning the Spell Bee 4, 2018.

Spell Bee 4 is an Inter-Collegiate competition which is conducted by Scientific College of Design every year, for the past 4 years. We are proud to inform that Higher College of Technology has been the defending champions for the last 3 years!!

This year 3 students Hajras Juma Al Balushi, Raiya Mohamed Al Harthy and Mathlaa Maher Al Barwani, from the Foundation Program, ELC participated in the Fourth Inter-Collegiate Spell Bee competition on 18th April, 2018, conducted by the Scientific College of Design. These participants learned spellings of about 300 words in a span of 2 weeks and competed with 21 other participants from 7 different colleges. The Event Management Committee members mentored these students. It is an honor for the English Language Center that the students participated and performed well and brought laurels and made us proud.

Accolades to all the students.

English Language Center.
Higher College of Technology.
CONGRATULATIONS to the WINNER of Spell Bee 4, 2018.

Mathlaa Maher Al Barwani

The ELC of HCT Congratulates Mathlaa on her fantabulous achievement in the intercollegiate Spell Bee 4, 2018 held at Scientific College of Design.
As the OAAA General Foundation Program (GFP) Quality Audit is round the corner, the English Language Centre Quality Assurance Committee (ELC QAC) conducted “GFP Quality Audit Preparation and Proceedings” awareness presentation for all the teaching and support staff members of ELC (English, Math & IT) on the 19th of April, 2018 in the College Multi-Purpose Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The aim of this event was to create awareness amongst the staff members on the following:

1. The stages of General Foundation Program (GFP) Quality Audit
2. GFPA Audit Scope according to “GFP Quality Audit Manual scope
3. General Foundation Program Management Structure, GFP Course offerings, Specialization Program- entry level requirements
4. GFP Student Progression (English, Math & IT)
5. A brief account on the work that has been completed and ongoing by the GFP audit Working Groups (English, Math IT, & QA)
6. Role and responsibilities of teachers in preparing the center for the quality audit.

More than 100 staff members attended the event. The resource people were Ms. Ghada Sarhan – Head of the MoM Common Foundation Program Self-Assessment Technical Team who spoke about the stages of GFP Quality Audit, GFP Management Structure, GFP Course offerings, Specialization Program- entry level, GFP student Progression (English); Ms. Inez Lobo – The Team Leader of the CoTs’ GFPA: QA Working Group who gave a brief account on the GFPA QA Working Group work, and introduced the GFP Audit Scope to the staff members. And Mr. Khalid Al Balushi – Member, CoTs’ GFPA: English Working Group, Dr. Dhanasekar – Assistant Team Leader of the CoTs’GFPA: Math Working Group, and Marthy L. Par - Team Leader of CoTs’ GFPA: IT Working Group, gave the staff members a clear idea on the progress made in unifying the GFP Aims, Objectives, Learning Outcomes, Course Content, Assessment, and Testing Specifications. The Math & IT Team leaders also presented the GFP student Progression in Math and IT courses. At the end of the program the GFPA QA WG Team Leader highlighted the role and responsibilities of the staff members in preparing the
Center for the upcoming Quality Audit by OAAA. Finally, it concluded with the question answer session and closing comment by the anchor Ms. Heidi Manus (Level 3 Coordinator).

Report prepared by- Manoj Manuel
Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati, the Academic Coordinator for the Post-Foundation English Language Program, conducted a workshop on the updated Technical Communication Course teaching materials. The workshop took place on Monday, **April 23, 2018**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It was attended by all the teachers of the Technical Communication Course, who enriched the workshop with their invaluable discussions. The workshop, thus, proved to be very fruitful.

*Written by: Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati*

*Post-Foundation Academic Coordinator*
Orientation on Entrepreneurship Skills

The English Language Center, HCT organized an Orientation on Entrepreneurship Skills for a small group of Level 4 students of the Foundation Program, on 24th April, 2018. The HOS, Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi received and welcomed the guest speaker, Mr. Sushil Mungekar, Founder & CEO of Enlearning Skill Development, from India.

Mr. Sushil is visiting Oman and has conducted many orientation programs on Entrepreneurship skills to the young generation of various colleges. At ELC, the program was arranged in the MPH with nearly 45 students attending it. The Presenter explained the term “Entrepreneurship” to the audience and talked about ‘out of the box’, thinking which is the need of the hour. He conducted an activity to explain critical thinking and made the students to think and visualize the business market over the next 20 years. He emphasized on the fact that one must think differently and be prepared for the change and future.

