كلية عُمان
OMAN COLLEGE
of Management and Technology للإدارة والتكنولوجيا

OCMT

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2021

3RD ISSUE

Page 3

Dean's Message

Page 4

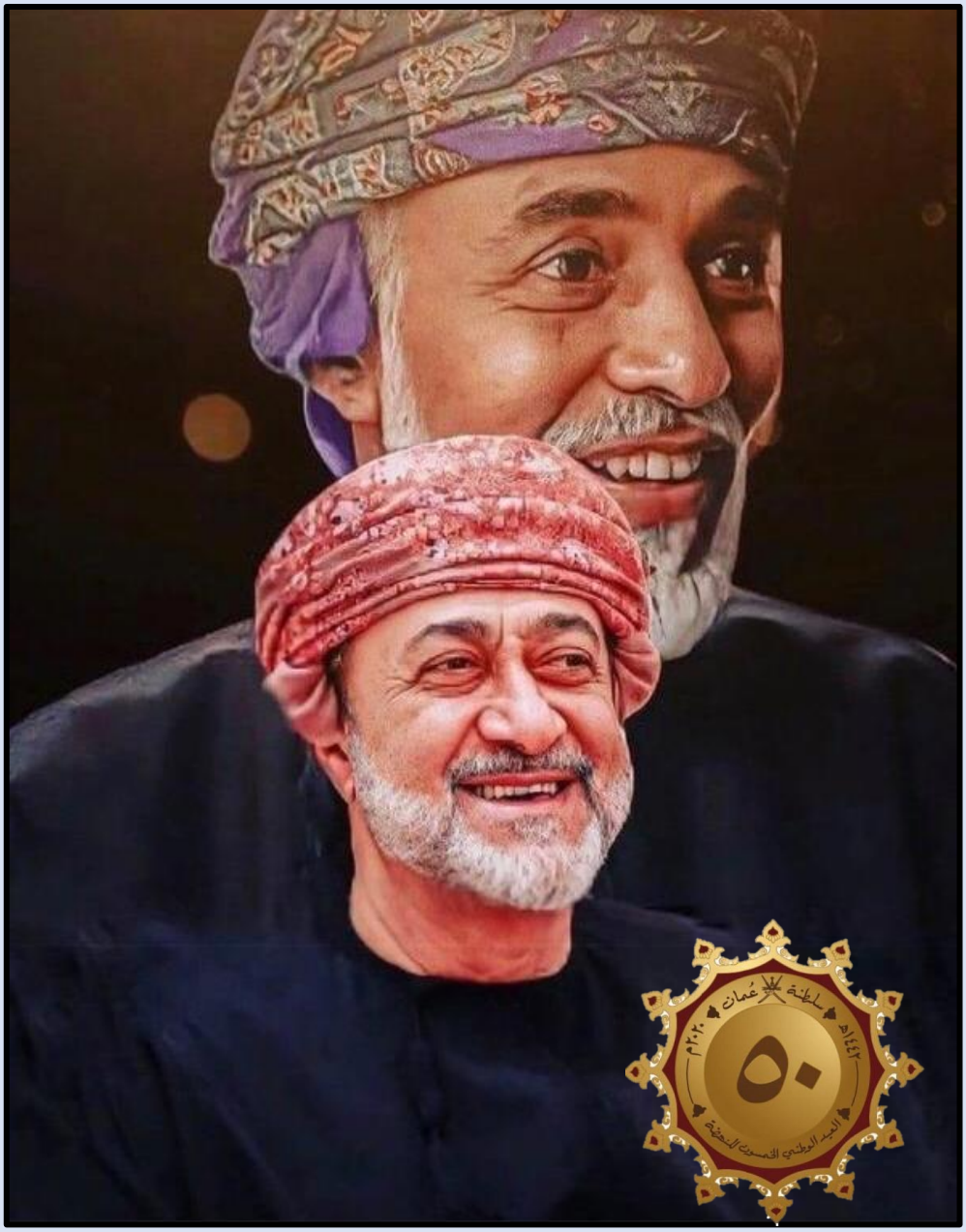
50th National Day of Oman

Page 6

Achievements

Page 18

Students' Zone



IN MEMORY OF:

QABOOS BIN SAID

His Majesty, Qaboos bin Said, former ruler of the Sultanate of Oman was a powerful combination of charisma and political acumen. Under his legacy, Oman turned into a modern, stable and inclusive state. He ascended the throne on July 23, 1970. He chartered a promising vision for Oman's future and led it onto the arduous road of advancement and progression. His contribution to the nation is par excellence. Today, bridges, roads, highways, desalination plants, high speed internet, world – class sports, cultural centers, hundreds of education and health care facilities, defence services, to name a few, attest to the success of his refurbishing program. Oman, thus prospered as he catapulted the country from poverty and obscurity to being a consequential player on the world stage. He is revered as the father of the Omani renaissance. He will live on, in the hearts of every Omani as the most revered, loved, benevolent, liberal reformer and world leader.

EDITORIAL NOTE

It gives me immense gratification to explore Newsletter, January 2021 issue. It features Key Activities, Updates, Initiatives, Perspective Plan, Best Practices, Department Events, Awards, Honours, Strategy Sessions and much more to streamline the ineliminable college information into a condensed version to keep you up – to – date.

Can anyone overlook the phenomenon that our lives have been exhaustively upended by the Pandemic! Many obstacles and distractions threatened the Marching Caravan of the College but the strong – willed and resolute 'College Fraternity 'kept advancing towards overall objective.

Time is a great teacher. We all are a part of the Civilization that comprehends a great variety and complexity producing variegated and complex outcomes.

