

Oman College of Management & Technology

" Committed to Quality Education "

Newsletter

January 2022 Issue



Achievements.
Learnings.
Challenges.

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Mrs. Maryam AL Musheifiri

Dr. Tarek Chebbi

Ms. Anna Mikhailova

Dr. Mahammad Mastan

Mrs. Eman Al Ghafri

For suggestions and contributions ,please reach us @ jonald.cayabyab@omancollege.edu.om .

Despite the continuing crisis, our team spirit is high and our commitment to streamline the ineliminable College news updates and inspirational contents is immeasurable.

This January 2022 issue highlights the current challenges, learnings, and achievements at OCMT and how the College is uniquely prepared in surpassing some of the greatest challenges it faces as an educational institution.

As one team with one goal, we will not let the Academic Community succumb to this COVID19- pandemic. Our operations continue for "Learning knows no boundaries." Together, and by association, we shall rise.

Jonald –Editor in Chief



Dean's Message

Warmest Greetings!

As we continue to navigate through the challenging aftermath of COVID19- pandemic, I would like to take a moment and commend on how our College has been responding to it, and to reflect what is being taken into consideration in the process of decision-making during this rather challenging time.

I appreciate the hard work and ingenuity demonstrated by our academic and administrative staff up to this date. Our faculty staff have been working diligently to support our students in multiple ways and help them sustain their academic growth. I would also like to thank our students who have been forbearing and adaptable in such stressful situations.

The COVID19- pandemic has truly been a challenging, continuously changing, uncertain and unfair time. We all ceaselessly seek to make sense of this unparalleled situation. It has somehow nibble out our power to come together as learners, performers, and spectators. It has deprived our opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments and success of our students. But all the sacrifices have been made for the greater good, and to protect the most vulnerable among us. And throughout these trying times, we have relied on our core values - community standards, inclusion, social accountability, and responsibility to each other - to guide our decision-making.

We, as a College believe in our vision for this institution as an ever-widening circle that continuously reaches out to our students and new partners bringing new opportunities into our beloved OCMT to nurture and support.

As the recent changes persist to unfold, we will remain cautious and act accordingly to the best of our ability. We will draw strength from the values that tell us who we are and what we stand for as a team.

I am extremely optimistic about seeing all back to campus in no time. We shall get over this tough time by working hand in hand together, looking out for each other, and lifting each other up.

All the absolute best amongst us!
Kudos!

Prof. Dr. Waleed Hmedat
College Dean



Asst. Dean's Message

Greetings!

We at the OCMT are striving to take a solid step towards advancement and progress on our steady path to be a leading College at the level of the Sultanate and at the level of the region.

In this context, we have been able, during the past period, to achieve many achievements, and to put in place the necessary plans, which would enhance our efforts to achieve the desired goals. The college proceeded to develop the academic process in both its educational and research aspects, based on its firm conviction to consolidate the principles of applied education and related to scientific research with higher specifications. Here, the college was able to develop educational programs that keep pace with scientific developments and practical needs in the Sultanate in the light of the 2040 vision, where we were able in the college to apply for the development of two programs in the field of information technology, namely: the Master of Artificial Intelligence and the Bachelor of Cyber Security.

In addition to other programs, we are still working on preparing them in the areas of finance and interior design. The college has also been keen on attracting academics of high caliber, with deep and diverse experiences, with the aim of advancing the educational dimension in its various forms.

In a related context, the college has actively sought to enhance the scientific research process by organizing several conferences that would enrich the research product, enable teachers and students in the college to interact with high-level researchers, and view advanced research experiences. The most recent of which was the International Conference on Financial and Banking Perspectives, which attracted researchers from prestigious international institutions. However, we are going through a major and pivotal challenge this year that will not be difficult for us to overcome successfully and efficiently as we have always been.

Where this challenge is to achieve the requirements of institutional accreditation in preparation for applying for a re-assessment, as the College was able to reorganize the QA Department, support it and strengthen its ranks by contracting with a sophisticated cadre and with expertise in this field.

Dr. Hazem Al Migdady
Asst. Dean for Academics and Scientific Research

OCMT holds a Back-to-Back High-Level Conferences in 2021



INTERNATIONAL Conference on Financial and Banking Perspective (ACFBP-December 2021)

OCMT hosted the first “Annual Conference on Financial and Banking Perspective” with the aim to provide knowledge on the recent developments in theoretical and empirical research from all areas of modern finance and banking.

The conference focused on high-quality research from experts in various specialisation in the academe. It was conducted online for two days, i.e., 15th 16-th December 2021 from 9:00 am to 4:00pm.

Furthermore, there were two international keynote speakers for the conference. Professor Steven Ongena , University of Zurich, Swiss Finance Institute, KU Leuven and CEPR, Switzerland and Professor Bruno S. Sergi, Harvard University, USA, highlighted the role of Bond to Bank Substitution in the Transition to a Low-carbon Economy.

Overall, the participants at the conference foregrounded on thought provoking papers providing current insights into knowledge generation and reflecting on current practices , established paradigms and pushing epistemological boundaries in Finance and Banking.



NATIONAL Conference on Recent Trends in Business, Technology, and Design (CRTBTD-June 2021)

The National Conference on Recent Trends in Business, Technology, and Design (CRTBTD2021-) began on Monday was hosted by OCMT.

The two -day conference was organised by the Scientific Research and Innovation Unit under the deanship of Prof. Dr. Waleed Hmedat on 07th 08-th June 2021 from 10:00 am to 02:00pm.

