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# Capital University of Science and Technology Islamabad

# NEWSLETTER











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Taaruf Ullah Khaweri

While concluding the visit, Head of the

HEC team acknowledged and appreci-

ated the magnanimity of the resources, operations and management capabilities which are pretty good and synchro-

nized in order to advance the mission

and objectives of the university and

ORIC. The HEC team also appreciated



A team from Higher Education Commission, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization visited Capital

and Incubation Centers in which they interacted with the students and faculty regarding their research projects.

#### **HEC Visited CUST-ORIC for Accreditation**

University of Science and Technology, Islamabad in a response to CUST-ORIC recognition application on August 25, 2023.

On arrival, the HEC team met Dr. Mansoor Ahmed, Vice Chancellor CUST. The Vice Chancellor cogently articulated them about the University academic and administrative operations. After the meeting with Vice Chancellor, the HEC team attended a presentation session. The presentation entails CUST Academics, Statutory Bodies, Quality Management System, CUST-ORIC Policies, Operations, Achievement and Strategic Plan from 2022-2026. Director ORIC briefed about the modalities to achieve the targets which are quite align with the HEC ORIC KPIs.

After the presentation session, the HEC team visited the Research Group Labs

Thereafter, the team visited CUST-ORIC office and appraised the docu-



mentation related to Patent filing and Commercialization. The Director ORIC substantiated their queries and inquiries with relevant documents.

the efforts of management, faculty and ORIC to conduct the visit in a proficient manner.

#### Foreign Delegation Visited CUST to Discuss Erasmus Plus Digi Health Project

Under the Erasmus Plus Digi Health Project, a number of meetings were held between March 06 and 09, 2023 at NUST and CUST jointly. The teams from University of Gent, Belgium, University of Lyon, France and University of Mangolia participated remotely. Whereas

the teams from University of Northumbria, UK, University of Huddersfield, UK, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, Chaing Rai University, Thailand, attended the meeting at NUST and CUST. After the project meeting, foreign delegates were taken to a comprehensive

tour of the campus. The guests were impressed with the modern infrastructure and state-of-the-art equipment that is available to students in labs. The foreign guests left with a positive impression of the university.





#### TREE PLANTATION DRIVE

Association of Civil Engineers, in collaboration with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Capital Chapter and Directorate of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) conducted a tree plantation drive on World Water Day 2023 with an aim to promote environmental sustainability and addressing various ecological challenges. Such initiatives involve the deliberate planting and nurturing of trees in designated areas to restore and enhance the natural environment. Students and faculty

Association of Civil Engineers, in collaboration with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Capital Chapter and Directorate of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), successfully conducted a cycling event to promote cycling culture, fitness, sustainable transportation, and raising awareness about the benefits of cycling. The event attracted cycling enthusiasts including students from various departments and participants of all ages who came together to celebrate the joy of cycling and advocate for a healthier and more environmentally friendly lifestyle. A wellplanned cycling route was organized, taking into consideration safety, scenic views, and convenience for participants aspects. Participants embarked on the



cycling journey, enjoying the camaraderie and the thrill of riding together. The

from different departments had participated. Tree plantation drive was mainly done in university ground. Participants, equipped with shovels and gloves were actively engaged in the tree planting process. They followed proper planting techniques, including digging appropriate-sized pits, placing the saplings in the pits, and backfilling the soil while ensuring proper alignment and firmness. Experts and volunteers provided guidance and assistance to ensure that correct planting methods were employed. Once the saplings were planted, participants diligently watered the newly planted trees.

positions for the winners were also announced.

#### **EVENT FOR THE PROMOTION OF CYCLING CULTURE**





# VIS Directorate organized First Aid Training

On January 05 and 06, 2023 the VIS Directorate at CUST orchestrated a thorough two-day first aid training program in collaboration with the esteemed Pakistan Red Crescent Society. In a proactive endeavor to enhance safety awareness, the training initiative was ignited by requests from Faculty of Pharmacy and Department of Mechanical Engineering. The sessions aimed to equip participants with essential First Aid skills, reflecting the commitment of the university towards fostering a prepared and secure environment.



#### MoU Signing Ceremony between CUST and NIH, Islamabad

A delegation from Capital University of Science & Technology, Islamabad visited National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad on September 15, 2023 to sign an MOU. The delegation had a productive discussion on industry academia linkages to formalize collaboration between CUST and NIH and to make it more sustainable.

Both parties showed keen interest to collaborate in the areas of mutual interest and to facilitate each other in Students Internships, R&D Projects, Labs and Testing Facilities, Vaccination Development and Advances in Diagnostic Techniques. It was also highlighted that both parties will collaborate and discover the opportunities for the Commercialization

of Technology with a greater sense of commitment and responsiveness. In the concluding remarks both parties expressed that the signing ceremony is a valuable step in advancing our mutual goals, provision of synergistic solutions that add value to the healthcare system in Pakistan and its readiness to respond health challenges.



#### Awareness Seminar on 'Study in Germany'

ELIC conducted a seminar on 'Pakistan to Germany Studies' was held on February 28, 2023. The seminar aimed to inform students about studying in Germany, including admission, visa, and living expenses. It attracted many students from various departments. Major General Shaukat, Head of P2GS organization, conducted the seminar, providing an overview of German high-



er education and opportunities for Pakistani students. The engaged audience asked insightful questions during the event, gaining insights into the challenges and opportunities for Pakistani students studying in Germany. It emphasized the importance of language skills and financial support for student success.

#### Secours Islamique France (SIF) Visits CUST

A delegation from Secours Islamique France (SIF) led by Dr. Altaf Abro, Head of Mission SIF, visited Capital University of Science and Technology, Islamabad on May 26, 2023. The meeting team from CUST included Dr Sahar Fazal, Dean FHLS, Dr. M. Kamran Nagi Khan, Director ORIC, Dr. Amir Qayyum, Director ELIC, Dr. Sabahat Haggani, HoD Psychology, Mr. Jahanzeb Sarwar, Manager (I&C), ORIC, Mr. M. Raheel Anjum Manager (RM), ORIC. Secours Islamique France (SIF) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) of international solidarity with a social and humanitarian vocation acting in the fields of humanitarian assistance and development aid, in France and around the world.

The meeting started with the brief introduction of the university and the faculty members regarding their educational profiles and research expertise presented by Director ELIC, Prof. Amir Qayyum. This was followed by corresponding introduction by Dr. Altaf Abro about SIF. He apprised CUST team about SIF major working domains like Water, Hygiene and Sanitation; Education and Child Protection, Orphan Sponsorship; Shelter and Rehabilitation; Food

Security; Sustainable Reintegration;

Advocacy actions with Decision-makers/Institutions etc.

After the brief introduction, the forum was opened for formal discussion. A number of key points/potential working



areas were conversed in detail which included, Students Sponsorships/Internships, Psychology Students Placements, Human Resource Development and MS/PhD Projects.

Both parties took keen interest to collaborate in the areas of mutual interest as highlighted above. The SIF Officials invited CUST faculty members and ORIC Team to visit SIF and present their research expertise, success stories and areas of mutual interest to explore collaboration prospects. The guests were acknowledged for their valuable time and interactive session.