Life is very long
Between the conception
And the creation
Between the emotion
And the response
Falls the shadow
Between the potency
And the existence
Between the essence
And the descent…….. Falls the shadow (T. S. Eliot)

OCMT Community is a well – knitted one that used the best practices using an appreciative inquiring kind of mindset, bringing the student and faculty together through 'digital platform.' A well drafted college plan, enabled a shared understanding for all involved in the teaching and learning process. Teaching Methodologies were restructured with more creative and problem-solving skills that effectively and efficiently supported student learning in such unprecedented times. The College held its curriculum, workshops, seminars, all activities along with the 50th National Day of Oman with continued enthusiasm, thoughtful preparations to improve outcomes even when it was 'virtual.' This has been the adaptive challenge of the college leadership for all the time.

- Fatima, MNLC

Contents

Editorial Note | 2
Dean's Message |3
National Day |4
Staff Development|5
Achievements |6
Write-ups |9
Students' zone |18
Snippets |21

Dean's Message

At OCMT, the role of the learning and the learner becomes crucial when the world is hit by the dreadful Pandemic, COVID – 19. Amidst these paradoxical conditions, OCMT constantly aimed at the maximization of learning output with four step approach – explore, prepare, deliver and sustain. Technology played a major role bringing about an evolution in classroom and learning methodologies.

Due to the situation brought about by the Pandemic, college workshops, seminars, classroom teaching, various college programs, events and activities were held online.

These activities held and designed were aligned with the educational priorities of OCMT. This incorporated: Open Discussions to promote; Research, staff development workshops, participation in TESOL and ELT Conference for relevant and informative presentations, seminars on Effective Online Teaching and Assessment, on Academic Integrity and preparation for examination – to name a few. Student Council was formed under various heads. This 'Virtual Platform' designed under difficult times never ceased in its ardour, belief, execution and overall broadcast and computing of all major events.

OCMT can boast of its leaders, staff and learners who formed a one, compact 'College Community.' Leaders and staff at OCMT adopted a transformational approach including emotional support, interpersonal relations and creations of safe environment. OCMT made sure that it will take necessary steps to overcome obstacles and difficulties, keeping the current situation in mind.

> "
>
> The present 'Pandemic Times' need more of a community solution than a 'Big solution,' let us sail through it all – together!!!

I wish our 'College Community' the very best in their efforts to emerge stronger and resilient each day.

I believe…….. The present 'Pandemic Times' need more of a community solution than a 'Big solution,' let us sail through it all – together!!! And Emerge Stronger ……..

All the very best!

Prof. Dr Waleed Hmedat

Dean - OCMT

50th National Day

The 50th National Day of Oman commenced with gaiety and enthusiasm at college campus in the morning hours at OCMT. This day marks the glorious development and distinguished continuation of the astounding history of Oman: rich and varied, prosperous and eternal.

The college celebrated this day with the unveiling of OCMT logo. It represents colours red and blue symbolic of warmth and royalty. The orange rays are suggestive of sunrise. The alphabets 'O 'symbolizes Oman and 'C 'denotes – College. Information on the development in Oman resounded in the hall. It was reiterated that this occasion represents the coming of renaissance or 'rebirth' under the inspiring leadership of late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and will continue under the present Majesty, Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq.

The Dean of the college Prof. Dr Waleed Hmedat, rendered his insightful speech through 'Online' platform.

Rendition of classical Arabic poetry in its descriptive verse, showered exaltation on our beautiful country 'Oman.' The gathering was graced by Eng. Redha Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Hussain Al Saleh, Chairman, OCMT.

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

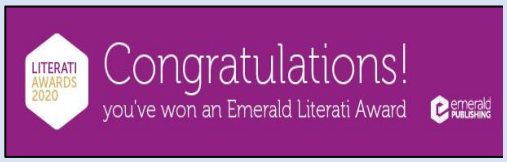
Staff Development

#	Schedule date	Name of the Presenter	Dept.	Title of the Seminar
1.	01st October 2020	Dr Mohammed Al Azawi	CS&MIS	Promote Research
2.	08th October 2020	Ms Maryam Aziz	GFP	The Importance of Language
3.	15th October 2020	Dr Baby Thomas	AFS	HR Redefined: A Sustainability Factor
4.	22nd October 2020	Dr Mahammad Mastan	CS&MIS	Awareness of Policies and Procedures of SRSDU
5.	05th November 2020	Dr Oualid Ali	CS&MIS	Future foresight: The Future of Education
6.	12th November 2020	Dr Balamurugan Muthuraman	AFS	Tools and Techniques of Digital Education
7.	26th November 2020	Dr Ahed Al-Haraizah	AFS	E-Entrepreneurship: The Secret of Success for Small and Medium Enterprise
8.	3rd December 2020	Ms Zeb Fatima	GFP	Role of Media & Communication in HEIs
9.	10th December 2020	Dr Basel Bani-Ismail	CS&MIS	Data Science
10.	17th December 2020	Mr Baiju George	GFP	Importance of Creative and Critical Thinking in Academic Studies
11.	24th December 2020	Dr Oualid Ali	CS&MIS	QA for Distant & Online Education
12.	31st December 2020	Mrs Sadaf Asif	ID	Impact of Implementing Co -curricular Activities on Student's Life
13.	7th January 2021	Ms Muzna Al Hooti	GFP	Presentation Skills
14.	21st January 2021	Dr Hazem Mohd Migdady	CS&MIS	Social Engineering and Electronic Crimes
15.	28th January 2021	Dr Raef AbdenNadher	AFS	Management of Human Resources During Corona Crisis
16.	4th February 2021	Mr Jonald Cayabyab	GFP	Remote Teaching: Suggested Survival Strategies
17.	11th February 2021	Dr Gbenga Ekundayo	AFS	PEER TUTORING AS A PANACEA FOR ACADEMIC RETROGRESSION IN HEIS IN OMAN
18.	18th February 2021	Mr Mohammed Babiker	AFS	Student's Journey from GFP to PFP