CRTBTD2021-Conference is a forum to bring together scientists and experts both in the academia and industry fields to discuss the contemporary trends in Business, Technology and Design. The conference maintains high-quality research by multiple blind reviewing processes which are done by experts in the fields of the conference and from various academic institutions.

Moreover, the conference is an opportunity to welcome researchers and scholars who are intellectual leaders in higher education to be part of the College's conference.

Minimizing Gap between Learning and Career Opportunities



MoU Renewal with Omani Association for Libraries and Information

In pursuit to strengthen its relations with professional associations, Oman College of Management and Technology renewed a Moderation of Understanding with the Omani Association for Libraries and Information was signed on 9th June 2021.

The MoU has included the exchange of experiences and cooperation in various educational fields between the College and the Association.



OCMT and Meethaq Islamic Bank Sign a Fee Installment Financing Agreement

Oman College of Management and Technology has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Meethaq Islamic Bank on May 2021 ,30.

This agreement aims to extend Education Finance Service to parents and students to pay their tuition fees so as to mitigate the pressuring college fees during the period of their study, as well as to enhance the joint cooperation between the education sector and the industry.



OCMT and Madayn Unite in Research, Entrepreneurship, Training, and Development

With the aim to enhance the partnership initiatives between the industrial sector and the education sector, the College received a delegation from the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn".

The collaboration focuses on supporting research and development, entrepreneurship, and training.

OCMT celebrates Oman's 51st National Day



The College under the leadership of the College Dean Prof. Dr. Waleed Hmedat, the Student Affairs Department and the Student Advisory Council set forth its final plan of activities for the glorious celebration on 51st National Day in the Sultanate.



The 51st National Day of Oman commenced with gaiety and enthusiasm at college campus in the morning hours at OCMT. This day marks the glorious development and distinguished continuation of the astounding history of Oman: rich and varied, prosperous and eternal.



It was reiterated that this occasion represents renaissance or 'rebirth' under the inspiring leadership of His Majesty, Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and in commemoration of the great leadership of the late Sultan Qaboos.



The overall perspective was to highlight that OCMT marks the transition taking place in the country, to honor and celebrate all those who have contributed to the development of Oman. We hope to see more headway in the future with innovative technology and learning .

One of the highlights of the joyous celebration was the performance of the Royal Guard band serenading the audience with patriotic songs in addition to the captivating Arabic music in the presence of the College Dean together with the delegation from the Yarmouk University for their annual official visit as affiliated University to the College.

In the end, everybody left the rendezvous expressing their joy and happiness with the wonderful songs performed by the band and Prof. Dr. Waleed Hmedat expressed his unsurmountable appreciation to the Royal Guard Band.

OCMT welcomes the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The College has been honored and privileged to cordially receive and welcome His Excellency Ambassador Amjad Al-Qahiwi, the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Sultanate. The visit aimed to show the future aspirations of the College in various fields of scientific and academic disciplines.

The visit included a tour of the College's facilities and buildings and a review of the most significant achievements of the College overtime. His Excellency expressed his admiration on the extent of which the College has reached its growth and for keeping its pace even to the most challenging times.



Head of Student Affairs meets the General Mufti of the Sultanate

His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalili, General Mufti of the Sultanate met up with Dr. Saadoun bin Hussein Al Hamdani, Head of Student Affairs, and a group of scholars and Sheikhs in the Sultanate, including Sheikh Muhanna Al Kharusi on Wednesday 17th November.

The meeting was a good opportunity for sharing and exchanging words of wisdom on the depth of the foundations of the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet's biography with all the sciences that served humanity throughout the ages.

Likewise, Dr. Al-Hamdani shared to His Eminence Sheikh Al-Khalili a draft of his book entitled, 'The Holy Qur'an and the Art of Diplomacy,' not to mention, it is considered the first of its kind in the Sultanate and the Arab world. He also further elucidated that all diplomatic theories taught in foreign schools at present are found in the Holy Qur'an more than 1400 years ago. His Eminence Sheikh Al-Khalili gave his sacred blessings to the latter on reflecting the nobility and authenticity of the Islamic religion in all arts, and diplomacy.

The momentous occasion ended by His Eminence extending his appreciation to Oman College of Management and Technology for embracing and upholding religious, civic, and cultural norms in the Sultanate.

Affiliate University Delegates Annual Visit

As part of the academic association agreement between the University and the College, a delegation from Yarmouk University in Jordan paid its two-day visit to the College on Wednesday, November 17. The visit was to follow up on the implementation of the terms of agreement between the two sides and



their development mechanisms, which contributes to the service of the educational process. As the delegation followed up on the progress made in the process of applying for institutional accreditation and coordinating the roles between the university and the college and identifying the strategic plan of the college.

On the sidelines of the visit, the delegation was toured to the various facilities available in the College and met with the members of the faculty, academics, and students at the college. The delegation included: Dr. Ziad Mohammed Zarekat, Assistant President of Yarmouk University, Professor Dr. Michel Sweidan, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Professor Dr. Wael Haddad, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Professor Dr. Samer Samara, Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science, and Professor Dr. Abdullah Al Khataiba, President's Advisor for Quality and Accreditation, and Khalid Al Hammouri, Director of Admissions and Registration.

Commemorating Oman's Tree Day



In celebration of the Oman's Tree Day, which is observed on every October 31 of each year, the College under the deanship of Prof. Dr. Walleed Hmedat with the presence of the staff and students planted several wild trees and seedlings at the campus in various sites and locations.

The event is an affirmation on highlighting the importance planting trees in the conservation of the environment and the fact that Omanis in general are closely linked to trees since old ages.

The date marks the peak winter agricultural season when most of the tree seedlings are planted.