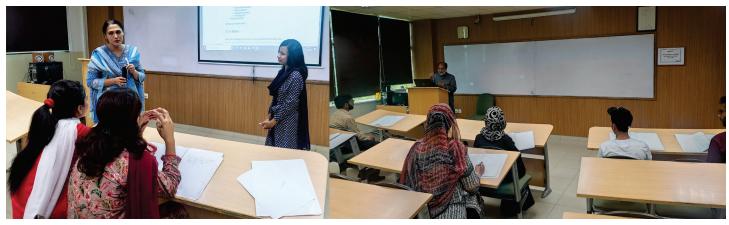


#### **Department of English organized a Certificate Distribution Ceremony**

The Department of English recently concluded its four-week Summer English School program, focusing on intensive IELTS preparation and dy-

activities, including interactive discussions, and activity-based content led to improved fluency and communication. The students provided positive

program. Dr. Hashim and Ms. Faiza encouraged the students and motivated them to further excel in their courses by practically applying them in their



namic speaking courses. The SES concluded with a closing ceremony on August 25, 2023 in which certificates were awarded to the students and faculty. This innovative initiative aimed to enhance participants' language skills and boost their confidence. The program's success was evident through participants' remarkable progress in IELTS practice test scores. Engaging

feedback on their learning and understanding of the courses as these courses have improved their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Dr. Umar Farooq, HoD, encouraged the students and congratulated them on the successful completion of their course. Dr. Zaigham, in charge of SES and instructor of IELTS, gave a comprehensive overview of the four-week

daily endeavors. With overwhelmingly positive feedback, this immersive program stands as a testament to the department's dedication to language proficiency, delivering impactful educational experiences, and nurturing a global community of confident English speakers.

Faculty of Computing organized 8th ExclTe Cup on May 27, 2023. The event

Hackathon. The event happened to be a massive opportunity for the students

#### **Faculty of Computing Organized 8th ExcITe Cup-2023**

offered seven competitions, including: On-Spot Programming, Software Project Exhibition, Quiz, E-Gaming, Table Tennis, On-Spot Poster Design and who wanted to showcase their skills and ingenuity. Around eighty-seven teams from ten different universities of Pakistan comprising of 250+ students from

all over the country such as Wah Cantt, Kahuta, Rawalpindi and Islamabad registered themselves for different competitions. Cash prizes, and shields were awarded to the winning teams. CUST bestowed the cash prizes of around Rs. 250,000 to the position holders. One distinctive feature of Excite Cup was to award IT-Cup to university winning maximum number of competitions.





#### Awareness Walk on 'SDG-12: Sustainable Consumption and Production'

Department of Accounting & Finance organized an awareness walk on 'SDG-12: Sustainable Consumption and Pro-

regarding SDGs and their importance in academics. Sustainable consumption is the use of products and services in



duction' on June 6, 2023. The purpose was to raise awareness among students

ways that minimize the harmful impacts on the environment in order to meet

not only existing human needs but also for the future generations. Sustainable consumption and production refer to the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources, release of toxic materials and the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of a service or product.

Different colorful posters and banners were made by the students of Accounting & Finance conveying the message on SDGs and awareness on how to ensure sustainable consumption and production pattern, save the resources, act responsible, conserve the goods, reduce, reuse and recycle and planation drive.

work, incorporating proper grammar, punctuation, and formatting. Overall, the workshop provided valuable in-

## Training Workshop on Professional Writing Skills

The Department of English organized a comprehensive five-day training workshop on Professional Writing Skills from August 07, 2023 to August 11, 2023 for the university's academic officers and staff, led by the proficient trainer, Ms. Asma Naz. The workshop was successfully conducted with the aim of enhancing participants' written communication abilities. Over the course of the workshop, participants engaged in a series of interactive sessions focused on key aspects of effective writing, including clarity, coherence, conciseness, and appropriate tone. Practical exercises, real-life examples, and hands-on ac-

Department of Psychology organized a seminar on Psychopreneurship on March 23, 2023 Ms. Rabia Umar and Ms. Mehreen Aftab organized the semtivities were employed to reinforce the concepts discussed. The workshop facilitated skill development in various



forms of written communication, such as emails, memos, reports, and official documents. Participants actively practiced revising and editing their written

sure of industry and practical field. The session began with a welcome note by Ms. Mehreen Aftab. The Guest speaker shared extensive knowledge regarding sights and practical tools to improve participants' professional writing skills, enabling them to communicate more effectively in their respective roles.

working environments were equally emphasized. The seminar concluded with a question answer session and vote of thanks.

# Department of Psychology Organized a Seminar on Psychopreneurship

inar. Ms. Nigar Noor, a versatile and experienced academic expert on Special and Early Education, was the guest speaker. The main objective of the event was to bring in experts of psychology domain and give students an expo-

the topic and emphasized on getting knowledge, skills and the social perceptiveness to become an educational psychologist in Pakistan. In addition, tolerance, comprehension skills and the need to adept to different methods and





#### Symposium on 'Contemporary Trends in Psychology'

Department of Psychology organized a symposium on 'Contemporary Trends in Psychology' on March 01, 2023. Ms. Sadaf Zeb and Ms. Aysha Aneeg were the event organizers whereas, Eminent and versatile experts including Dr. Rubina Hanif, Director NIP, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad; Dr. Sajida Naz, Associate Professor, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi; Dr. Saima Kalsoom, Asst. Professor, Bahria University, and Dr. Rayna Sadia Asst. Professor, Rawalpindi Women University were among the guest speakers. The session began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and a welcome note by Pro-

fessor Dr. Muhammad Umar Farooq, Head of the English Department.



Dr. Sajida Naz talked about post-COVID trends in Psychology and how we have

grown personally and professionally after this immense change in lifestyle. Dr. Rubina Hanif focused on the concept of digital era and psychological challenges. Dr. Saima Kalsoom mainly highlighted the advancements in organizational Psychology. Dr. Rayna Sadia made the session very interactive by bringing in a quite new and interesting topic of Traffic Psychology. The presenters enthusiastically replied to all the questions raised in question answer session. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sabahat Haggani and distribution of souvenirs among the guests by Professor Dr. Muhammad Umar Faroog.

#### **Blood Donation Camp**

VIS Directorate-CUST, in collaboration with Jamila Sultana Foundation, organized a blood donation camp. Managed by Mr. Naeem Saud and Mr. Nouman, the event had an extensive participation from students and faculty members. The camp recorded seventy-five blood donations and one hundred and forty CP performances, with volunteerism playing a crucial role. The efforts were acknowledged by Jamila Sultana Foun-



dation, extending gratitude to the donors, the Vice Chancellor, the Director of Student Affairs, VIS-CUST team, and all supporters for their contribution to this noble cause.

## Seminar on 'Devaluation of Currency in Pakistan'

A seminar entitled 'Devaluation of Cur-

rency' was organized by the Department of Management Sciences on May 26, 2023. Mr. Jawad Ahmed Khan, ACA, Director Nadra was the guest speaker. The seminar aimed to shed light and raise awareness on the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to the ongoing issue of currency devaluation in Pakistan. Devaluation is the deliberate downward adjustment of a country's currency value. In the current scenario trade imbalance, political instability, inflation, interest rates, debt burden, and a lack of foreign investment are the main reasons of devalue of currency.

The event concluded with a souvenir presentation to the guest speaker by Dr. Lakhi and Ms. Javeria Khalid.



# Seminar on Latest Trends in Organizational Behavior and Importance of Emotional Labor

The seminar entitled "Latest Trends in Organizational Behavior and Importance of Emotional Labor" was organized on June 08, 2023 under Ms. Maria Mashkoor's supervision. The objective of the seminar was to make the graduating students aware of the latest trends in organizational behavior that are changing the working landscape. The guest speaker was Dr. Noreen Akhter, the Deputy Director, Senior Psychologist at the Centre for Counseling and Career Advisory (C3A), NUST. In her talk she highlighted five latest trends in organizational behavior impacting the working landscape, and how being aware of those can help organizations stay at the top of the game and ensure meaningful change progress. She also highlighted the impact of machine learning and Artificial Intelligence in reshaping organizational learning. She also emphasized that students need to develop the ability to quickly adapt to and apply new information. She further added that to achieve organizational learning it is important for the decision-makers to adopt a facilitator mindset, rather than policing only. Furthermore, she educated students regarding the concept of emotional labor and how it can take a toll on one's mental and physical health. It involves controlling one's feelings, expressions, and reactions to meet the expectations of others or conform to societal norms. The seminar was followed by question answer session and souvenir presentation to the guest speaker.