Achievements

Dr. Oualid Ali
QA Officer

- Featured in the American magazine, Government Technology
- Chaired the "MENA Infrastructure Virtual Conference", 2020
- Elected as a panelist for the Taiwan GO SMART Award 2021
- Has been selected to receive the International scientific award on Engineering, science and medicine from VDGood
- Speaker at the International Webinar on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Singapore



Dr Raef Abdennadher- HoD, AFS Department

The article 'Political advertising and voting behaviour in a nascent democracy: towards a global model for the Tunisian post-revolutionary experience' published by Dr Raef Abdennadher, in a Journal of Islamic Marketing has been selected as a Highly Commended Paper in the 2020 Emerald Literati Awards. The editorial team informed that it is one of the most exceptional pieces of work they saw throughout 2019. The purpose of this paper aims to investigate the impact of political advertising on voter's attitude and the processes of decision-making in the specific context of the inaugural democratic experience of post-revolutionary Tunisia.

Employees of the Year 2020-2021

Mr. Mohammed Abdulaziz Al Zadjali

Dr Mastan Mohammad

Mr. Bassam Tariq

Mr. Biju Koshi

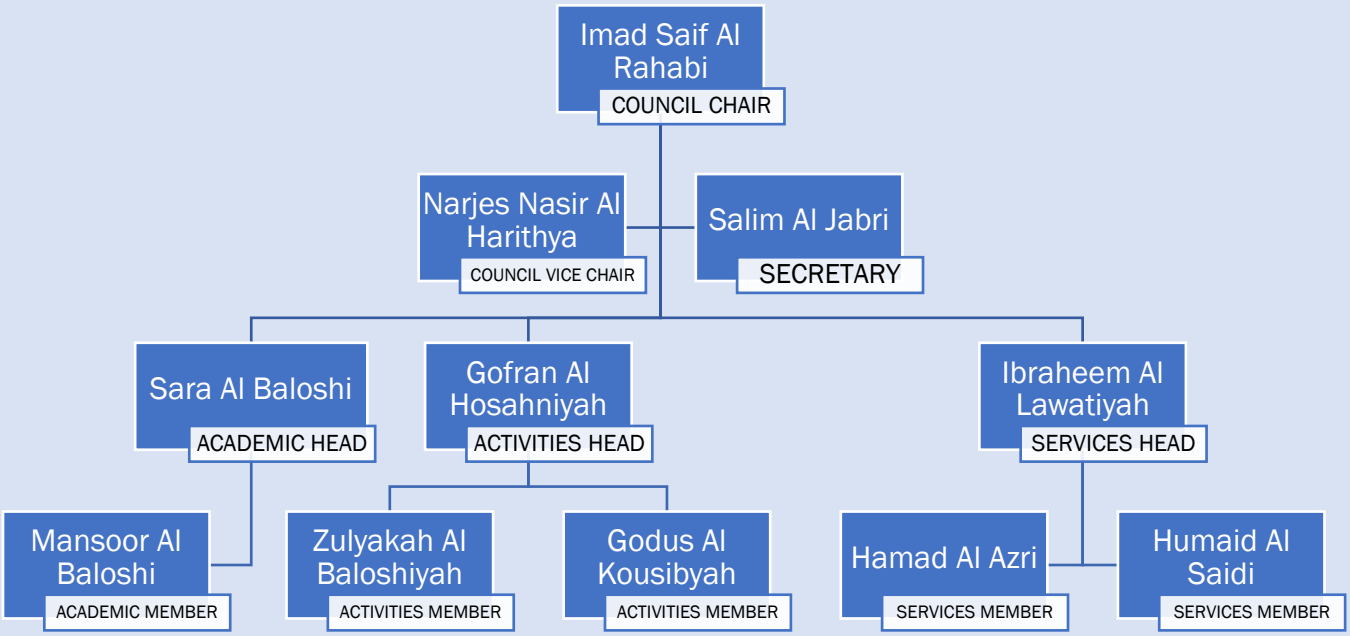
Research Statistics of OCMT

Names	No. of papers published
Dr Prof. Waleed Hmedat	35
Mohammad ALazawi	14
Basel Bani-Ismail	7
Raef Abdennadher	2
Mahammad Mastan	9
Hazem Migdady	7
Louay A. Al-Nuaimy	7
Balamurugan Muthuraman	1
Elshareef Asaad	1
Mohammed Ahmed	1
Gbenga Ekundayo	2

Achievements

OCMT Students' Council

2020-2021



#	Faculty Name	Conference / Workshop
1	Ms. Muzna Al Hooti Ms. Maryam Aziz	International ELT Conference 14th & 15th October 2020 Sultan Qaboos University Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.
2	Mr. Jonald Cayabyab Mr. Baiju George Ms. Sara A Ahmed Ms. Maryam Aziz	2nd MEC TESOL Conference 28th October 2020 Emerging Trends and Contemporary Issues in Language Learning: The EFL Context Middle East College, Sultanate of Oman

