



Celebrating Oman's 46th National Day

Preparations for the 46th National Day is underway in the Sultanate of Oman. Streets, roads, and buildings are decorated in vivid-colored flags and lights in hues of red, green and white — which are symbolically, the official colors of the Omani flag. Cars are designed with stickers of His Majesty's face and portraits, while children are dressed in costumes, sometimes with painted faces — beaming with pride and joy on such momentous event.

Festive atmosphere is felt everywhere—with cars covered in beautifully designed stickers, and stores displaying souvenirs ... *continued on page 2*

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Message from the Dean

Dear CAS Faculty and Staff,

On behalf of the CAS, I present the CAS Newsletter Issue 01 November 2016 as an initiative to keep you updated with important developments and events at the College. I hope that you find it informative.

I express my appreciation for all contributors and encourage every one to contribute articles for our next issue.

Dr. Abdullah Saif Al Tobri
College Dean



- shirts, pins, and emblems—inviting every one to take part in the celebration.

The National Day is a day when the nation pays tribute to His Majesty whose wisdom and able leadership have made Oman into a modern country that it is today—a home not only for the nationals but also for foreigners.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said was born in an ancient city in Salalah in November 18, 1940—"the bright eyes shining with good omens, carrying the glorious future of the Sultanate of Oman in his hands". His selfless, tireless efforts had brought Oman to greater heights and positioned the country as a well-respected member of the global community. (excerpts from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's Biography)

In celebration of the National Day, www.oman-qaboos.net launched the campaign, "Our Glorious November Around the World" where one can express his/her greetings to His Majesty in any 30 different languages.

From CAS Family, we congratulate Oman for its 46th National Day and may Allah continue to bless His Majesty with good health and long life., and always protect him.

Headlines

We have listed the major activities at the College of Arts and Sciences during the year 2016 ... *from page 1*



... CAS Web Portal is now version 2.0. The website was launched by H.E. the Chancellor himself in November 26, 2015 as the official website for the CAS where all College documents are available for use solely by CAS faculty and staff. Version 2.0 of the website offers more security and accessibility. Website can be accessed at <http://cis/cas>.



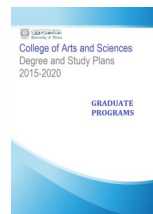
... CAS welcomes 11 new faculty and staff during the Staff Induction dated September 20, 2016 at the 5D-77, from 10:00-12:00 noon. The event was organized by the Office of the Administrative Director. This is the 3rd Induction that the CAS has conducted since 2014. Present during the event are the Dean, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, Assistant Dean for Training, Heads of Academic Department., and the Quality Assurance Officer.

The new HoDs, Dr. Saleh Al Hatali and Dr. Khalfan Al Harasi were also welcomed during the induction. Eight more faculty are expected to join the College for Fall 2016-2017.

The induction was concluded with Question and Answer followed by light refreshments.



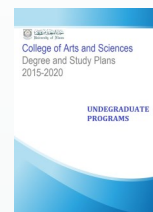
Our New Publications



The Office of the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and Research releases the Degree and Study Plans 2015-2020 for the

Graduate Programs. The major development include the addition of newly approved Masters Degrees : MSc in Instrumental Chemistry, MSc in Applied Organic Chemistry, and the MSc in Computer Science.

Likewise, the Office of the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies releases the Degree and Study Plans 2015-



2020 for Undergraduate Programs which was the result of a extensive curriculum review at the department, and college levels. One major revision in the Bachelors Programs included the addition of the MNGT100: Creativity and Innovation.



The College Executive Board releases the CAS Annual Report 2015-2016 which highlights the major achievements in the College's Strategic and Operational Plans.

All documents are accessible at the CAS Web Portal.

Headlines ... *cont'd.*

... from page 1

... CAS, through the Office of the Assistant Dean for Training, has established Advisory Board. The Board has membership of experts from the industry and the community with the objective not only of strengthening partnerships of the College with the organization but also as a vehicle for soliciting their feedback and inputs to improve the programs at the CAS. Two meetings have been conducted in 2016, and improve action plans are put in place for implementation in 2017.

CAS Advisory Board Members as per Resolution No. UoN/Chancellor/ 39/2015

Dr. Hussain Al Harthy,
CAS, Assistant Dean for Training
University of Nizwa

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Qasmi,
Ministry of Health (Chair)

Dr. Badr Humood Al Kharoosi,
Ministry of Education (Deputy Chair)

Eng. Munir Hussain Ali Al Lawai,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr. Hamed Humood Al Qassabi,
Public Establishment for Industrial
Estates

Engr. Sulieman Nassir Al Akhzami,
Ministry of Environment and Climate
Affairs

Dr. Majed Nassir Al Mahrooki,
Higher Institute for Justice

Engr. Haitham Khalfan Al Akhzami,
Ministry of Regional Municipalities and
Water Resources

... Dr. Khalfan Al Harasi makes the move to the CAS from the Foundation Institute. He is now the Head of Department for Foreign Languages. The CAS welcomes and congratulates Dr. Khalfan for joining the CAS family.