#### The Department of Psychology Arranged an Industrial Trip to Shifa International Hospital

The Department of Psychology arranged an industrial trip to Shifa Neurosciences Institute, Shifa International Hospital, Islamabad on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. The visit was arranged for BS Psychology students to provide them an exposure to child assessment and psychotherapy. Neurosciences Institute is committed to restore patient's physical, sensory, communication and cognitive capabilities that might lose due to severe injury, illness or disease. The resource person, Ms. Sadaf Arif provided an overview of the patient services that institute provides which include physical therapy, speech pathology/therapy, and occupational as well as behavioural therapy. Ms. Sadaf along with her team highlighted vari-

ous management techniques of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) which is basically a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interdepartment. Students asked relevant questions during the information session, gave positive feedback and suggested to organize such visits in the fu-



act with others, learn and behave. In addition, each section head provided a detailed working mechanism of their

ture as well. Overall, it was a productive visit and proved to be a great source of knowledge for all.

#### Seminar on 'Comparing Islamic Banking & Conventional Banking: Key Features & Differences'

On May 26, 2023, the Department of Accounting & Finance, under Ms. Rabia Habib's supervision, took an initiative to host a seminar on "Comparing Is-

attracting the eager audience interested in understanding the fundamental distinctions between these two banking systems. Mr. Usama Ehsan, a re-

conventional banking made him an ideal speaker to shed light on this critical subject.

Mr. Usama Ehsan provided a comprehensive overview of the principles and practices that underpin Islamic banking and compared them with those of the conventional banking. The seminar was an opportunity for the participants to deepen their conceptual understanding of the two banking systems and equip themselves with the valuable knowledge that would help them excel in their academic pursuits and professional careers. The seminar also served as a testament to the institution's commitment to promoting academic excellence and providing community with access to valuable industry insights.



lamic Banking & Conventional Banking: Key Features & the Differences." The event was orchestrated with precision. spected member of the Shariah Board at Bank Alfalah Limited led the seminar. His expertise in Islamic finance and

#### SPELL organized a speaking activity entitled 'Fearless Faces'

SPELL (Students' Panel of English Literature and Linguistics) organized an event entitled 'Fearless Faces' which aimed at encouraging individuals to confront their fears. The event was held on March 17, 2023. A number of participants took part in the public speaking activity and spoke candidly about their fears. The event was graced by the presence of the esteemed patron of SPELL, Ms. Asma Qandeel and the chief guest, Dr. Saqib Zaigham. The participants demonstrated tremendous

courage and resilience as they shared their personal experiences of facing their fears. Their speeches were filled with inspiration and motivation, encouraging the audience to take on their fears and overcome them.





#### Department of English organised a symposium on 'Imagination, Creativity, and Representation'

Faculty Development Team, Department of English, Capital University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, organised a symposium on English studies under the theme 'Imagination, Creativity, and Representation' on May 09, 2023. Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Lahore School of Economics, Lahore; Prof. Dr. Sarwet Rasul, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, FJWU, Rawalpindi; Dr. Munazzah Ya-

qoob, Associate Professor, IIUI; Dr. Muhammad Kamal Khan, Associate Professor, AIOU, Islamabad, honoured the occasion with their insightful talk. The keynote speakers presented their views on the importance of Literature, Linguistics, Research, and English Language Teaching. Furthermore, different social and academic issues were highlighted by the presenters, and how to cope and possibly resolve these issues. Students

and teachers from different institutions/ universities participated and appreciated the diversified themes. They made the event a success via questions and answers session at the end. The symposium lasted for two and a half hours, and Head of English Department, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Umar Farooq concluded the event with a note of thanks, and awarded shields to the keynote speakers as a token of appreciation.



#### **CALC Organized a Certificate Distribution Ceremony**

The Capital Arts and Literary Club recently marked the end of its successful annual tenure with a grand Certificate Distribution Ceremony. This event served as a celebration of the club's achievements and a recognition of the efforts made by its members throughout their tenure. The ceremony, held on June 15, 2023, was a momentous occasion where certificates were awarded to the Executive Council, General Body members, and participants of various events organised by the club. Certificates were awarded to all the participants who actively took part in the various events organised by the society in order to recognize their skills, creativity, and enthusiasm. The club organised a wide range of events over its tenure, providing a platform for students to showcase their talents and engage in meaningful artistic and literary pursuits. Among the notable events were the Water Conservation Day Painting Competition, where students demonstrated their artistic abilities while raising awareness about the importance of water conservation. Additionally, the Kashmir Day Declamation Competition provided a platform for



students to express their opinions on the issue of Kashmir through impactful

speeches.

The Capital Arts and Literary Club fostered an environment for critical thinking and intellectual discussions through their Critical Discourse Circles. These sessions allowed participants to engage in thoughtful debates on various topics, honing their analytical and communication skills. Certificates were awarded to the members who actively participated in these circles, recognizing their commitment to intellectual growth and their ability to engage in constructive dialogues.

The club also had the privilege of sending delegations to prestigious events such as Model United Nations conferences and the National Literary Festival. These delegations represented the university and showcased the talent and intellectual prowess of the Capital Arts and Literary Club members. Certificates were presented to the delegation members, acknowledging their outstanding representation and their contribution to the university's reputation in these events.



#### **SPELL arranged a Speed Scribing Showdown**

SPELL (Students' Panel of English Literature and Linguistics) organized a fun and creative storytelling session on March 10, 2023 wherein participants were challenged to write a short story in thirty minutes. The event was hosted by the Chairperson of SPELL, Qurat ul Ain Fatima, and was attended by special guests Dr. Saqib Zaigham, Ms. Uzma Arshad, and the Patron in Chief of

SPELL, Ms. Asma Qandeel. The event was a fast-paced session where participants were encouraged to unleash their inner writer and let their imaginations run wild. The host guided the participants about the rules. They were given a prompt and had to write a short story in just thirty minutes. The prompt was: 'You're a dragon who has been tormenting the town of Goldenburg for years

but now there's competition. "No one can terrorize these people but me," you think'.



#### **Anti-Corruption Activities in Educational Institutions**

Members from ELIC and CSO visited NAB on May 11, 2023. The meeting aimed to explore NAB's collaboration

Ms. Ameena Saeed, Manager ELIC, and Mr. Badar Abbas, Manager CSO participated in this meeting. Mr. Fahim

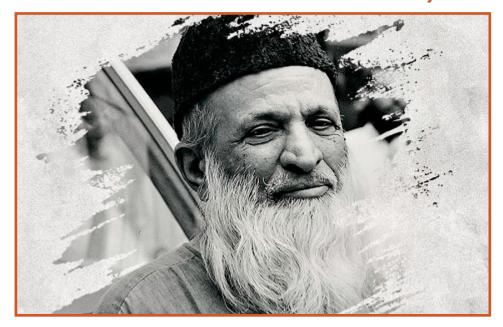


with various universities. Representatives from a number of universities participated in the discussion. From CUST Qureshi, Additional Director at NAB, initiated the discussion by highlighting the need to utilize university platforms for

this purpose. The main agenda focused on conducting seminars on crime and corruption in universities, incorporating NAB slogans and messages during university events, and addressing the issue of fake news on social media platforms. NAB expressed its willingness to collaborate with universities in conducting awareness-raising seminars, webinars, and related events. NAB also proposed organizing a logo competition within universities, involving students in creating logos aligned with NAB's preamble. It was recommended that universities support NAB by conducting surveys to assess students' perception and gather improvement suggestions. Creating visual ads following NAB's preamble was proposed by CUST. In conclusion, the meeting facilitated constructive discussions on enhancing NAB's image and collaboration with universities.