Building Cultural Cooperation

On the scope of the renewed vision of the College and its Administration in honing and embracing students' talents in the field of culture and arts, the College Dean, Prof. Dr. Walleed Hmedat sent a message to Dr. Mahmoud Al-Sulaimi, chairperson of the Cultural Club in Muscat through Dr. Saadon, head of College's Student Affairs.

The message expresses its sincere appreciation and willingness to build a strong cultural cooperation in developing and unleashing students' cultural talents. Several valuable views were reviewed on key issues on national identity and students' personal skills.



Likewise, the College Dean expresses in his message the flourishing success of the Cultural Club which would enable all members of the community to survive and develop individual potential.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al-Rubaie, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Club, Imad Al-Rahbi, the College President of the Student Advisory Council and his members.



OCMT concludes the First FIFA Electronic Games Tournament

Within the framework of promoting various e-sports and spreading cultural awareness about e-sports among the members of the community and supporting students in their extra-curricular activities, the College under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Walleed Hmedat and the College Student Affairs took part during the closing ceremony of the first FIFA Electronic Games Championship supervised by the Oman committee for Electronic Games, under the auspices of Eng. Majid bin Abdullah bin Salem Al Salti, chair of the Omani Committee for Games and Electronic Sports.

The tournament includes the world's most famous e-sports games played by various youth, namely, League of Legends, Call of Duty Vanguard, Rocket League, Tekken 7 and FIFA 22.



Voluntary License Program

In cooperation with the Baraka Charity Team the College hosted the "Voluntary License Program" at the college's campus on Saturday, 4 December 2021.

The training program was attended by various entities in the community and the students in the College to promote the principle of partnership and rewarding cooperation with its aim in developing the sense of volunteerism amongst all the participants.

Moreover, the team also provided trainings on fundamental skills on first aid, managing and implementing voluntary projects to be equipped with the required skills and sufficient body of knowledge needed for them to actively play their role in their respective community. It is worth mentioning that the Voluntary License Program is an international accredited body that prepares and issues voluntary license to qualified volunteers.



First Aid and Resuscitation Workshop



As a result of the College's keenness to adhere and maintain safety within its educational premises, all employees and students in the College participated on First aid and Pulmonary Resuscitation training program. This event was made possible in collaboration with Al Shumoos Medical Center to equip all participants in dealing with and expanding their knowledge during emergency situations.

The training was conducted for 8 hours which included presentation and demonstration of various related skills and knowledge and concluded with the qualified trainees' demonstration who showed exceptional skills during the entire workshop.

Workshop on Traffic Safety

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of students in the Sultanate particularly at OCMT, the College collaborated with Traffic Safety institute to carry out comprehensive defensive training programme that helps to strengthen awareness on the fundamental rules on the road and how to confidently cope up with and avoid dangerous situations.

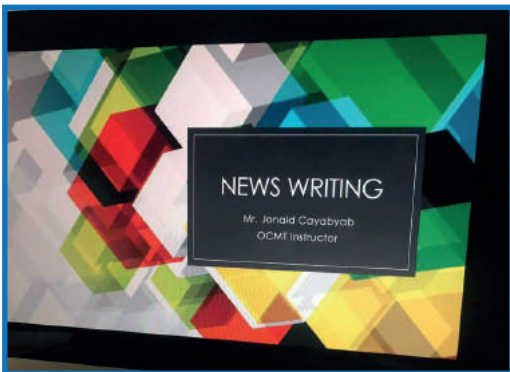


The workshop brought key issues such as maintaining safe speed limits, keeping safe distances from other vehicles, wearing safety belts at all times, and being aware of their surroundings on the road. Alongside these essential topics, the participants also learned invaluable skills like journey planning and focusing techniques. The workshop took place on October 18 at the College campus.

Training Course on Python Programming for Graduating Students and Alumni

Oman College of Management and Technology, represented by the College's Career Guidance and Training Office, recently and successfully presented a Python programming training course to its graduating students and alumni. This course comes as part of the college's efforts to build students' capabilities, empower them in this field, and prepare them for the job market.

The training course was presented by Dr Mohammad Al-Azawi for a period of three days and was attended by 20 students from various specialisations, and the course included theoretical lectures and practical sessions.



Media and Newsletter holds News Story Writing Workshop Online

One Hundred and Eighty-four student participants, majority were OCMT students and few participants from the community were privileged to be part of the webinar on News Story Writing conducted by Mr. Jonald, College Newsletter Editor in Chief and an English Language and Literature Instructor in the College.

The workshop was organized by the Media and Newsletter primarily to enhance students' skills and talents particularly in the field of Newswriting as well as to encourage interested and potential students to join the College Student Newsletter Club.

Administrative Staff

Dr. Saadon Al Hamdani
HoD
Student Affairs Dept



Mrs. Alanood Al Tubi
Hod
Library



Ms. Ruwaiya Al Rabaani
Staff
Student Affairs Dept.



Mrs. Zahra Al Salehi
Social Advisor
Student Affairs Dept.



Academic Staff

Dr. Moosa Al Balushi
Asst. Professor
AFS Department



Dr. Mohammed Shafiuddin
Asst. Professor
AFS Department



Bakhtawar Durrani
Instructor
AFS Department



Ms. Aisha Al-Wahaibi
Instructor
AFS Department



Ms. Thuraiya Al Farsi
Instructor
AFS Department



Ms. Anna Mikhailova
ESL Lecturer



Ms. Maryam Al Rawahi
Math Lecturer



OCMT 's Commitment to Scientific Research

The College promotes pedagogical research building capacity and maximization of output amongst the teachers and students. This is reflected in the publication of research papers by staff members in reputed journals and one of them being the Scopus Index-Journal. This lends a high status to OCMT in the long run. Likewise, it can boast of the content and scope of these "research papers" as an initiative of Educational Development services within the institution. It recognizes its staff and students that pedagogically research active and provides dissemination of all research 'published papers' in various journals across the institution.