....The DMPS has a new Head of Department in the person of Dr. Saleh Al Hatali. Dr. Saleh is a Faculty in the Computer Science Section .

...Computer Science Section under the Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences introduced the Master of Science in Computer Science that has 4 fields of specializations : Data Science, Networks, Multimedia Processing and Software Engineering. The MSc program will start accepting students in Spring AY2016-2017.

...CAS congratulates the newly-appointed academic advising officers. As per Decision No. 32/2016 of the Office of the Chancellor, dated November 6, 2016, Dr. Abdullah Gilani from the Department of Biological Sciences and Chemistry, and Dr. Ahmad Alfawair from the Department of Education and Cultural Studies, are the new academic advisors of the College. Dr. Abdullah Gilani will be in charge of the Science programs at the CAS while Dr. Ahmad Alfawair will be in charge of the Arts programs. The appointment is part of the overall strategy to improve academic advising at the College and providing needed guidance for students to ensure timely completion of their degree programs .

Dean's Corner

By: Dr. Abdullah Saif Al Tobi

On CAS Vision, Mission, and Objectives

Our vision at the College of Arts and Sciences is to be the center of excellence in arts and sciences respected nationally and internationally.

We take pride in working with scholars and academicians in providing our students with needed values, knowledge, and skills – developing and honing them to be individuals who are responsive to the needs of the community and the Sultanate of Oman.

Every academic year at CAS is a journey and a demonstration of our commitment to

- Offer and maintain contemporary outcome-based programs to equip students with the required knowledge, skills and values
- Conduct and direct innovative and collaborative research and other creative activities
- Foster ethical values and responsibility among students
- Develop student' skills in the Arts and Sciences
- Build a strong community and industry relations; and provide value-added services to the society.
- Maintain a health and safe work environment to enhance productivity and quality.

In the News



By: Mrs. Hanan Mahdi, DMPS

.... IEEE University of Nizwa Student Branch, with Ms. Hanan Mahdi, IEEE Student Branch Counselor, gears up for IEEEEXTREME Programming Competition which is set on October 22, 2016. The IEEEEXTREME Programming Competition is a global yearly challenge wherein IEEE student member compete in a 24-hour time span to answer sets of programming problems.



Thirteen Nizwa university students (8 from Computer Science Section and 5 from Information System Department) took part in the IEEEExtreme competition that started on 23rd October at 4.00 am until 24th October 3.59 am. University of Nizwa participation was organized by IEEE student branch of University of Nizwa. The competition was proctored by:

Mrs. Hanan Mahdi - IEEE Student Branch Counselor, Faculty of Computer Science Section (CSS), Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (DMPS), College of Arts and Sciences;

Dr. Khizar Hayat, HoS, CSS, DMPS; with the support of the following volunteers

Dr. Ahmad Fouad Alwan, Physical Section, DMPS;

Mr. Naeem Ali Al-Shukaili, CSS, DMPS.;

Mr. Hamed Issa Al-Salmi, Center for Information System;

Other volunteers included:

Shamisa Salim Rashid Al Hakmani
Mashair Ali Ahamed
Rehab Mohamed Ibrahim Ahmed
Kenoea Hassan Mohanamed Sabra
Sara Mustafa Mohammed Tahir
Eshtiaq Abozzed Tabet Abdullah
Laila Nourain Adam



Our students that took part in this competition were very happy and impressed by the experience they had. They enjoyed the team work and working under pressure to complete their tasks. They were very proud to represent their university.

DFL Participates in PeDeX

By: Dr. Djamila Gabruck, DFL

On Thursday 29th of October, Ms. Tanja Kaschinski Taieb of the German section and Dr. Djamila Gabruck of the French section organized the Fall 2016 Pedagogical Exchange Day for French and German teachers in Oman. It was held with the support of the CAS, especially the DFL, and hosted by the Lifelong Learning Institute in Muscat.



There were about 30 participants coming from various institutions: the University of Nizwa, the German University of Technology, Sultan Qaboos University, the Franco Omani Center, the Goethe Institute, as well as teachers from the German and French pilot programs in public schools.

The main theme was technology in the classroom and participants were able to discover new ways to use commercial videos thanks to a lively presentation by Ms. Hajer Nahdi, who demonstrated how to enhance students' cultural comprehension as well as vocabulary retention. The second presentation was given by Dr. Serge Gabarre, on how to use an interactive website called Socrative. This website helps test students' knowledge in real time by getting them to answer questions using their smartphones, which have arguably become the most readily available form of technology in the classrooms today. The conference ended with a lively discussion among participants.