#### Faculty of Pharmacy Organized Tribute Hour for Great Social Workers of the History/Globe

Social Welfare Club, under the supervision of Faculty of Pharmacy, organized 'Tribute Hour' to commemorate the services of some big names of history in the current era that have served humanity in various ways, rendering their lives for the said mission. The activity entitled 'Tribute Hour for Social Worker' was held on February 27,2023. The event was designed to educate and spread awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles, human rights, gender equality and promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence. Members and executives presented the services of Mother Teresa, Mam Ruth Pfau, Sir Abdul Sattar Edhi, Shehzad Roy, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Sagib and many others.





#### Career Counseling Session at Fazaia Inter College Nur Khan

Department of Bioinformatics & Biosciences, organized a Career Counseling Session at Fazaia Inter College Nur Khan on March 09, 2023. Career counseling provides students with both decision-making skills and the knowledge needed for future career and life choices. Mr. Muhammad Ammar and Ms. Rafia Shakeel, Students of department of bioinformatics and biosciences, delivered the session. More than 150 students of Fazaia Inter College participated in this session.

Mr. Muhammad Ammar and Ms. Ra-

fia Shakeel discussed various career paths available in the health sciences field, including medical professions, nursing, public health, and allied health professions. They also highlighted the required educational qualifications and experience for each career path, as well as the job outlook and potential earnings. The counselors also provided guidance on tailoring resumes, networking, and job searching strategies. The principal of FIC Nur Khan highly appreciated this session, then a souvenir was presented to Dr. Erum Dilshad

on behalf of Department of Bioinformatics & Biosciences CUST.



#### **Interactive Seminar on Bio-Entrepreneurship**

Department of Bioinformatics & Biosciences organized an interactive seminar on 'Bio-Entrepreneurship' on March 10, 2023. Bio-entrepreneurship is the integration of biological information with business domains. It is the flow of biological knowledge and academic innovations to business and industry for the development of viable products and services. Dr. Ibrar Ahmed, CEO Alpha Genomics, was invited as a speaker to deliver lecture under the light of his broad experience. He is an expert in genomics, molecular evolution, plant molecular biology and next generation sequencing.

The purpose of the seminar was to guide and aware the participants with the most updated knowledge about Bio-entrepreneurship, its scope, potential and opportunities. The seminar was organized by Dr. Sania Riaz for the

students of MS and PhD Biosciences. Closing remarks were given by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sahar Fazal, Dean Department of Bioinformatics & Biosciences, who then presented the souvenir to the guest.



#### **Seminar on Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) by Strive Trust**

A Seminar on Treatment and Awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) was held on March 21, 2023 by Strive

genetic disorder that affects the muscles and causes progressive weakness. Dr. Muzaffar Abbas, Dean Faculty of



Trust, an oldest partner of VIS. It was a great opportunity to raise awareness and educate students about this rare Pharmacy, along with his faculty members and team of VIS Directorate were also a part of the seminar and a large number of students attended it.

The seminar commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran and introductory speeches by Mr. Shabib Khan, a physiotherapist and volunteer of Strive Trust and Mr. Makhzan Ijaz, the student body president by Strive Trust. Later on, the Chairman of Strive Trust, Mr. Yasir Khan, was invited to give a talk on SMA. Mr. Khan, who is also a patient of SMA, briefly introduced Strive Trust, SMA, medicine of SMA, availability of this medicine in Pakistan and price of the medicine. Dr. Muzaffar Abbas, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Yasir Khan and his team for visiting CUST and conducting an informative seminar. He also thanked the Manager of VIS for successfully organizing the seminar.

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#### **Occupational Health and Safety Workshop**

The Department of Bioinformatics and Biosciences organized an Occupational Health and Safety training workshop on August 07, 2023 under the supervision of Dr. Erum Dilshad. Dr. Tahira Shahid, was the guest speaker, who is a public health expert, with extensive experience in the health profession, and is also radio and TV Broadcaster. She is also a motivational speaker, and an entrepreneur.

She started her talk by introducing the

relevance of occupational health to her expertise. She discussed different terminologies of occupational health and various issues faced by people in academia as occupational health threats and how to handle them. She described various threats to academia that can lead to permanent damage to the careers of academicians to be aware of them. She also described strategies that must be opted for dealing with such issues. At the end of the talk, Dr. Tahira

Shahid was presented a souvenir.



#### One-day Hands on Training on Capacity Building for Biosafety Practices

Department of Bioinformatics & Biosciences organized a one-day hands on training on Capacity Building for BioPakistan biological Safety education, a health professional and educationist. This workshop was based on the objec-



safety Practices on March 08, 2023. Dr. Shehryar Ahmed and Dr. Sajjad Ahmed were the instructors for this workshop. Dr. Sajjad Ahmed is the founder of PDRL, Senior Lab Technologist in CDC. Dr. Shehryar Ahmed, is the member of

tives to be achieved regarding biosafety practices. This was done to help the students, the lab technicians, researchers of masters and PhD levels to acquire the basic knowledge which seems basic yet crucial to be practiced and build-

ing capacity on such practices.

Dr. Sajjad Ahmed delivered a detailed talk on waste management, followed by an activity where participants addressed improvised emergency situations by applying their prior knowledge and sharing opinions. The purpose of the workshop was to equip participants with the most updated knowledge about Capacity Building for Biosafety Practices. The workshop was organized by Dr. Arshia Amin Butt for the students, researchers and lab technicians from all over Islamabad. Closing remarks were given by our Chief Guest Dr. Sahar Fazal, Dean Faculty of health and life Sciences, and presented the souvenir to the guest.

#### Career Counseling Session at Fazaia Inter College Nur Khan

Cultural Day was organized on March 22, 2023 to celebrate the diversity and richness of cultures from around the Pakistan. The event aimed to promote cultural understanding and appreciation among students and to celebrate

Pakistan Day. Event activities included a vibrant and colorful affair, featuring different culture representations. The celebration of Cultural Day was a great success, and it provided students with an opportunity to learn, reflect, and engage in meaningful activities that promotes our rich culture. The event received positive feedback from the participants, who appreciated the diversity and richness of the activities.





#### Faculty of Pharmacy Organized an Activity Entitled 'Every Drop Counts, Save The Water-Save The World'

Pharma Spark Society, Faculty of Pharmacy organized an activity on March 22, 2023 entitled, 'Every Drop Counts, Save the Water - Save the World' on World Water Day to raise awareness regarding the importance of freshwater and inspire actions to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. The primary goal of this activity was to motivate people

to become more knowledgeable about global water challenges and to take appropriate action to make a difference.

The event initiated with a 10-min walk across the campus with cutouts. It was followed by a group photo posed with cutouts/posters. The event was well attended by reputable faculty members, Dr. Nadia Shamshad, Miss. Nitasha

Gauhar, Dr. Muzaffar Abbas, Head, Faculty of Pharmacy, and Dr. Ishtiaq Hassan, Director DSE-CUST. Videography during the event gathered students' perspectives on water's significance. All the participants received heartfelt thanks for their contributions in raising public awareness about water's importance.



#### **GENIX Society Celebrated WORLD LAUGHTER DAY**

GENIX Society-Personality Grooming Club, Department of Bioinformatics & Biosciences organized a World laughter day program on May, 26 2023. The program commenced with Muhamad Tayyab, a first-semester student, taking anecdotes, setting a cheerful tone for the event. After Tayyab's performance, second-semester student Abid Ur Rahman took the stage to share his humorous writing with the audience. Rahman's funny jokes and clever wordplay



the stage to perform his stand-up comedy act. He captivated the audience with his witty remarks and humorous delighted everyone, evoking laughter from all around. Abdullah Aziz and Abdullah Faiz, two talented individuals, showcased their impeccable acting and comedic timing in a one-act play, leaving the audience in splits. They further entertained by mimicking various personalities, demonstrating versatility and talent. To enhance the event's charm, senior students were invited to exhibit their unique talents, each adding their brand of laughter and amusement, showcasing creativity and enhancing the program's enjoyment.