Dr. Tarek Chebbi **Asst. Professor** **AFS Department**

Dr. Tarek has published two research papers in the International Journal of Finance & Economics, Willey Blackwell.

A research paper entitled "The Response of Precious Metal Futures Markets to Unconventional Monetary Surprises in the Presence of Uncertainty" established a substantial contribution in the monetary policy announcement literature.

It was published on April ,(2)26, 2021
1916-1897.

Indexing, SCOPUS Accounting (Q2);
Economics and Econometrics (Q2); Finance
(Q2) (Impact factor; 0.943, ProQuest, WoS –
SSCI).

The second paper achieved a significant contribution in the oil market pricing area entitled "Inventory information arrival and the crude oil futures market" accepted in the International Journal of Finance & Economics, Wiley Blackwell.

Indexing, SCOPUS Accounting (Q2);
Economics and Econometrics (Q2); Finance
(Q2) (Impact factor; 0.943, ProQuest, WoS –

Dr. Baby Thomas **Asst. Professor** **AFS Department**

Dr. Baby Thomas has published three research papers in well-reputed journals, two of which in Scopus Indexed Journals.

The first research paper titled 'Banks, employees and brand promise delivery: customers' analytical perspective', was published in the International Journal of Business Excellence. The paper discusses how commercial banks could improve their brand promise deliveries by focusing more on their employees and their welfare.

The second research paper titled 'Internal marketing and brand promise delivery of Indian public sector banks: a causal relationship analysis', was published in the Indian Journal of Marketing. The paper discusses the implications of internal marketing practices on brand promise delivery of Indian public sector banks.

The third research paper titled 'An analysis of MENA region economy performance in prevailing global economic conditions was published in the International Journal of Engineering and Management Research. The paper discusses the economic performance of MENA and the associated risk factors that have the potential to adversely impact its economic growth.

Dr Gbenga Ekundayo
Asst. Professor
AFS Department

Sponsored by the College, Dr. Gbenga Ekundayo has published four research papers in International Refereed Journals.

The first research paper titled 'Environmental Accounting Disclosure: A Critical Examination of literature', was published in the British Journal of Economics, Finance and Management Sciences. The review provides an extensive plethora of compendium of recent studies canvassed by different authors on various dimensions of environmental accounting disclosure with an ardent focus on their surrounding controversies, contradictions, and debates on these pertinent contemporary issues with regards to the findings of the research studies.

The second research paper titled 'Environmental Accounting and Corporate Sustainability: A research Synthesis' was published in the International Journal of Business and Management. The analysis provides a comprehensive overview of recent studies on multiple dimensions of environmental accounting and their interrelationship with corporate sustainability.

The third research paper titled 'Nexus between Corporate Social Responsibility, Environmental disclosure and Financial Reporting quality Among listed Firms in Nigeria' was published in the International Journal of Financial Research. The paper examined the nexus between corporate social responsibility, environmental disclosure, and financial reporting quality among listed entities in Nigeria.

The fourth research paper titled 'Environmental disclosure modelling in a developing economy: Does Corporate Governance matter? A Double Hurdle Regression Approach' was published in the International Journal of Financial Research. The paper examines environmental disclosure modeling in a Developing economy using the Craig double hurdle model and controlling for the role of corporate Governance.

Mr. Louay Al Nuaimy
Lecturer
CS & MIS Department

Sponsored by the College, Mr. Louay Al Nuaimy has published three research papers, two in reputed Scopus Indexed Journals.

The first research paper titled "Cloud computing services and its effect on tertiary education: Using Google Classroom", was published in IEEE Xplore DOI: 10.1109/ICTA49490.2019.9144797, 21 July 2020. This paper examines the effectiveness of the Google Classroom App in learning, for higher education institutions in Oman.

The second paper titled "Online vs Manual Registration System in Higher Educational Institutions, accepted on Solid State Technology, PennWell Publishing Co., 111-0038x. In this study, the research work is based on a survey which is premeditated to find out the students' perceptions of online and manual course registration at Oman College of Management & Technology (OCMT) as a case study.

The third paper titled "A Literature Review on the Impact of COVID19- Pandemic on online teaching and learning", is accepted on CRTBTD 2021. This paper aims to conduct a literature review of online learning implementation due to the impact of the COVID19- outbreak.

Mr. Mohammed Babiker Mohammed
Lecturer
AFS Department

Sponsored by the college, Mr. Mohammed Babiker has published a research paper extracted from student graduation project in DOI indexed journal, titled: Performance Evaluation of Oil and Gas Companies in Sultanate of Oman jointly with Dr. Balamurugan and Qais Al-Hadabi (student).

The paper was published in the International Journal of Research in Entrepreneurship & Business Studies. The study was to analyze the impact of ROA and ROE on the net profit of the selected Oil and Gas companies (O & G) in Oman

Dr. Asaad Mubarak
Asst. Professor
AFS Department

Dr. Asaad Mubarak has published a research paper in the international journal, titled (The Role of E-marketing Tools in Constructing Online Consumer Behavior of Omani Youth in Muscat City), this study has concentrated on the impact of e-marketing on the marketing behavior of young Omani sellers in Muscat to develop the effectiveness of online shopping.