...CAS will hold "The First International Conference of the Department of Arabic Language", on November 28-30, 2016 at the University of Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman.

تعد سلطنة عمان مركزاً علمياً مهماً في التاريخ العربي والإسلامي، إذ رفدت الأمصار الإسلامية الأخرى، كالبحرين والكوفة والشام ومصر والأندلس وغيرها بعدد كبير من العلماء بمختلف التخصصات، فضلاً عن الرحلات العلمية المتتابة من عمان واليهما.

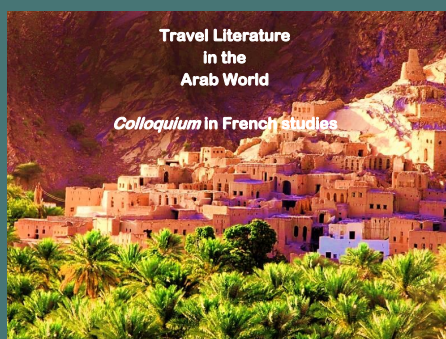
من هذه الأهمية وحرصاً من المؤسسات العلمية والأكاديمية في السلطنة على إبراز وجه عمان العلمي المشرق قديماً وحديثاً يقيم قسم اللغة العربية بكلية العلوم والآداب بجامعة نزوى مؤتمره العلمي الدولي الأول بعنوان: (الواقع اللغوي والأدبي في عمان بين المنجز والمأمول) بتاريخ ٢٨-٢٩/ نوفمبر/٢٠١٦م.

ولتسليط الضوء على تفاصيل المؤتمر ذكر لنا الدكتور عبدالله بن سيف التويي عميد كلية العلوم والآداب ورئيس اللجنة التحضيرية للمؤتمر أننا تلقينا أكثر من ثمانين بحثاً في تخصصات اللغة العربية كافة من أساتذة يمثلون ثلاث عشرة دولة عربية وأجنبية، وبعد مراجعات اخترنا أربعين بحثاً ستلقى في المؤتمر. وأضاف أيضاً أن وقائع المؤتمر ستكون على مدى يومين بواقع سبع جلسات علمية مع برنامج ترفيهي أعدته الجامعة للضيوف، ليتعرفوا على عدد من المواقع الأثرية والسياحية والتراثية في نزوى ومسقط.

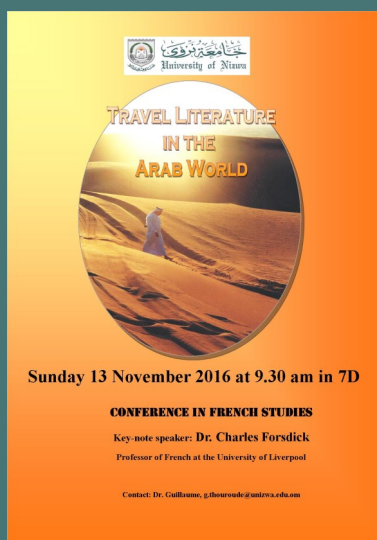
ومن جانب آخر ذكر الأستاذ الدكتور أحمد هاشم السامرائي رئيس قسم اللغة العربية ورئيس اللجنة العلمية للمؤتمر أن مؤتمراً جاء مع التوجيهات المستمرة من عمادة الكلية ورئاسة الجامعة لتنشيط الحركة العلمية في الجامعة، وهذا المؤتمر بادرة من القسم ولن تكون الأخيرة، لأن سياسة القسم العلمية مع تشجيع النشاطات العلمية.

Travel Literature in the Arab World
By: Dr. Guillaume Thouroude, DFL

French Section, Department of Foreign Languages hosts a colloquium in French Studies entitled, " Travel Literature in the Arab World", on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 2:30 pm, Room 7D. Key-note Speaker is Prof. Charles Forsdick, University of Liverpool.



This gathering is the following of a first conference organized last year by the French section, which took place in Muscat. We had the pleasure to welcome researchers from France, Abu Dhabi and Oman. It was such a success and a stimulating experience that we decided to organize a second edition within the premises of the University of Nizwa. Travelled and described by the most famous medieval explorers (Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo) yet overseen by modern orientalist, Nizwa may be the ideal place to develop a nuanced and powerful discourse on travel writing in the Middle East.



Q&A on QA

Question and Answer on Quality Assurance

By: Solane

What is Quality Assurance and Accreditation?