As the program approaches its end, the host took the stage and concluded with a delightful poetry recitation, bringing smiles to everyone. The GENIX World Laughter Day program succeeded in its objective of spreading laughter, joy, and camaraderie among the attendees. The event served as a testament to the talent and creativity of the students, leaving a lasting impression on all those present.

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#### **AWARENESS WALK: WORLD WATER DAY AND TREE PLANTATION**

Department of Civil Engineering, in collaboration with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Capital Chapter and Directorate of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), arranged an awareness walk on World Water Day and Tree Plantation 2023 with the aim of raising awareness regarding impor-

tance of planting tree, environmental conservation, and sustainable practices. Students and faculty from different departments participated in the walk. Participants started walk, carrying banners, placards, and signs with slogans promoting tree plantation and environmental conservation, the participants

marched through designated routes in the University. The walk aimed to grab the attention of bystanders, spreading the message and raising awareness about the significance of tree plantation and world water day for a healthier ecosystem.

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# Educational and Recreational Trip to Islamabad Wild Life Management Board

On May 27, 2023, the Sports and Adventure Club of Genix Society organized a trip to Islamabad Wildlife Man-

Ullah Jan. Around 50 students went on the trip. WMB officers delivered a detailed lecture on the biodiversity of



agement Board (IWMB). Club Leader, Anisa Tariq directed the trip under the supervision of Senior Lecturer Mr. Sami animals in Margalla Hills National Park and their environmental significance. They also accompanied the students on hiking at Trail 5, Islamabad and discussed the diversity of plants and animals found there. Margalla Hills National Park boasts remarkable biodiversity, with a rich variety of plant and animal species in its lush forests, meandering rivers, and streams. It serves as a sanctuary for endangered and rare species, highlighting the significance of biodiversity in its natural setting

After an informative session and adventurous hours of hiking, students had lunch and headed to Lake View Park. They visited Birds Villa and observed various bird species. The trip ended in the evening, leaving students with valuable knowledge about biodiversity in Pakistan and research prospects for future scientists. They eagerly anticipated more such educational and adventurous trips in the future.

Department of Civil Engineering arranged a Site Visit

Civil Engineering department arranged a site visit for its students on May 29, 2023. It was related to their Construction Engineering course topic 'Excavation and Construction for Sub-structure'. Site visits provide students with an opportunity to witness the real-life application of the theories and principles they learn in the engineering classroom. It also helps them bridge the gap between theory and practice, enhancing their overall understanding of the subject. The vis-

it site was a new block construction in Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), G-5/2, Islamabad. The site in-charge Engr. Nauman explained the on-going project and its important aspects. After the initial briefing, students were asked to visit around the building and note all the important points related to the topic. A detailed visit of building was also arranged under the supervision of course instructors and site in-charge. Psychomotor part of the experiment was also

performed by the students and evaluated by the respective instructors.





#### CUST Unveils the Power of Volunteerism: A Recap of the VIS Orientation Sessions 2023

The Directorate of Volunteer in Service (VIS) of Capital University of Science and Technology keeps the flame of tradition alive by hosting another captivating VIS orientation session for more than 700 students. This transformative event brings together passionate individuals dedicated to make a positive impact on their communities. The

pre-departure orientation session was held on June and July 2023. The orientation began with the recitation of Holy Quran. The VIS Directorate explained aims and objectives of VIS community service program and instructed on how to fulfill the requirements of this activity. The Directorate placed all students in forty-three different partner organiza-

tions all over Pakistan in Spring-2023 and Summer-2023. Each organization offered students an opportunity to contribute their time and efforts towards meaningful activities. This diverse engagement aligns with the university commitment to fostering a culture of volunteerism and community service among its students.

#### **MoU between CUST and International Research Force**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ceremony was held on February 23, 2023 between Department of Psychology and International Research Force (IRF), Islamabad. Ms. Rabia Batool was the event organizer. Dr. Sabahat Haqqani, HoD Psychology welcomed the honourable guests Syed Yahya Sheraz, CEO, Dr Hana Mehmood, Director and Ms. Saman Mujeeb, Group Manager. The aim of the MoU was to bridge the gap between academia and industry. In order to work professionally both the parties agreed to mutual collaborations on designing and conducting research in public healthcare,

internship placement opportunities for psychology graduates, launch commu-

nity engagement programmes, and conduct workshops, seminars, and training. Dr. Sabahat Haqqani, HoD Psychology, and Mr. Syed Yahya Sheraz, CEO of IRF signed the MoU.



#### **MOU Signing between CUST and Pehchaan Clinic**

Department of Psychology and Pehchaan Clinic, Islamabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 24, 2023. Dr. Sabahat Haqqani, HoD Psychology Department welcomed Ms. Tahira Javed, the CEO and Head Psychology- Pehchaan Clinic. The aim of MoU is to bridge the gap between ac-

ademia and industry. In order to work professionally, both parties agreed to collaborate on internship placement opportunities for our graduates, launch community engagement programmes, conduct workshops, seminars and the trainings. Dr. Sabahat Haqqani and Ms. Tahira Javaid signed the MoU.



#### Pharma Spark Society Celebrated

#### **Character Day**

Character day was organized on March 19, 2023 to provide an opportunity to promote positive character traits and values, which are essential for personal and professional success. By highlighting the importance of qualities such as honesty, respect, and responsibility, Character Day helped to see these values among students and encouraged them to adopt these traits in their daily lives. The celebration of Character Day was a great success, and it provided students with an opportunity to learn, reflect, and engage in meaningful activities that promote character development. The event received positive feedback from the participants, who appreciated the diversity and richness of the activities.

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#### **Certificate distribution Ceremony for VIS-CUST Students**

VIS directorate requested its forty-five different partner organizations to hold closing ceremonies, wherein more than 700 CUST student volunteers were placed. The closing ceremonies were held in Al-Khidmat Aghosh Homes, Pakistan Girl Guide Association (PGGA), Special Education, The NGO World, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) and various other organizations.



CUST frequently organizes visits to various organizations with the intention of fostering collaboration and partnership. These visits serve as a pivotal opportu-

Dr. Naveen Falak briefed them on association activities. It was decided that ten students from each semester will join Behbud, engaging in social work,

#### **VIS CUST - Exploring Collaborative Opportunities**

nity for the university to establish connections. Following this trend, Deputy Director VIS visited Behbud Association of Pakistan on February 03, 2023. President Mrs. Abida Saleem Malik and

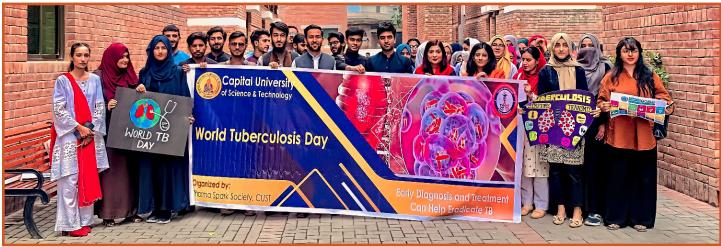
community services, first aid training, field activities, and self-esteem building lectures. Behbud's President thanked CUST for the impactful joint effort.



#### Faculty Of Pharmacy Organized Awareness Walk to Mark 'World TB Day'

Civil Engineering department arranged Pharma Spark Society, Faculty of Pharmacy organized an awareness walk to mark World TB Day on March 24, 2023. The event intended to intensify the efforts to stop the global TB epidemic and to educate the public about the destructive effects of tuberculosis (TB) on one's health, society, and economy. The event was well attended by reputable faculty members Dr. Nadia Shamshad, Miss. Nitasha Gauhar. Moreover, the

awareness walk's brilliance was boosted by the involvement of the students. All participants and staff members were gratefully acknowledged for attending the occasion and bringing attention to the World TB Day.