Reflection on Blended Teaching and Learning (BTL)



Dr. Reham Sanad
Asst. Prof.
Head of Interior Design Department

From HOD's Perspective

Shifting from Physical to Electronic Learning

Art and design programs are significantly known for being practical and interactive which needs direct communication between instructors and students. However, due to COVID 19 pandemic, the Interior design department in OCMT has shifted completely to deliver its classes remotely using virtual platforms. Luckily, this shift was not cumbersome for OCMT community, as we used to use an electronic learning management system in managing courses' materials. So, how has the ID department spent this journey since it was decided to make this shift? This article will shed the light on the significant nature of Interior design programs' courses.

Teaching & Learning Processes

Normally in ID Department, once a group of students is enrolled in a course, they are added to the course MS team in which they will find all course materials and project descriptions uploaded regularly on time. Because we believe in all students' equal rights to learn since the pandemic - not only all courses have been delivered live online as per scheduled timings, but also these have been recorded to be used as reference at their convenience. Besides, our instructors have started to use effective methods of project demonstration and management including sharing their screens showing clear illustrative examples and samples of the demonstrated required project. The students as well can present their shared screen to demonstrate their point of view, share their difficulty, or tell the making process.

For the teaching process, the instructor would start with giving theoretical and/or practical background about the course and project, then present the description of the project/design required using text and illustrations. After that, instructors can give a series of step-by-step tutorials, carry out group and individual discussions analyzing and criticizing the students' shared artworks or designs. As practical courses are the focus of this article, so it is important to highlight that; alternatives in terms of materials used and programs could be introduced to the students whenever this is found possible.

Assessment Process and Submissions

Programs of Art and design generally and Interior design especially have distinctive types and methods of assessments. During the pandemic, the instructors upload, share and demonstrate the required project/s' deliverables and requirements to clarify the project or assignment objective, references, specifications, assessment criteria, and format. The submission process is clarified comprehensively in the electronic exam paper as well.

On the exam/assessment day, the students are asked to upload images of the projects made on an assigned folder made by the instructor on the course team. After submission and marking, each student is sent the mark in the case of formative assessments which would be discussed later in the classes upon the student's request.

Students' Achievements

It is nice to declare that selected designs made during teaching online have been showcased in two online exhibitions on the college website. These designs are part of courses taught completely online. Furthermore, a significant research contribution of an undergraduate student who started learning in the department during the pandemic in one of the international specialized conferences by presenting research conducted in one of the online delivered courses was delighting for the department. Another journal research was published in an international journal is considered another achievement that accounted for the pandemic.

With great pride, it was not hard for the ID department to manage the online teaching and learning environment since the shift to virtual classes took place. On the Contrary to what was expected that shift has created new opportunities for our department. This is for sure because of the college's well-established resources, highly skilled staff, and supported students. In the future, we plan to continue online teaching & learning to keep up with high technological updates which will be reflected positively in our graduates' attributes. We learned from COVID 19 that the more challenging teaching and learning environment we have, the more achievements we can get.

From Faculty Members Point of View on BTL



Dr. Mohamed Alnejem
Asst. Prof.
Interior Design Department

COVID19- pandemic is a major disruptor for education today. Its onset has necessitated innovations in design and delivery of teaching and learning environment with extensive technology integration.

As an Interior Design faculty member at OCMT, teaching five different courses, I must say that the pandemic has changed teaching and learning process greatly over the years and one cannot ignore the current trend towards online education. Interior Design program, for example, theoretical courses are offered that lend themselves to distance learning.

A study showed that online learning, which has many advantages in facilitating communication between students, proved to be useful and beneficial for interior design students in terms of enhancing their collaboration in the non-studio course. However, the Interior Design program relies primarily on practical courses such as design, technical, and drafting studios, which may prove more challenging to handle online.

I believe that despite these challenges, transition of practical classes to an online format during the pandemic offers a unique opportunity to examine the benefits and challenges of this educational model to students.



Dr. Gbenga Ekundayo
Asst. Prof
AFS Dept

Blended learning is the hallmark of a dynamic approach to education that encompasses the interplay between face to face and online learning experiences.

As an educator, I had embraced the emerging development and changing paradigm to get accustomed to the interface between online mode of learning and physical classroom learning. The unraveling of blended learning has been plausible due to its ability to consolidate online teaching methods with face to face into one integrated instructional material.

Consequently, it has also bolstered breakthroughs and set a precedent due to improved pedagogies with reference to the adoption of dynamic e-tools such as poll-everywhere which has brought a sensational dimension to the learning experience and has aroused the interest of the students by their ability to give constructive feedbacks on the teaching strategies deployed by their instructors.

Furthermore, the accomplishments of blended learning are immeasurable, such as redesigned courses with easily measured educational outcomes, enhanced computer literacy of students and lecturers and the reduced rates of fail, withdraw and drop out. In order to keep abreast with these developments, I hereby suggest that capacity building on trending academic practices could be considered, going forward.

Against this background, there are issues that were addressed in light of the unique attributes of the blended learning model such as the peculiarities involved in the interaction process with the students, which was ameliorated by disintegrating the students into small groups online or in person for effective learning.

From Faculty Members Point of View on BTL



Dr. Mohammad Mastan,
Asst. Prof.
CS/MIS Dept

The academic year 2021–2020 was one of the most challenging times for faculty and students. The Dean of OCMT gave the main priority to support the faculty members to use the online teaching tools that were effective and suitable for their classes. Students have been very responsive, but still there is a small percentage of students who have limited Internet access. The joint efforts from MoHERI, telecommunication operators and OCMT have provided some workable solutions for more students fortunately.