QA is an all-embracing term referring to an ongoing, continuous process of evaluating (assessing, monitoring, guaranteeing, maintaining, and improving) the quality of a higher education systems, institutions, or programs. There are 2 types of QA: (1) Internal QA and (2) External QA. Internal QA is intra-institutional practice in view of monitoring and improving the quality in higher education while External QA is a supra-institutional scheme of assuring the quality of HEIs and programs through Accreditation.

Accreditation is the process by which a (non-)governmental or private body evaluates the quality of a HEI as a whole or of a specific educational program in order to formally recognize it as having met certain pre-determined minimal criteria or standards. The result of this process is usually the awarding of a status (a yes/no decision) of recognition, and sometimes of a license to operate within a time-limited validity.

There are 3 types of Accreditation:

1. Institutional—refers to the accreditation of the entire institution, including all its programs, sites, and methods of delivery without any implication to the quality of the programs.
2. Regional—granted to HEI by a recognized accrediting association in a particular geographic area.
3. Specialized (or Program) - is the accreditation of individual program, applying specific standards for curriculum and course content.

The University of Nizwa is applying for Institutional Accreditation; the OAAA—Oman Academic Accreditation Authority is the accrediting body.

Upcoming Events

CAS will be conducting series of Seminars and Workshops in Arabic and English. Contact Ms. Fadhila/Ms.Widad at 5D-04, local 319 to book your department's schedules.

	SEMINAR TITLE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	RESOURCE SPEAKER	TARGET DATES
1	Academic Advising	Orientation for Academic Advisors	All Faculty	Dr. Abdullah Gilani Academic Advising Officer (Science Stream) Dr. Ahmad Alfawair Academic Advising Officer (Arts Stream)	January-February 2017
2	Academic Integrity and Plagiarism	Understanding Plagiarism and how to avoid it	All Faculty and Students	Dr. Mostafa Mansi Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies	November-December 2016
3	Action Planning	Preparing Committee and Section Action Plan	Committee Chairs	Solane Quality Assurance Office	October - November 2016
4	Benchmarking	Steps on how to conduct benchmark	All faculty	Solane, Quality Assurance Office	November-December 2016
5	Computer Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc)	Develop support staff's computer skills	Coordinators and Support Staff	Ms. Hanan Mahdi, Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences	February-March 2017
6	Consultancy Regulations and Procedures	Orient staff on consultancy regulations and opportunities to encourage them to participate in consultancy services	All Faculty	Dr. Mahmood Khalid Jasim, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and Research	February-March 2017
7	Graduate Attributes and Program Learning Outcomes	Mapping of Graduate Attributes with Program Learning Outcomes	Curriculum Committee	Solane Quality Assurance Office	November-December 2016
8	Intellectual Property Rights	The different intellectual property rights	All Faculty and Students	Solane Quality Assurance Office	November-December 2016
9	On making the most out of the CAS Website: A guide to Faculty	Orienting the faculty on the policies, procedures, guidelines, and available forms, templates, documents in the CAS website that will help them in their job	All Faculty, Newly-hired faculty	Solane, Quality Assurance Office	November 21-25, 2016 1:00-2:00 pm 5D-77
10	Research Methods and Design	Developing Junior Faculty's research capabilities	All Junior Faculty	Dr. Zakira Naureen Dr. Fazal Mabood, Department of Biological Sciences and Chemistry	February-March 2017



Upcoming Events ... *cont'd.*

	SEMINAR TITLE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	RESOURCE SPEAKER	TARGET DATES
11	Research Policies and Procedures	Orient faculty on research policies, procedures and opportunities	All Faculty	Dr. Mahmood Khalid Jasim, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and Research	February-March 2017
12	Strategic/Operational Planning/ADRI and KPIs	Preparing the Unit's Plan	All Unit Heads	Solane Quality Assurance Office	November-December 2016
13	SPSS Training	Data analysis using SPSS	Faculty/Staff involved in Data analysis	Mr. Sanjith, B., Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences	February-March 2017
14	Teaching Methodologies	Sharing of best practices in teaching	All Faculty	Dr. Osman Hassan Osman Dr. Syed Bashir Ahmed, Department of Foreign Languages	November - December 2016
15	Test Construction and Utilization	Orient faculty on how to design test questions	All Faculty	Dr. Gary Dacanay, Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences	December 2016 - January 2017
16	Work Regulations and Procedures	Orient faculty on workload regulations	All Faculty	Mr. Mousa Alriyami Administrative Director	October - November 2016



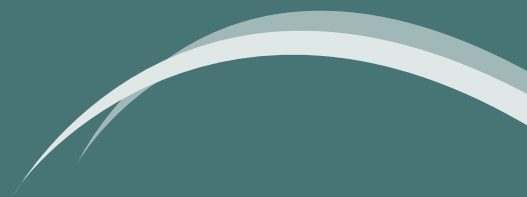
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