The Elected Staff Representatives

2020-2021

Mr. Ismail Al Rumaimi

Administrative Staff Representative

Dr Ahed Al Haraizah

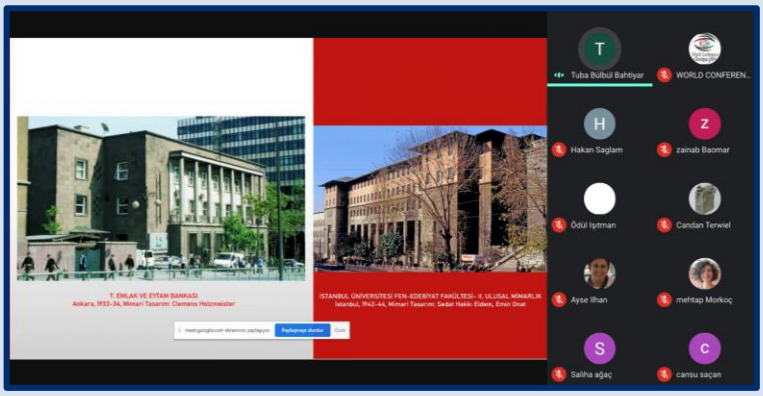
Academic Staff Representative

Achievements

Team from Interior Design Department

presents a paper in the

9th World Conference on Arts and Design, Greece



Associate Professor Dr Reham Sanad-Head of Interior design Department- and Student Zainab Salim Aqil Alhadi Baomar have recently a research paper accepted in the "9th World Conference on Design and Arts (WCDA-2020)" which was organized by the National Kapodistrian University of Athens in Athens, Greece from 29th to 31st of October 2020. The main theme of the conference was "New needs and new expectations from arts" and the papers presented will be indexed in Web of Science.

The accepted paper titled- "A Study of Landscape Painting Development-Past, Present and Future Perspectives" was presented by Student Zainab Baomar virtually according to the conference program.

This study is focuses on landscape paintings' characteristics throughout history. It started by primitive cave paintings passed through the ancient civilizations then followed by the main art movements and styles to end with the contemporary style landscape paintings. Future prospects and expectations for landscape representations were also considered.

It is worth mentioning that this paper is the output of research conducted by the authors in the "Interior Design History" course during the academic year 2019-2020. This is highlighting the employment of teaching research to undergraduate students to reinforce and deepen their research skills and knowledge.

Technology as an Enabler in a Crisis

Dr. Baby Thomas

Administrative and Financial Science Department

Technology application in sharing knowledge with student community and in facilitating platforms for official meetings and professional discourses among staff was optimally successful with OCMT during the pandemic season. And it was a matter of enthusiasm and joy to know that the College was one of the first among the institutes in Oman that initiated such technological ventures (online classes, meetings and complete office management system), and other institutes followed our path later. Adhering to the government guidelines and instructions, the College performed its best in fulfilling its obligations towards student community and other stakeholders using the existing, upgraded and newly acquired technologies. It's a matter of pride that the entire staff of the College could stand absolutely committed to professionalism and expected standard of performance in their respective areas of specializations just because of its strategic approach to effective and efficient utilization of its technical resources. Informal feedback from the student community also revealed that the degree of their satisfaction was very high in terms of the quality of delivery of lecture, sharing online resources during lectures, convenience in attending the online sessions from the comforts of their homes or the locations of their choice. However, the efforts of the College were successful in terms of managing the present crisis situation of COVID-19 by promptly delivering its services to the student community and other relevant stakeholders without compromising on quality by making use of technology to its best and at the same time, by fully complying with all government rules and regulations specially laid down for the current pandemic situation. In a nutshell, it could be concluded that the OCMT would be capable to manage its academic and non-academic affairs in similar crisis situations that may arise in the future by embracing its technological capabilities.

Virtual Academic Advising

Mr. Abdul Rahman Albulushi

Administrative and Financial Science Department

Academic advising is a process of interaction between a student and college representative called academic advisor where he/she provides directions to the students to achieve their educational goals. Unfortunately, coronavirus pandemic has affected the physical interaction between students and the academic advisor. To accomplish these tasks, it has been carried out virtually.

Oman College of Management and Technology throughout the pandemic, continuously approaches its students by implementing virtual academic advising right from the beginning of the sessions to support them in selection of the right courses. It has utilized latest platform to approach students specially those who are newly enrolled in the institution. The new students in the college need potential academic advising since they have been enrolled to a higher system of educational environment and this process has been carried out by Oman College successfully.

The College is using Hi-tech system to provide support and services to the students and staff. The Academic Advisors have been provided with latest technology and facilities that allow them to explore and address issues faced by the students especially related to academic advising. The College has successfully conducted advising days virtually, where all the advisees met their advisers via Teams and College mail. The College is ready to address academic issues and interact with the students virtually, in the upcoming sessions if the pandemic continues.

Role of Library during the Pandemic

Ms. Manal Al Omairi

Hod Library Department

The library services around the world have changed due to the impact of the COVID – 19 Pandemic. They are facing challenging situations, from providing full services to a complete closure. This resulted in adopting different approaches in dealing with the unprecedented conditions of this global pandemic. Digital exchange of information is a vital necessity for libraries to play a fundamental role in the society. This epidemic leads to many improvements in the library services around the world and opens doors for more space to benefit from digital technology, eventually leading to reordering priorities from physical to digital services.

Considering the current situation, OCMT library continues to provide digital services to its users as promptly and efficiently as possible. The library page on the college website provides knowledge about the Library Services, Resources, and Useful Links for reliable information.

The College has arranged for diverse channels of communication with the library via phone, email, Ask the Librarian Service, suggesting a Book Form and the Feedback Form which are available on the library page on the college website. These services have eased the process of borrowing and returning the books, while limiting the number of people who attend the library at the same time, committing to social distancing. Gloves are used and disposed off, immediately when dealing with the books that have been returned. OCMT continues to enhance the method and use of electronic resources and reduces the number of visits to the library on campus and it continues to provide virtual workshops to acquaint everyone with the changing trends.

Our workshops

- **9th March 2020 By - Ms. Manal Al Omairi**

"How to build E-survey" – This workshop centered around the types of question survey and how to put them in electronic questionnaire.