It was a short but very informative Orientation. At the end of the session a few students interacted with him and cleared their doubts. Mr. Mohammed thanked Mr. Sushil and presented to him a Certificate of Appreciation.

Report by Reddappa.

EMC Coordinator.
Post-Foundation Internal Rewarding System

Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati, the Academic Coordinator for the Post-Foundation English Language Program, has introduced an internal rewarding system for her staff. This depends on identifying categories of special characteristics that staff members have and recognizing them one at a time. Winners can be chosen by the staff members themselves through voting, or they can be chosen by the management based on their records.

The new rewarding system started with a focus on the category of the “Most Cooperative Post-Foundation Teacher”. The Post-Foundation teachers voted for the winner during the Post-Foundation staff meeting that took place on Tuesday, 1st May 2018. The winner was Dr. Ramil Ecot, who teaches and coordinates the Technical Writing 1 Course.

Congratulations Dr. Ecot. Well-done and well-deserved.

Written by: Dr. Nasrin Al-Lawati

Post-Foundation Academic Coordinator
**Spelligator Season 4**

*Spelligator Season 4*, the spelling league competition of English Language Center (ELC) conducted by the Event Management Committee (EMC) was a great success. As it is an open league competition, nearly 70 students from the Foundation Program participated in the Preliminary round on 15th May, 2018. Consequently, 15 teams were qualified to play the quarter finals on 29th May, 2018. Next, the semi-finals round had only 10 teams competing for a place in the finals. Finally only 5 teams qualified to play the Final Round which was conducted on 12th June, 2018 and was indeed a tough competition for the Championship trophy. However, only the best always prevails. The winners of the Spelligator Season 4 were Wisal Nasar Al Wahaibi and Afrah Ahmed Al Bartmani from Level 4.

*P.S. Below is the link for the pictures of Spelligator - 4 in the form of a video.*

https://youtu.be/GAq8zUAiN3o

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**RHS Emergency Mock Evacuation Drill in ELC**

An effective Mock Emergency Evacuation drill for the ELC was conducted on 20th June 2018, under the supervision of the College Risk, Health and Safety (CRHS) Committee led by Dr. Khalid Al-Abri. A total number of 710 students & Staff participated in the drill early morning at 9.15 am. Moreover, the staff from IT & Math department also participated in the drill. In addition to this, few wardens from Engineering, IT, Fashion departments also joined hands with the ELC wardens to successfully complete the drill.

The drill monitored the response time, a proper coordination and communication during the major emergency, and identified any strengths and gaps of the overall emergency evacuation strategy. The activity made use of megaphones, paging system and existing fire alarm systems to simulate the alarm sound.

Such effective activities underpin the importance of identifying any weaknesses and enhance the attitudes and capabilities of all staff and students in the College. This also reflects the College’s commitment in ensuring the utmost levels of health and safety for everyone through the concerted efforts of various college departments and units.

In order to increase preparedness and reduce potential risks brought about by incidents and situations requiring emergency evacuations, the CRHS committee aims to conduct more frequent emergency evacuation drills simulating various situations in the future.

The exercise was conducted by Ms. Sana Talib Khamis (RHS Coordinator ELC) under the supervision of Mr. Mike Medina, OIC-CRHS Coordinator, together with the ELC staff & Student wardens collaboratively coordinating with the warden groups from the Fashion Design, Engineering, and IT departments respectively.

*Prepared By: Sana Talib Khamis*

*RMHSC, ELC*
AWARD CEREMONY, SEMESTER 3, 2018.

At the end of every Semester, the Event Management Committee (EMC) of the English Language Center (ELC) organizes “Award Ceremony” to applaud the hard work of the students as well as the teachers. It was on 25th June, 2018, all the participants of the Spelligator-4, Spelling league competition and a few students who participated in the Writing Center of ELC were awarded with trophies and certificates. Mr. Mohammed Al Kharusi HOS and Ms. Inez Lobo, QA Coordinator graced the occasion and did the honors to the winners and participants. The EMC Coordinator Mr. Reddappa read out the customary Semester Report and also thanked the Management for the tremendous support they bestow with for the smooth conduct of the events in ELC. A few Student Organizers were also presented with Certificates for actively participating in the conduct of events in ELC. Mr. Mohammed addressed the gathering and emphasized that it is not the degree alone which makes an individual successful, but the skill development is equally important. He encouraged and urged students to make use of the opportunities around them and participate in the events conducted and organized in the Center.
Every end is a new beginning