From an educational view, blended learning refers to the courses that integrate online and traditional face-to-face learning activities. It can be implemented using two approaches which are synchronous and asynchronous. Learning environment, Instruction and Media are the major components of blended learning which can be used as a model to optimize the environment of blended learning

Challenges of blended learning can be categorized into technical, organizational, and instructional design. OCMT have effectively handled them with the collective efforts of faculty, students, and administrative staff.

All challenges were handled efficiently and overcome by the OCMT strategies and the best practices of QAD through conducting seminars and workshops about the effective approaches in online teaching and learning. A new policy was developed by the QAD to provide an alternative mode of teaching and learning titled Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT), in any circumstances of study interruption at OCMT, assuring the same quality as well as the same learning outcomes and academic objectives as specified for the traditional face-to-face delivery mode.



Dr. Mohammed Shafiuddin
Asst. Prof.
AFS Dept.

The progress of any county depends upon the quality of its teacher and for this reason teaching is treated as a noblest profession among all professions. The teacher can be modified only by effective professional education and training. A teacher must have knowledge of his subject, methods and techniques of teaching and the factors which affect teaching with knowledge of student psychology. (Bruner in Instructional Technology)

Training is essential for every teacher. Trained teachers can do more than untrained teachers. Teaching is not confined to telling or imparting knowledge of subject matter to students, in wider perspective teaching aims at the all-round development of personality of student. Need for training for primary and secondary teachers has been emphasized by many countries. But nowadays a strong feeling is growing in top educationists that there should be need for training for college teachers also. All teachers should be trained, but there should not be and cannot be a specific training of teachers.

Today the need is to bring about a sophisticated and cultured generation and to accomplish this task a new type of teachers are needed. The teacher should possess many skills and competencies that make his task easy, useful and effective. He must know the techniques and procedures which should be adopted in his profession. Teacher should think about the effective performance of his duties and the important task of education for the future is to improve the intellectual and technical competence in the teaching community.

In OCMT teacher training is emphasized in the systematic way. Quality department takes leading role to arrange the training for the teaching staff. Dean encourages to take the training to development the teaching skills. Few of the online courses are made mandatory to learn. I hope OCMT is fair enough to give the opportunities to the teaching staff to learn more.



Maram Suliman Ahmed Alharthi
Third Year Student
Business Administration

Interview Excerpt:

How has your college adjusted to online learning?

Ibtisam Moshin (Computer Science major): From my point of view, the College did an incredible job switching to online learning. If I am not mistaken, the preparation was done in a short span of time. Congratulations!!!!

Salima Jabri (Business administration major): Extremely fast. Due to the amazing Technical Support as well as the IT inclined nature of the College, I think the College was able to adjust quickly. Since online platforms such as Blackboard are used and all the teachers are conversant with its usage, the adjustment was made easily.

How is the study process structured?

Bashar Saud (Computer Science major): The studies are structured a lot better than I expected. I don't really see a difference between the online and offline learning. Group work is done in breakrooms, we have allocated time slots for those discussions. When the time is over, we then join the general channel to continue the class.

Ibtisam Moshin (Computer Science major): I am generally good with IT skills; therefore, it was very helpful for me to receive clear instructions on what to do. The professors know how to use the different tools accordingly and the classes were, therefore, interactive and pleasant to attend.

Rina Nasser (General Foundation student): The exams were held online, however a couple of times we faced some issues because of the quality of internet connection and hardware used by the students. It would also be nice to have an official "video on" mode implemented by the College, in order to force every participant to switch on the video and microphone when needed. It makes the interaction livelier and more human.

What do you lack the most when studying from home?

Shahad Said (General Foundation Student): I cannot say I lack something specifically, or that the quality is worse. I can only say that I miss going to the College physically, but it is not something that is in the hands of the College

What do you lack the most when studying from home?

Shahad Said (General Foundation Student): I cannot say I lack something specifically, or that the quality is worse. I can only say that I miss going to the College physically, but it is not something that is in the hands of the College authorities.

Salim al Jabri (Business administration major): I miss the interaction with people, making long-lasting friendships, which is extremely important for me during college time. These contacts are very valuable in business later and it is absolutely necessary to build those.

Al Zahara mohammed (General Foundation Student): The fact we have to stay home affects everyone, not just me. We all need to meet up with friends, laugh and share with them, I find it healthy. But since it's done for our safety, we have no other option than to sit inside and listen to every rule that has been implemented. Of course, it's not something that we planned, it just happened, and we need to accept it.

Do you have any tips on staying efficient during the quarantine?

Ibtisam: I follow a strict plan according to my timetable. I can suggest others establishing a timetable in Excel and sticking to it as close as possible. It is important to start early in the morning around 8:30 AM.

Salim: I make a plan of all the things I need to do for the day. I put the most important things on the list. Sometimes, I try to do the least demanding tasks first so I could forget about them once I am done. For a person to be efficient with distance education, you need to plan everything you do. Know when to take a break. At home, it's hard to force yourself to take a break. That is why most of my colleagues including myself were worn-out at the beginning.

Do you think the pandemic will affect the way we learn in the future?

Bashar: I do think that education could continue to function like this in the future, according to my experience. I think that colleges and universities could transfer some lectures to the online format.

Rina: I think this pandemic will totally transform education. Most of the things we found to be impossible have now proven to be possible. Who would have thought we could have a 360-degree transformation on formal learning?

Blended learning became the new normal to various institutions such as OCMT, as they remodeled and redesigned their educational system to benefit from the current situation.