- **27th October 2020 – Ms. Manal Al Omairi**

"How to cite information resources" – The workshop enfolded the ethics and legal importance of citation and how to cite the resources in text and in reference list.

- **20th February 2020 – Ms. Ameera Al Ajmi**

"How to use E-library ProQuest" – This one stressed upon the components of the e-library, the ways to search, browse and download the books in ProQuest and to improve the graduate attributes in terms of intellectual and practical skills.

- **20th February 2020 – Ms. Ameera Al Ajmi**

"How to use library catalog" - The workshop focused on how to search the books inside the library shelves using the library catalog.

IELTS Exam Preparation Course - A Report

Mr. Baiju George - *GFP Department*

The Third IELTS Preparation Course by the General Foundation Department, as a part of community engagement for the local community was successfully coordinated and executed. Unlike the previous batches, due to the pandemic situation, the recent course was carried out through a virtual platform. The course began on 5th October 2020 and ended on 22nd November 2020. This was undeniably an exceptional achievement to kick off an academic year for General Foundation Department.

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

Nevertheless, there are several facets to be buoyant. There was a mixture of nationalities (Oman, Jordan, Pakistan and India) in the recent batch with different accents. This, in fact, accelerated the enthusiasm and gave a conducive atmosphere to share and improve the language proficiency of every student. As usual, the course covered all the four skills (Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing) with enough study materials both as hard and soft copies. At the end of the course, the students were asked to appear for a mock exam, which included One – on - one with different faculty members in the department.

Finally, on the completion of the course, the department did a feedback survey which gave an excellent response about the coordination and execution of the entire programme.

OCMT Moves Ahead in the Pandemic

Ms. Fatima - *GFP Department*

Keeping up the motto of the college: "Committed to Quality Education," OCMT staff and students moved ahead with learning and teaching during the crisis, being one of the first to introduce quality based digital education in response to the COVID – 19, Pandemic.

In the Month of March, the Ministry of Higher Education (Oman) had put a halt on the in-campus education in all the educational spheres. At this juncture, OCMT got into action despite obstacles and glitches by holding robust trainings, workshops and meetings. This was done, so as to make education a continuous process with quality assurance in the backdrop. The staff members were coached on the effective use of Microsoft Teams.

A series of workshops were held to redesign and restructure online classes, assessments, assignments, and the technical know-how of the various related tools to grease the wheel towards dexterity. Thus, all the staff members and students were given endless instructions and information just to keep the ball rolling.

The post - training phase was a learning experience both for the staff and students but gradually with further workshops and experience, the assigned duties are being carried out with sheer deftness. The students' feedback on online teaching towards the end of the semester was very convincing thus giving an impetus to a new beginning in the journey to education for OCMT.

Throughout the online teaching phase, quality remains the predominant aspect in the minds of the lecturers - as with every trial, improvement has been harnessed and every complaint, doubt and mistake is being worked upon. Various virtual, extra and co- curricular activities like talent competition on the National Day of Oman, debate - to name a few are also being conducted for the all-round development of the students, even when everything seems to come to a standstill.

As we move forward, continuation of education with quality remains the focal point of the institution, recalling; hope is a living thing with feathers. We sailed through in the past, thriving and trying to stand firm now and surge ahead in the future keeping the "Vision, Mission and Motto" of OCMT unimpaired.

Importance of Art Therapy during COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Sadaf Asif

Interior Design Department

The concept of art therapy emerged in 1940s and the American educators; Margaret Naumburg and Edith Kramer were the two initiators of this therapy. They applied art therapy techniques on school children to understand their inner thoughts, feelings and experiences through creative expression. Art therapy can be considered as an approach to mental health or psychotherapy in which the basic method of communication is the use of Art as a medium that helps to improve mental, physical, and emotional wellness as defined by the British Association of Art Therapists as well as identified by the American Art Therapy Association.

It is evident that Applied Art has been used throughout human history to convey the depths of human experience because our mind understands the abstract symbols at a deeper level than language, and now we can add this primitive tool as a remedy for Covid-19 pandemic. It can help to know deeply the psychology behind subconscious mind and change limiting patterns and beliefs that are created because of self-isolation during pandemic.

How Art Therapy can help during Covid -19 Pandemic?

The beginning of 2020 was not same as previous years. There was a global health emergency in the beginning of 2020 as the World health organization (WHO) announced the novel corona virus pandemic. Unfortunately, the disease spread into many countries within a very short time therefore many countries from all over the world started taking quarantine measures as a strategy to reduce the rapid transmission of the disease. During this comprehensive crisis, many people have been medically and psychologically affected as quarantine prevented them from their regular routine work for example: in - campus offices were transformed into online work. Many people went into depression and missed their routine businesses, work, school days, exercises, play, as this sudden change in their lives gradually affected their psychological health.

- Therapeutic art techniques can help to increase happiness, manage emotions in a positive way so that people can feel more confident during Covid 19 pandemic.
- Use of therapeutic art techniques can help to reduce stress and heal emotional pain as well as increase self-awareness, instinct and self-expression.
- Therapeutic art process can create real picture of our visions and dreams.

In the therapeutic art coaching process, we can learn powerful art designs for meditation and self-exploration like Mandalas art, modern day artistic approaches for goal setting and manifestation, such as vision boards or dream boards including journaling, guided meditation, art exercises for stress reduction and much more through drawing, painting, coloring, sculpting and collage work. After creating art, any individual can figure out what they have made and how it makes them feel. The advantage of therapeutic art is that there is no limitation to age or gender and as a matter of fact anyone can benefit from these art exercises, as no artistic ability is required in this therapy.

General Foundation Programme Department Induction 2020-2021

Ms. Mariam Aziz

GFP Department

As a part of its preparation for the new academic year 2020/2021, Oman College of Management and Technology organised and conducted an extensive orientation programme from 4th to 8th of October 2020.