#### The Walk of Sustainability

A healthy environment is a must for growth and development of human society. To raise awareness regarding how to protect our environment, the faculty and students from Department of Psychology arranged a walk on March 17, 2023. They all actively participated in it by making different posters and banners, depicting the importance of environment. This activity introduced them to the significance of a healthy environment and they pledged that they

would play their part from now onward in making environment clean and better

for themselves and for the future generations.



#### Department of Accounting & Finance Arranged a Visit to NIBAF

Department of Accounting & Finance arranged a visit to National Institute of

Zia and Mr. Hafiz Adnan's supervision. It was an enriching experience that



Banking and Finance (NIBAF) on May 18, 2023. The students visited NIBAF under Dr. Nousheen Bhutta, Ms Aroosa

provided a deep insight into the State Bank of Pakistan. The resource person, Mr. Sajid Ali highlighted different attributes of State Bank through practical examples, and disseminated information about their Monetary Policy and Research Review Department. He also discussed the importance of financial planning and saving, the effect of inflation and loan deposit ratio on money supply, and the economic development of the country. One of the highlights was getting an overview of different training sessions for banking professionals. These courses are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of banking concepts and their application in a real-world setting. The session was followed by a question answer session and students asked several relevant questions from the NIBAF representative.

Protection of property rights, effective law enforcement, and efficient bureau-

A peaceful nation makes progress toward development and growth. The

#### **United Nations' SDGs Awareness Walk**

cracies, together with a broad range of norms are found to be strongly correlated to better economic performance over time. This aims to explain why institutions are important to economic development and to provide evidence for the arguments made. An awareness walk on United Nations SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) was organized on May 19, 2023, under Ms. Javeria Khalid's supervision. The objective of the activity was to raise awareness, give knowledge of justice to students and maintain peace everywhere.

walk aimed to highlight the significance of UN SDG 16 in creating peaceful and

inclusive societies. Participants carried banners and engaged in discussions, emphasizing the need for accountable institutions, reduced corruption, equal access to justice for all and fostering a culture of peace as well as stability in communities.





# Department of English Organized a Series of Seminars on English Language Teaching for FDE Teachers

Department of English broadened the horizon of its activities to the community as a part of the CUST strategic plan by organizing a series of ELT Seminars. The teacher development seminars were organized in collaboration with the Federal Directorate of Education on June 20, 2023 at Islamabad Model College for Girls, Humak, Islamabad. A group of forty-five senior English language school teachers attended the teacher development seminars on Reading Skills, Speaking Skills, and Assessment and Evaluation. The trainers Ms. Sajida Jabeen, Ms. Faiza Arshad, Dr. Saqib Zaigham, Ms. Uzma Arsahd, Mr. Magsood, and Ms.

Asma Qandeel from the Department of English conducted the sessions. The trainers involved the participants through hands-on practice activities and shared their perspectives and experiences on English language teaching. The FDE teachers enthusiastically participated in the activities and in the ongoing discussions on how to execute different teaching materials in a more effective manner. At the end, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Umar Farooq, Head of English department, and Ms. Asiya Khan, Principal of the host institution honored the occasion with their closing remarks and awarded the certificates to the trainers and participants.



#### **Department of English Launches SPELL Magazine Volume 2**

On June 09, 2023, the Department of English organized a ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the students and launch of SPELL Magazine VOL 2. This day became a memorable milestone as the department not only rec-

for the students' unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the semester. The exceptional talents and tireless efforts of the students in various academic and extracurricular activities were praised.



ognized the students' accomplishments but also unveiled the much-anticipated launch of SPELL Magazine Volume 2, the first-ever student magazine at CUST.

During the ceremony, faculty members expressed their sincere appreciation

To conclude the event on a joyous note, the Drama Club presented a short drama play. The play, 'Mind Your Language', filled with humour and excitement, entertained the audience and brought smiles to their faces.

## Awareness Seminar on 'Study in France'

ELIC organized an awareness seminar on 'Study in France' on March 6, 2023. The seminar aimed to provide students interested in pursuing higher studies in France with information for benefits of pursuing a degree in France, the application process, scholarships and living expenses etc. The event was attended by the students of 7th and 8th semester from all the departments of CUST. The seminar was conducted by Ms. Arifa Sultana, Program Officer - Cultural and Cooperation Affairs, Embassy of France in Pakistan and Ms. Fabiha Aziz, Campus France Officer. They provided an overview of the higher education system and the opportunities available to Pakistani students in France.

The seminar offered a thorough look at studying in France, with an engaged audience asking insightful questions. It was informative, helping students understand the benefits and challenges of studying in France.





#### Pharma Spark Society celebrated an event entitled 'Color of Unity'

Color of Unity was organized on March 09, 2023. The Color of Unity

event promotes diversity and inclusivity among students and staff. The



event celebrated the cultural and ethnic diversity on campus and promoted a sense of community among the university's student. Different colors were given to students, with each color representing a different batch. This allowed students to easily identify and connect with others. Additionally, students celebrated one dish party and the event had a great turnout with a wide variety of dishes from different cultural backgrounds available for everyone to try. Students and staff were able to connect with each other while sharing their cultural cuisine.

### **Interdepartmental Sports Competitions Spring-2023**

Sports activities are integral to the development of a person's personality and character. They also provide a distraction from tedious routine and other ills of society. For young people, it is especially crucial to support their physical and mental development as well as the development of their capacities. The provision of suitable facilities for healthy physical activities, such as a gymnasium, fields for different sports, and club membership, is something that CUST places a special focus on. With a comprehensive spectrum of conventional

sports including football and cricket as well as indoor sports facilities for table tennis and chess, university sports and physical activity facilities are continually expanding. Additionally, the gym offers the chance to participate in a variety of exercise activities.

Interdepartmental competitions were held for both male and female students as well as faculty during the Spring 2023 semester to promote sportsmanship and a healthy feeling of competitiveness. Pharmacy, Bioinformatics and Biosciences, Computer Science,

Software Engineering, English, Accounting and Finance, Management Sciences, Psychology, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering were the departments that enthusiastically participated. Football and Cricket competitions were held for male students. While for female students, table tennis (singles) and table tennis (doubles) were organized. Moreover, cricket and chess was organized for male faculty members, while table tennis and chess was organized for female faculty members.







# CUST ICONS Dr. Sahar Fazal

#### Dean, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Can you please introduce yourself and give a brief description of your educational and professional experience?

After the end of my formal education, I joined Department of Entomology, Bahuddin Zakariya University. Later, I received a scholarship to pursue PhD at South China Agriculture University, Gunagzhou, China, followed by post- doc at the University of Sussex. I joined Mohammad Ali Jinnah University (CUST) as an Assistant Professor in 2005 where I am a professor now. Besides, I served as Head of the Department for over a period of 4 years and in August 2022, I became Dean, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

Could you please share examples of successful initiatives or programs you have implemented in your current leadership role that have benefited the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences?

The department is dedicated to promote research excellence and education through collaboration with public and private partners. Our core mission is to educate students in life sciences, prepare them for global leadership in science, and address significant global research challenges. I believe experiential learning is of great importance. To facilitate a smooth transition from traditional classrooms to practical work environments and to increase student employability, we emphasize strongly on experiential learning. Therefore, our faculty has initiated specialized training programs held in well-equipped laboratories, guided by expert instructors with a focus on practical skills required for industry-specific work and instilling confidence to navigate various professional environments. Additionally, participation in industrial training improves critical thinking skills, technical proficiencies, presentation skills while deepening the understanding of scientific concepts, ultimately improving job prospects. Biological sciences directly impact local communities, encompassing areas like environmental conservation, public health, and agriculture. We effectively address local issues, making research more relevant and beneficial to the community. To promote research excellence and faculty and student engagement, I have

biological science professionals with lifelong learning opportunities like specialized courses in entrepreneurship, data analysis, and artificial intelligence tailored for applications in health sciences.