As a student at OCMT, blended learning has incorporated more than just e-learning, but also included consuming lecture content through recorded video streams along with assigning and accessing assignments, which allows lecturers to use class times for interactive work and practices such as collaborative group works and even allowing us to register to online seminars in the framework of our courses which helps us apply what we've learnt throughout the semester in various platforms.

This was an experience that is classified as a challenging one, as it was crucial for the college to keep its educational system going and to keep students engaged and motivated. In spite of that, OCMT was persistent in providing its students with a diversified learning experience that flows with ease and compatibility with our government rules regarding COVID19- and gave us a chance to explore a new learning experience with the traditional way.

As a student in OCMT experiencing blended learning, it was a great opportunity for me and my classmates to boost our academic achievements and change our learning and work perspective to the better.

There are surely challenges to face, but it's equally promising that it's a path for all OCMT students in growing, improving and expanding their learning adventure

5th IELTS Exam Preparation Course

The fifth IELTS Preparation Course by the General Foundation Department, as a part of Community Engagement, for the local community, was successfully coordinated and executed. Just like the recent batches, due to the pandemic situation, the course was carried out through a virtual platform. The course is supervised by Mr. Baiju George which started on 18th October 2021 and ended on 2nd December 2021. This was undeniably an exceptional achievement to kick off an academic year for General Foundation Department.

As opposed to the erstwhile batches, the current one had a lot of challenges and limitations. One of the apprehensions was, the new form of teaching, which is through Zoom platform. Surprisingly, the students welcomed wholeheartedly, cooperated with full effort, and responded very positively. The department was a bit vacillating about effectuating certain tasks like Speaking One on Ones and the Mock exams; however, proper planning and the selection of the suitable virtual medium really pitched in to accomplish it successfully.

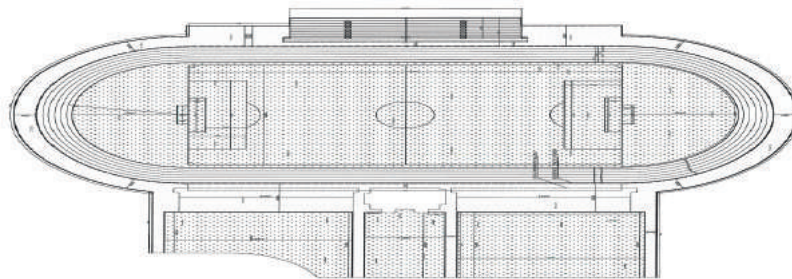
Nevertheless, there are a few facets to be buoyant. There was a mixture of nationalities (Oman, Jordan, and Morocco) in the recent batch with different accent. This, in fact, accelerated the enthusiasm and gave conducive atmosphere to share and improve one's language proficiency. As usual, the course covered all the four skills (Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing) with enough study materials both hard and soft copies. At the end of the course the students were asked to appear for a Mock exam, which included one on ones with different faculty members in the Department. Finally, on completion of the course, the department did a feedback survey and survey gave a very excellent responses about the coordination and execution of the entire programme.

Outdoor Recreational Facility Stadium

With OCMT's goal to nurture the character and attitude of the next generation and to elevate the level of entertainment and amusement at the campus, a proposal was forwarded by Student Council in the College regarding having an outdoor sports facility stadium to the College management. The project includes a football ground, running track, sports space areas, and a huge event hall to hold significant future events in the College.

The proposal was deliberately and carefully studied by the College Management in terms of the budget it may cost and the value it may contribute to the College particularly to its students.

Eventually, the project proposal was given to Leeyana Consultant Company for its design layout. Oversight by Engr. Mazin Al-Mamari and the policing administrators and the cooperation of the head of the student council, Mr. Imad Al-Rahbi, Lama Company has started handling the construction. Kudos!



OCMT Outdoor Recreational Facility Stadium

College Library Launches Preparation Course (DDS)

To overcome the obstacles, face by most of the library users, and to reach reliable information with speed and ease, especially during the current global pandemic, OCMT Library launched its new service, 'Electronic Document Delivery Service.' It aims to provide electronic copies of journal articles, conference papers, and book chapters.

The College staff and students can access this service by initially filling-in an Online Form available at the library web page, after which their requested resource/s electronically will be forwarded via email.



Spotlight: Dr. Talib Al Siyabi

Dr. Talib Alsiyabi is currently the manager of Ministry of Finance. His passion and dedication for his career gives him the opportunity and privilege of making an impact to the society.

Tell us about your experience at OCMT.

It is indeed a great privilege and opportunity to study at OCMT. Being an alumnus has opened for me the gate to success and innovation. My most personally rewarding experience is the chance to ignite and inspire by my former professors as well as the collaboration amongst everyone from the students to the accommodating College staff in general. In addition, the administration and registration staff have motivated me to continue my education to higher levels. OCMT is certainly an ideal place to learn and improve.

What are the most critical competencies you have got from OCMT?

Have numbers in mind but to cite few, I have gained the knowledge and skills that pushed my management strategies forward. It also enhanced my research and communication skills. Not to mention, autonomy in making decisions at higher levels, spirit of creativity and innovation, and most of all showing respect and building a good camaraderie amongst my students and colleagues.

How do you fit the qualifications for your current position?

My educational foundations can vouch for my qualifications to my current post. I now have the ability to direct my thoughts and apply the ideas which I gained and my years of experiences in the academe made me to being a driven professional. I also enjoy cultivating strong bonds within the workplace- which helps everyone look forward to showing up for work each day.

How did OCMT prepare you for your career?

Graduating from OCMT, I became ready to begin properly toward success in my career. The quick recognition that I have obtained and learned at OCMT prepared me to have the spirit of initiative which will serve me for a lifetime.