The newly registered students were grouped in batches of fifty per day. The programme was organised in the seminar hall. All safety and security measures were taken towards the welfare of the attendees on the campus.

The orientation session started at 8:30 am with a genial welcome from the Assistant Dean, Dr Mohammad Al-Azawi on behalf of the Dean of the college, followed by drilling sessions from the Admission and Registration Department, Technical Support Department and a brief introduction from the academic staff of the General Foundation Programme Department.

The new students were provided with complimentary bags which had their college email, user ID, a stationery gift pad and a flash drive containing the student's handbook and other useful information. Intensive training on how to use the college online facilities, particularly Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Outlook for college emails was given to the students to prepare them for online teaching and learning.

After a quick break, the students were directed into the exam classrooms where writing and listening placement exams were conducted. This was followed by a speaking exam and finally a computer-based placement test (CBPT) for grammar, maths and IT that took place in the computer labs. By 2:30 PM, the exam sessions were over.

5 Steps to Organize your Day and De-stress

Muzna Al Hooti

GFP Department

This is not some article telling you unachievable steps to magically fix your life. This is my own experience of years of trials and errors. Following these steps made me very productive and focused because they made my days balanced and full of energy. If this works for me, then why not for you?

1. Get up at least 1 hour earlier than usual: Use this time for self-care. Get started for the day and do things that you always complain you don't have time for like, working out, reading, or simply breathing crisp morning air.

2. Use an agenda: Write your to-do list for the day either in the morning or the night before. Prioritize your tasks and be reasonable with how much you can get done. Do not overload yourself and do not laze around as well. Put a timeframe for yourself for each item. For example, checking my social media should take me 15 minutes only. This is a great way to discipline yourself from wasting a lot of valuable time.

3. Unplug hour: Choose one hour a day to just put your phone away. Do any other activity that does not involve your smartphone. This might work for you in the morning, during the day or before bed, but it is such an important decision you make everyday to simply put that phone down.

4. Find inspiration: Throughout your day, you might have low points, so you need to find some activity which can uplift you. Watch TED talks, practice mindfulness, read a good article or even talk to someone who can make you feel better. Do it your way, but try not to surrender to your negative feelings.

5. Finally, treat yourself: After a day of productivity, you need to wind down with your favorite activities. My personal favorite is a book and a cup of tea, but who says you cannot watch a movie, play videogames, or hang out with family and friends. This is the time you deserve to do something fun without feeling guilty because you spent the rest of the day getting things done. Believe me, when you do this right, you will start your day feeling energetic because you know that you will do what you love before retiring to bed.

This is a perfect scenario, and you might not be able to do it every day. There come days when you simply want to take a break from everything which is also okay because that is your body asking to reset, but you need to make sure that you're back on your feet. No one out there can live your life for you!

Courses we Offer

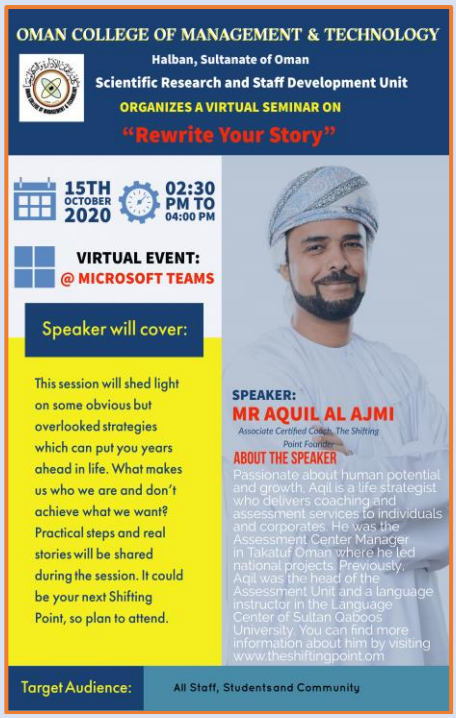
Upcoming Events

Interior Design Department organizes a digital drawing contest 2020

The Interior Design department has announced that submissions for the Artistic digital Art Competition is open from November 23rd, 2020 to December 31st, 2020.The department encourages submissions from all OCMT students regardless of their registered academic level or specialisation. This artistic competition aims at reinforcing the student artistic and computer skills. Moreover, communication and self-expression skills are also aimed to be developed. The specifications of the expected submissions have been clearly announced and sent to all students via the students' affairs department. Each participant can send one artwork. This competition will be judged on digital drawing originality, creativity, and technical skills. Awards will be given for the top 3 participants. Winners will be announced on January 7th, 2021.

Smart Cities Seminar	**28th Feb 2021**
Cultural day (English)	**17th March 2021**
Drawing and Painting skills training	**28th April 2021**
How to use the Library Catalogue - Workshop	**11th May 2021**
Book Day (English)	**27th May 2021**
Social Engineering and Cyber Security - Seminar	**6th June 2021**

Virtual Workshops during COVID -19



New Staff: Inspire and Ignite Minds

Dr. Oualid Ben Ali - Assistant Professor
Computer Science & MIS

Dr. Oualid Ali is considered as one of the international well-recognized experts in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Technology foresight, Future foresight, Scenarios planning, Trends watching, Emerging technologies & innovations, Industrial Revolution 4.0, Future cities (Smart, Sustainable and innovative Cities), Education 4.0, etc. He has participated in several projects related to these fields as a speaker, expert, researcher, advisor, or trainer. Specifically, within the field of Smart cities, he has been involved in the planning and implementation of several future cities' projects in various verticals such as "Smart mobility, Smart Education, Smart tourism, Smart energy, Smart health, Smart logistics, Smart waste management, Smart water management, Smart security, Smart policing, Smart buildings & Infrastructure, etc." to mention few. Dr. Oualid is a member of several organizations related to his fields of interest. As a global speaker and world traveler, he has been invited, as a keynote or guest speaker, to several local, regional and international events (more than 40 events each year). He has founded many international and national organisations related to his fields of interest (see the list). Dr. Oualid, has joined recently the Oman College of Management and Technology where he aspires to apply all his knowledge. For more information about Dr. Oualid, please visit his website at www.dr-oualid-ali.com