How do you plan to engage and inspire both faculty and students of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences to excel in their research and studies?



always prioritized state-of-the-art laboratories and research facilities. I firmly believe that introducing innovative courses positions educational institutions to proactively address contemporary issues, from global health crises to environmental concerns and the latest advancements in biotechnology. Building upon insights from stakeholders and alumni, we have implemented new programs which are exclusively designed to stay aligned with evolving trends and technologies, providing

Promote active engagement and inspire our faculty and students to excel in their research and academic endeavors, we have launched a series of lectures and workshops featuring distinguished experts and researchers within the realm of health and life sciences. These gatherings ignite faculty and students while providing them exposure to the latest research advancements.

The initiation of "research showcase



events," where faculty and students can present their research initiatives to the peers, has been introduced to engage and keep both faculty and students motivated. In addition, collaboration with industry and organizations in the health and life sciences is actively promoted, offering valuable real-world exposure and partnership opportunities to both students and faculty. To enrich the learning experience further, connections have been established with local community in the domains of health, agriculture, environment, and related areas.

#### What strategies would you employ to ensure that your academic programs in Health and Life Sciences remain current and relevant?

To uphold this commitment, a systematic process has been established for the continual evaluation and enhancement of our curriculum, ensuring that it remains synchronized with the most recent developments in the field. This comprehensive review is a collaborative effort, involving esteemed faculty members, industry experts, and accomplished alumni. Valuable insights from professionals and industry experts are also actively sought to discern the crucial skills and knowledge needed by our graduates to excel in practical, real-world scenarios. Furthermore, the collection of feedback from students, alumni, and industry stakeholders is prioritized to meticulously gauge the currency and relevance of our curriculum and to pinpoint areas necessitating improvement. In our relentless pursuit of academic excellence, a strong emphasis is placed on offering interdisciplinary courses that faithfully mirror the multidisciplinary nature of health and life sciences. This commitment interdepartmental collaboration nurtures a culture of innovation. To provide students with the latest cutting-edge research exposure and foster a research-oriented mindset, faculty research findings are seamlessly integrated into the curriculum. Furthermore, to enrich the educational experience, internships, practicums,

and experiential learning opportunities are held in high regard, allowing students to gain firsthand experience in real-world healthcare and research settings, a pivotal facet of the strategy to maintain the relevance of our programs. Courses addressing international issues within the realms of life and health sciences including global health challenges and cultural competence are also offered. These equip students with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in diverse and complex environment. Moreover. faculty members are ardently encouraged to engage in a process of continuous professional development which involves active participation in conferences and collaborations with industry partners, ensuring that our academic team remains at the forefront of the latest trends and research within ever-evolving domains of health and

#### In what ways do you see your faculty contributing to the university's commitment to research excellence, innovation, and community engagement?

Supporting the university dedication to research excellence, innovation, and community engagement, we are deeply involved in research initiatives that challenge the frontiers of knowledge. with a specific focus on biotechnology, microbiology, and biochemistry. Our faculty members actively collaborate with peers, diligently pursue external research funding, and disseminate their discoveries in esteemed scholarly journals; thus, bolstering the university research standing. Moreover, our dedication to excellence is evident in our classrooms, where we provide lectures and seminars ranging from fundamental to advanced topics. We are strong proponents of nurturing critical thinking and problem-solving skills in our students. Additionally, both students and faculty eagerly participate in entrepreneurial endeavors, including startup initiatives and innovations, which can benefit both our academic institution and the surrounding community. In addition to this, we promote research

projects that underpin sustainability and environmental stewardship, harmonizing with the university aspiration for community and global well-being. We actively interact with our alumni, forging partnerships, implementing mentorship programs, and unearthing funding opportunities that can serve as catalysts for research and innovation. all the while reinforcing our ties with the community. Moreover, we enthusiastically partake in policy dialogues, advocating for research funding, innovation-conducive policies, and community-centric initiatives that align with the university mission.

#### How do you see the field of Health and Life Sciences evolving in the next decade, and how can your department stay at the forefront of these changes?

Advancements in genomics and biotechnology will continue driving proaress in gene editing, synthetic biology, and personalized medicine, significantly impacting agriculture, healthcare, and environmental conservation. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need for intensified research in virology, epidemiology, and vaccine development. There is also growing awareness of the environmental impact, leading to increased research in ecological conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable practices. Biological scientists play a key role in addressing community and public health challenges. Integration of biological systems with technology and AI will increase, extending to bioinformatics and biologically integrated technologies. Applying biological research to drive innovation, establish biotech startups, and advance bioengineering will become more common. To stay at the forefront of Biological Sciences, the faculty should adopt a comprehensive approach involving research, education, collaboration, and adaptability. Faculty members must prioritize continuous learning, integrate cutting-edge technologies, and encourage innovative solutions.

Interviewer: Ms. Farrah Iqbal



# CUST ICONS Mr. Hassan Mahmood Awan

#### Controller of Examinations

## What inspired/motivated you to become a controller of examinations?

I started my career as an educator and then switched to the development sector as a communication officer and trainer. However, at a stage, I realized that I should quit and return to education. Therefore, I joined administrative position at a university where I served in various positions for several years. Later, the university senior management offered me the Controller of Examinations role. To make a long story short, serving in an educational set up is the sole inspiration that brought me to this particular position and the trust of the senior management is the core motivation that keeps me going.

## What is the role of CUST Examinations Office in assessments overall?

The Examinations Office (EO) at CUST plays a crucial role in the assessment process to ensure fairness, integrity, and efficiency. Preparing examination timetables, creating seating plans for each venue, coordinating examination logistics, maintaining academic integrity as well as exam security, managing student enrollment, observing grading process, and ensuring compliance with set standards, policies and procedures are some of the key responsibilities of EO. The Examinations office also communicates with the stakeholders including students, staff and faculty regarding assessment-related matters, guidelines, regulations, and important dates in order to make the whole assessment process more efficient. It also randomly collects data on assessment performance, prepares and presents reports and analysis to the senior management to help making informed decisions about curricula and instructional strategies.

How does the examination office

adhere to HEC recommended standard assessment policies and procedures?

In order to adhere to HEC recommended standards, policies and procedures, the Examinations Office at CUST ensures that our staff is abreast of HEC guidelines and recommendations related to assessment policies and procedures to implement those consistently and fairly. This also includes guidelines on grading, examination formats, and evaluation criteria. Exam office also ensures transparency in assessment



processes, such as making grading criteria and examination results available to students and faculty members. In addition to this, the examination office maintains the security, confidentiality and integrity of examination materials and processes. Also, the assessment tools and methods are utilized following HEC guidelines. This includes incorporating various assessment methods such as assignments, quizzes, projects, mid-term and final examinations into the overall grading structure. Furthermore, we maintain accurate and organized records of examination results, assessment procedures, and any changes made in accordance with HEC guidelines. Last but not the least, Examinations Office ensures that students, faculty, and staff are informed about any changes or updates regarding examination policies and procedures in line with HEC recommendations.

How the fairness/quality/consistency/transparency of the examination process is ensured to produce quality graduates?

We at CUST try to achieve transparency by publishing clear policies and guidelines and also through standardized assessments, diverse evaluation methods, external reviews, feedbacks and continuous assessment. From the very beginning, we are making use of modern technology and database which help us in maintaining transparency and consistency. The ongoing professional trainings of the staff and the student involvement by getting their feedback also help us ensure the overall quality of the examination process. We have installed the CCTV cameras everywhere from the exam department to the exam halls which are continuously monitored by a dedicated team especially during the examinations. The use of unfair means is never tolerated by any means. The committee to investigate the unfair means cases is constituted, which investigate the cases and give decisions based on merit.

What are some of the key assessment challenges in Higher Education and how does the CUST Examinations Office overcome those challenges?