How do you rate OCMT's efforts to engage its Alumni?

I may sound biased in the eyes of others but looking at the arduous work and tremendous support that the College is giving to engage to its alumna, I would definitely give an outstanding grade due to its popularity and good reputation among Academic Institutions.

Based on your OCMT experience; do you recommend others to study at OCMT?



Masri Sulaiman Al Aamri
Micro Finance Department Manager
Oman Development Bank



Juma Khamis Bakhit Al Risi
Schedule and Permits Specialist
AirLine Company



Badriya Saeed Khamis Almohzoumiyah
Ministry of Interior Employee
Administrative Affairs Researcher Wali Barka Office



Badriya bint Saif bin Mubarak Al Houdar
Accountant
Oman National Engineering and Investment Company



Badriya Khalfan Abdullah Al-Yousfi
Head of Department
Financial Document Preservation, Affairs of the Catalan Court

Students' Achievements

Learnings Puzzle Piece: Students on the Job Training Experiences

Khulood Al Subhi Accounting Major

I have learned quite a number of things from my short but meaningful period of internship in the Royal Navy of Oman which helped me to grow personally and professionally. Time management is one of the areas which I realised that it is not easy but important to master.

Similarly, I learned how to compose myself when communicating with colleagues and clients. This internship also helped me to practice my patience in handling complex tasks and dealing with various moods of clients.

The entire journey was indeed a roller coaster ride however I will surely treasure all the newly acquired knowledge, skills, experiences, and wisdom throughout this journey.

Ahlam Al-Abri MIS Major

I My internship journey included simple and intricate tasks and responsibilities. Each day brought different circumstances and I had the opportunity to make decisions on my own and learned from both my successes and failures.

The internship was a worthwhile experience and I felt that it has prepared me well for my professional career. I will certainly treasure both the positive and negative aspects of my entire internship journey applying and analysing future opportunities in the real world.

Maryam Al Balushi Interior Design Major

On the Job Training is one of the highlights of my college life and the most professional experience in my degree, I must say. It provides a worthwhile and practical work-related opportunities to my chosen career.

This is also the high time to apply what I've learned inside the four corners of my classrooms, the time to test and develop my character, and the time to meet new friends and colleagues outside the College.

Personally, my most meaningful experience throughout my whole internship, I have seen how the construction of a real civil project is done, and I have understood how to translate the blueprints into blocks.

5th IELTS Result

Testing Body: IDP

Type of Test: IELTS Academic

Testing Center: Oman College of Management and Technology

Exam Date: 7th December, 2021

No	Name	Band
1	Miss. Fatma Hassan Al Khamzari	5
2	Mr. Nasser Basim Rajiboon	5
3	Miss. Fay Ibrahim Al Yahmadi	6.5
4	Miss. Luluwa Omar Al Saqtari	5.5
5	Mr. Rashid Hamdan Al Aisae	5.5
6	Miss. Taqa Mohammed Al Hosni	5.5
7	Mr. Asad Hussain Al Ajmi	5
8	Miss. Maryam Khalid Al Farsi	6
9	Miss Anisa Haitham Al Balushi	6.5

Students Co- Curricular Activities 2021

Proving to its mission of delivering wholistically competent graduates, OCMT escalates its student co-curricular activities despite the pandemic for a greater students' experience, extend the level students' engagement. At this moment crisis, in addition to provide great opportunities for the students to unleash their talents in various fields, student activities are essential in helping students to boost their mental health, to enjoy and reduce their stress with the demanding requirements of their academics.

Hajar Al Mawaali Champions Reading of the Holy Quran Competition

Out of more than 16 competitors who participated virtually, Hajar Al Mawali declared champion in this year's Reading of the Holy Quran competition, followed by Abdullah al Mawaali placing 1st and Shatha Al Haddiya getting 2nd place. The selection panel has deliberately chosen the winners guided by criteria set by the organizing committee.

This activity primarily aims to encourage the young minds to glorify and to raise more their level of awareness from reading the Holy Quran. The competition was concluded by awarding ceremony to the winners with certificates and cash prices.

Quiz Bee Competition Gathers Brightest Students

With the aim to increase the level of students' awareness on facets of culture, sports social and religion, the organising committee gathered all the smartest students to challenge the young minds in various categories of questions. In the end, The Mighty Team was declared winner followed by Durar and Al Mutasbar Team being the third.

Approximately 32 teams have applied with a total number of 85 students. The participants expressed their unsurmountable appreciation and with sweetest smile on their faces. .

GFP Spelling Bee Competition

In order to boost students' confidence and practice course vocabulary, Spelling Bee competition among GFP students was announced at the end of November and shortly after, 16 students from the three levels signed up to participate.

The first round took place on December 2021 ,6. Conference hall 107 was chosen as the venue to accommodate all the participants and their supporters. From the beginning of the competition, students from Section 1 took the lead and ultimately won the first round. Students from Section 2 were the runner-up at this stage of the competition.

To determine the winning team among all the participants, second round of the Spelling Bee competition was conducted on December 12. Throughout the competition, both teams showed great skill and knowledge. It was unclear who was going to win until the very end of the round, when Level 2 Section 2 students took the victory.

HDaily Trivia Quiz Boost Students Creativity








Daily question trivia was a blockbuster, as many as more than hundreds of students participated regularly on questions related to literature and religion.

Ten of them were selected as winners and awarded with certificates and cash prizes.



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of Management and Technology
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Courses Offered

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- +  Accounting
- +  Banking & Financial Sciences
- +  Marketing and E-Commerce
- +  Computer Science
- +  Management Information System
- +  Interior Design

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