Ms. Sara Ahmed Mohamed - Lecturer
English language & Literature (GFP)

Sara Ahmed is committed to student's success in the classroom and in life. She has a Bachelor Degree in Education from Gezira University in Sudan and a Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching (ELT) from the University of Nile Valley, Sudan. Furthermore, Sara has a Cambridge CELTA as a TESOL certificate in addition to some short courses in Education and Information Technology (IT). As a Foundation Instructor and an Academic Advisor, she strives to promote English skills knowledge across the curriculum by encouraging her students to explore
the importance of the English Language.

Ms.Muzna Ibrahim Abbas Al-Hooti -Lecturer
English language & Literature (GFP)

Muzna Al Hooti is a diligent educator always trying to find unique methods to incorporate in her classes. She has a BA in English Education from Sultan Qaboos University and soon she will also have her MA from SQU. With 5 years of experience, she has started from elementary schools and worked her way up to higher education.

Campus Life Brought Home

Maram Suliman Ahmed Alharthi

Business Administration

Looking back to how things were in OCMT's campus, I can see the huge transition that happened due to the pandemic. It's clear that this pandemic has thoroughly disrupted various educational systems at first, but OCMT has already and is still touting the benefits.

As a sophomore scholar, I am very diligent on the ways Lecturers use for teaching. Being a student in OCMT and attending online classes enabled me to successfully and easily reach out to my teachers and fellow students, either through private conversations or video meetings. Seeing other students in various institutions attending their classes made me realize how efficient it is for us, as students in our college. Here's the thing, classes are managed to be taught as per your course schedule, it flows easily throughout the whole semester.

In my first online semester, I really thought that course work would be put off for a while and I somehow got far behind. From this platform my advice is, even though classes are online they must be taken as a normal traditional class and not taken lightly.

To my surprise, I don't feel as though I missed a lot, in fact, I am sure that me and my fellow students have gained something good out of this new experience.

Being a member of the newsletter committee, I'm taking this opportunity to share my experience and advice all students of OCMT. I've learned to become a successful distance learner and my biggest motive to that and I will say it to all, it is to try as hard as you can to be self-disciplined. I know other obligations might mean that your work isn't done to its fullest, but I promise you that things do get better as long as you put effort into it.

Sometimes students lose the motivation to study, especially now which everyone understands. But let's focus on the good side of the current situation to attract good energies, isn't that right?

As a student, I sometimes had trouble communicating with teachers and students. However, our college really made me feel like home when we were in campus thus communicating online with everyone in OCMT was never difficult during the pandemic.

Take this experience as a challenge to improve yourself in all aspects you wish to, consider it as a rewarding learning experience because it truly is. You may wonder why; it is because online school will teach you how to become a

disciplined scholar and improve your abilities as a student. This whole pandemic taught us all many good lessons, one of them being the importance of communicating knowledge and explore the full potential of it to benefit us.

To all my fellow students at OCMT, by the end of this experience you will realize that you all became a well-rounded individual, a student who has the skills to go through a busy agenda and gain so much knowledge on being a successful student.

We all deserve a big round of applause for coming this far!

Falling In- Love with Online Learning

Ibtisam Mohsin Mohammed Al Harooni

Computer Science Major

Education has changed radically since March 2020, when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a global pandemic. OCMT, like many learning institutions around the world, had no option but to take a "social distance" approach and shift to online learning. As a computer science student, I had little difficulty shifting to online learning for the reason that computer science does not require in-person labs as other majors, e.g., biology, physics, and etc. as we use computers in most of our traditional classes to write, code, and design programs.

Computer Science Instructors are assiduous to deliver the course material in an easy and effective manner where they use technology to help them achieve their goals. For example, Digital Logic Design is a course that is usually held in a computer lab but since the course is online, the instructor had to take some actions; he provided us with websites and applications to help us understand the material better. Although computers are not available to all students, myself included, we used applications

on our mobile phones to draw electronic circuits, design K-maps, and understand how computers operate.

In addition, my classmates and I decided to study together and seize the opportunity of being at home and having the resources to help each other and ace our online classes. In the beginning, it was hard to coordinate our schedules for meetings and study sessions, though, we settled on a time that works for everyone. We used Microsoft Teams to meet and explain the lessons and solve questions. Unfortunately, the screen sharing feature from Microsoft Teams has been blocked as a result we no longer use Microsoft Teams for study sessions. However, we now use WhatsApp video calls. As a consequence, I study more frequently and not for the exams only as I used to.

With my short experience that lasted about 3 semesters, I can say that I learned a lot from online classes, which went against my expectations. And I would totally choose online classes over traditional classes.

COVID -19 - A blessing in disguise for students

Naif Nawaf Said Al Lamki

BS Accounting Major

Covid-19, short for the "coronavirus", is a recent respiratory-related virus that has first appeared during late 2019. However, for most of the times, it was hidden as a secret as the world governments did not want citizens to worry. Obviously, that didn't help and the virus has been officially claimed as a pandemic a few months later.