Assessment challenges in higher education include academic integrity, fairness, workload, feedback, and technology integration. The examination office addresses these challenges by implementing security measures, giving



trainings, sharing the workload during exam, facilitating data analysis through QEC, adopting technology in the form of university portal for students, staff and faculty and by promoting diverse assessment methods. We tried to overcome such challenges through ccollaboration, communication among students, staff and faculty and through continuous improvement. The examination office works collaboratively with faculty, administrative departments, and students.

# Which strategies should be employed in the examinations cell to improve its performance in future?

To enhance the performance of the examinations cell, a multifaceted approach is necessary. Although we have streamlined the exam processes overall by using advanced technology, and have strengthen standardized operating procedures (SOPs), there are some areas that we need to work on e.g., exam staff specialist trainings and

implement robust security measures to prevent any kind of malpractice. Similarly, for exam quality materials, the quality control processes also need to be improved on regular basis. More transparency, feedback collection, and continuous improvement must be emphasized. By employing these strategies, the examinations cell can further improve its efficiency, fairness, and reliability in the examination process.

Interviewer: Ms. Naveeda Haq

#### **CUST SHINING STARS**

#### Dr. Mubarak Hussain Haider

#### **CUST Alumni**

What was the main reason for choosing CUST for a doctorate degree in Management Sciences?

Based on my experience here, I can say that it is a quite disciplined institute that not only guides and caters students' needs but helps them to complete their PhD degree on time. I think, the Graduates Office, CUST must be given credit for all such accomplishments.

What did you think of the degree you earned in terms of skills and knowledge and how it helped you in career advancement?

I was also an entrepreneur and my degree has definitely supplemented my theoretical knowledge with practical application. Today, when I teach students at different universities, I try to inculcate the practical application of theories in business.

How were the campus life and extracurricular activities offered there?

The Campus is well maintained and extraordinary in terms of environment. A neat and clean look with sports-related activities breaks the monotony of university attendance. The environment excites students to stay on campus which I believe is very important in creating and maintaining positive learning behaviour.

What did you enjoy the most in your academic experience? What were the most positive aspects?

To be honest, I enjoyed the discipline as well as the caring and sharing environ-

ment. Students are supported in terms of all academic needs and are listened to everywhere in terms of their needs and demands.

What advice would you give to someone who has recently joined CUST, so that they cultivate their skills to be successful?

Those who have recently joined, they must comply with the university rules and regulations, follow discipline, and visit Graduate Office frequently. It is also good for a PhD student to join an organization to implement the learnt theories and concepts in real world situations. This will help him accomplish his PhD with practical knowledge and enhanced skills.

Interviewer: Ms. Naveeda Haq

#### **SOCIETY IN FOCUS**

## **CUST Helping Hand**

#### **Society Description:**

CUST believes co-curricular activities are an integral part of a quality educational process. To advance mission of the university, CUST Helping Hand (CHH) is a student society at the university level which aims to promote community work among the student body with a core strength of 350-plus mem-

bers. Ms. Maria Mashkoor, Assistant Professor, FoMS is the patron of the society. CHH philosophy is 'Everyone Matters' and the aim is to bring ease in people's lives by catering to a variety of philanthropic activities like basic food pantry, education, medical, qarz-e-hasna, marriage, entrepreneurial support, orphan support programme and community uplift projects). Students indulge

into many different capacities of community service activities and are enabled to apply skills and techniques to carry out need analysis in the surrounding community to provide solutions to the common man problems. All the projects are funded through the Patron's personal resources while the students are required to provide their managerial skills and time.



#### **Achievements:**

Last year, 210 community service projects were completed. This semester, 22 projects have already been completed, 10 are in process and 15 are on need analysis stage. CHH also managed to initiate and successfully carry out a recycling project in which used examination sheets were recycled into note books that were distributed amongst poor school going children and also for university usage. This was the first of its kind project in CUST which received

great appreciation. All events press releases along with photos are available on the CUST Student Affairs Page and All about CUST page on Facebook. In the current semester, three of the major projects include winter clothes drive for the orphans and old age home residents, recycling project phase II and personal grooming and management are in the process of MoU signings with different schools.

To join CHH, auditioned interviews are a must to pass. This involves identifying a case, verifying it, and submitting the proposal (CHH case take-up form is available on the data server) to the Patron. Once the proposal is approved, funding is allocated by the Patron and task is carried out. The task documentation along with receipts are to be submitted for case closure. Senior CHH members accompany the first-time joiners to guide them at each step. Students can join CHH anytime. At the end of every semester, members list is filtered and membership of those who have not performed any community service task in the previous semester is cancelled.

# CLUB IN FOCUS CUST Girls Club

#### Introduction

CUST Girls Club is a platform that was created for the sole purpose of creating a safe space for all the girls of CUST to feel welcomed. Over the years, since its creation, it has delivered successful events and various opportunities that have nurtured our students and allowed them to enjoy themselves. It has slowly become a creative outlet that challenges and empowers the women in our university by gathering their interests and celebrating them thoroughly.

We aim to cultivate the talents of our students and allow them to learn about their hidden expertise while encouraging students to challenge themselves and get out of their comfort zones to try new experiences that we bring to them in the form of co-curricular events and competitions. Keeping our female students informed and fueling them academically is a prime objective. This goal is achieved by conducting various seminars that discuss the most critical current dilemmas and social topics that are relevant to the generation. Dr. Dure-Shehwar Sagheer is the patron of the club and has been looking out for the best interests of the female students since its establishment of in 2012.

#### Team

Patron: Dr. Dur-e-Shehwar Sagheer President: Khadeeja Sagheer Vice President: Nimra Farrukh Media Head: Emaan Mehmood General Secretary: Esha Sabir Executive Members: Saira Fayyaz, Yusra Tanveer, Umme Aiman, Zainab Noor

#### **Vision**

To create a platform that revolves around providing educational excellence, equality in opportunities, and a safe and inclusive environment to the CUST girls while also building a strong community amongst female students. We want to prepare them for their future, so they can lead a successful life while also making sure their university life is a time of enjoyment with their fellow students.

#### Mission

CUST Girls Club aims to empower and educate female students to excel academically, develop strong leadership

skills, and make a positive impact on society. Our mission is to provide a platform for all girls where they can participate without hesitation and have a nurturing and inclusive environment that celebrates their femininity and strengthens their full potential.

#### **Scope of Events**

- 1. Breast Cancer Awareness
- 2. Color Week
- 3. Naat And Qirat competitions
- 4. Women empowerment campaign
- 5. Girls Gala
- 6. Awareness Campaigns
- 7. Seminars on medicinal issues
- 8. Competitions
- 9. Workshops
- Social Awareness for humanitarian causes





#### New Induction (March 01, 2023 to August 31, 2023)

No.	Name	Designation	Highest Degree	Area of Spe- cialization	Passing Year	University
1.	Dr. Muhammad Furqan	Assistant Professor	PhD	Information and Communication Engineering	2021	Southeast University Nanjing, China
2.	Ms. Huma Sheraz	Associate Lecturer	MS	Software Engineering	2021	Mirpur University of Science and Technology MUST, AJK
3.	Dr. Uzma Rani	Assistant Professor	PhD	Psychology	2022	University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
4.	Ms. Rubina Shoukat	Associate Lecturer	MPhil	Pharmacology	2022	QAU, Islamabad
5.	Mr. Shamas Gulfam Qureshi	Associate Lecturer	MPhil	Pharmacology	2021	Riphah Int. University, Islamabad
6.	Ms. Farah Haneef	Senior Lecturer	MPhil	Computer Science	2016	QAU, Islamabad
7.	Ms. Sania Tabassum	Associate Lecturer	MPhil	Biochemistry	2022	Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi
8.	Mr. Ahsan Rafiq	Lecturer	MPhil	Pharmacology	2018	The Islamia Uni. of Bahawalpur

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