But how has it effected the life of students, more specifically OCMT students? Well, due to the ruling of the supreme committee, all Educational Institutions in the Sultanate have to either shut down or turn online. Fortunately, for OCMT students, our college has been able to provide online class, therefore, allowing us to continue our "studies from home "

Well, you may be curious about the changes and the effects that this online learning situation created when compared to physical classes, so I'll just summarize it for you based on my personal experience. Due to the efforts of our professors and the administration, learning- online has been easy and comfortable, however, in some subjects' professors said that" have increased the level of difficulty of the exams, and his/her reasoning was because you have more resources now and it is an open-book test so I need to make it harder to make it fair". Whether this is fair or not depends on who is viewing this issue.

Lastly, participating in online classes has given us all more time to sleep since the time to travel from home to college is automatically deducted. For us students,

this means that we can sleep longer, wear pajamas to classes and feel relaxed at home. The impacts of the pandemic were noticeable, due to the college's effort, the students have had a great and easy transition to online learning. And while yes online learning does have its own pros and cons, the truth is that we, learners continuously and untiringly attending our classes and eventually earn a degree, and not even a global pandemic can stop us!

How does the pandemic impact me as a student?

Mansoor Al Balushi

Business Administration Major

The current ongoing pandemic COVID-19, when first started to spread, it was only in a specific region, however, now it is almost everywhere. Apart from losing jobs, many people have lost their beloved ones and the number of cases is still increasing. Governments began to take immediate actions to control the spread of the virus. As with any other student, my studies and social life have been disturbed due to this invisible enemy.

In Oman, for example, the government has created a committee called the Supreme Committee to put regulations and restrictions were necessary to control the disease. As usual, every person has been affected either directly (by getting the disease) or indirectly through getting the risk of being infected.

Since my college has been closed for practical teaching and all classes have started via distance learning. My education has been disrupted in some aspects. For instance, I prefer to learn more by being present rather than being online. This is because, in practical learning,

students are much more involved, while in distance learning, there is always something that one cannot control such as the frequent disconnection of the internet.
Moreover, some recent results of surveys show that a greater number of students prefer to learn with their classmates or prefer to work as a team, which is not possible in distance learning. As a mature student, I prefer to spend more time in the library, where the environment is much quieter than being at home. The students indeed have access to various online resources such as e-books and journals; however, I always prefer to read from hard copies. On the other hand, a study shows that there were no significant differences between traditional and face-to-face learning. However, some students have performed better in online learning.

To conclude, the pandemic has left a substantial impact on our lives and its impact is still increasing. Despite the lockdown and immediate actions, the virus is still spreading. It may take a while to bring the learning methods to their previous position. Online learning is not as effective as face-to-face; however, distance learning has helped us to continue our education.

Self-Study - A Must!

Salim Hamed Salim Al-Jabri

Business Administration Major

During this decade a lot of changes happened from technology to education. Nowadays it's easy for every student to learn by themselves, they have a huge number of resource (unlimited). Indeed, we had an improvement in technologies, which we can use it to study independently. Students are asking and wondering why self-studying such a matter? what impact does it have? Education is not restricted to classrooms or by teachers, we as student must know how to study independently and what is the tip and benefits of it.

To begin with, the meaning of self-study is the student is learning without the help of an assistant or teacher or even inside a classroom, by using different source and techniques, including the understand of any topic or solving an assignment. Autodidact is very important of an academic person, it will benefit him now and, in the future, when he became an employee. Indeed, it will help him to engage with he is learning inside a classroom, it will enhance his learning experience, his study skills will become better. self-studying will help him to go beyond the topic and explore more about it, also he will have more interest in learning.

Coming up to the recommended tips for self-study. First the student needs to find what suet him in learning, what method he is likely with, because when he uses a comfortable method, he will be able to understand clearly. the student must search for different resource and make use of all of them, like read different books and articles that is related, Search for educational videos. Make a conversation with yourself or with a family member, ask question during it, speak about related topics, set goals to achieve, but you must remember to be realistic, set goal according your strength, don't set goals that you can't achieve it.

Try to schedule your time, make sessions that helps you to focus, have a break, don't make long sessions because it will interrupt your focus. Have the require tools to study, don't come to study just with your pencil and book and you keep starring on it, set a laptop or computer if it requires for watching videos and read articles, also arrange a study area, where you can focus without a disturbance, study in a quiet and clean place, have a note with you to write everything important.
In the other hand, the benefits of self-studying are many. it will help the student to study more effectively, and gain more knowledge and experience, the student will discover more about his studies, he will learn to be an independent person, depends on his self in life, accordingly he will gain sense of responsibility. Also, the student will know how to manage his. Including to that the student will feel very confident towards himself.

To conclude self-study is a responsibility for an individual to learn without any help, by making use of different resources and methods. Study dependently is all about gain a complete knowledge about studies. Autodidact make a person realize that education is not only consist in classroom, or depend on age of a person, or even the place that you are living in, what matters is the conviction in yourself that education is a foundation that can't be abandoned in all fields without exception, and therefore students must work hard for a brilliant future.

Snippets

Alumni Day

25th February 2020

OCMT Students participate in the seminar conducted by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry

27th February 2020

A Memorandum of Understanding with a Charitable Organization

3rd May 2020

Commencement of the New Semester

22nd September 2020

Participation in the Higher Education Fair

2nd - 4th March 2020

Membership of the Omani Association for Library and Information

16th March 2020

Biannual Newsletter

Third Issue,

January 2021

Published by:

Oman College of Management and Technology

Editorial Team:

Media and Newsletter Committee

Email:
omancollege@omancollege.edu.om

PO. Box-680, PC - 320, Barka

Tel:24051000

Fax:24051088/99

WWW.OMANCOLLEGE.EDU.OM

WWW.OCMT.EDU.OM

كلية عُمان

OMAN COLLEGE

of Management and Technology للإدارة والتكنولوجيا