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This issue of NUST NEWS, with its attractive design and layout, shares important highlights, achievements, and co-curricular activities around the campus for the last quarter with the NUST community. The outstanding University achievements acknowledged both at international and national fora speak volumes of its commitment to impart quality education and foster conducive learning environments. The University’s improved world ranking from last year is another harbinger of a promising future. As NUST is making monumental strides towards academic excellence, it is in line with international standards to acknowledge its contributions to the educational environment. Therefore, it is appropriate to formally publish NUST NEWS as a monthly newsletter with international print standards.

From October onwards, the readers may be able to get the latest information about University life on a monthly basis. As we acknowledge the contributions of the focal persons and the editors, we also welcome aboard new student reporters who recently joined the team. I request all the institutions to please forward their news reports as the events take place so as to give them timely coverage. With you, an enjoyable reading and look forward to your feedback.

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NUST improves its World Ranking

National University of Sciences and Technology has improved its ranking in the List of ‘Top 500 World Universities,’ by achieving 417th slot as per the latest ranking list for 2012-13 issued by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), UK. NUST is the only Pakistani university maintaining this honor since 2007. Besides overall ranking of the universities, QS also prepares Subject-wise Rankings, wherein NUST has been placed at 324th rank in the discipline of Engineering & Technology. It speaks volumes of the hard work put in by the NUST management and faculty in terms of improving infrastructure, providing quality education, conducting innovative research, establishing international linkages, engaging in collaborative research with leading international universities, participating in international exchange programs and producing graduates who are welcomed by national and international industry, business, academia and market. While NUST management and faculty bow their heads before Allah Almighty for bestowing this unique honour, the nation can take enormous pride in their own national university i.e., NUST.

Rector NUST, Engr Muhammad Asghar, has congratulated the NUST administration and faculty of all NUST constituent colleges, institutes and centers for their relentless efforts to achieve excellence in providing quality education to their students and carrying out research of international standard. He commended the recognition of the international competitiveness and compatibility of NUST academic programs at global level. He expressed the resolve that NUST will continue making concerted efforts to keep the flag of Pakistan flying high in the world academia.

Seminar on Management Innovation

One of the renowned names in the field of creativity and innovation, Fredrik Haren addressed a packed out audience at NUST on July 5. As soon as he ascended the rostrum, the guest speaker started floating ideas and that too in a very interesting manner to ingrain in the audience the very essence of innovation.

Invited at the main campus of the University to conduct a daylong seminar on Management Innovation, the author of ‘The Idea Book (2004),’ counted among top 100 business books of all times, mesmerized an overwhelming gathering of academics and scholars with his thought provoking ideas punctuated with humour-coated examples to help them understand the worth of thinking in new ways. He talked at length on a range of topics including: from the Information Age to the Innovation Age; why business creativity will become even more important in the future; and why we are less creative than we think but more creative than we can imagine.

Fredrik is credited with over 1000 speeches, lectures and workshops on idea generation and entrepreneurship to more than 100,000 people in over 20 countries. He has held seminars for hundreds of organizations in almost every line of business, including Hewlett Packard, American Express, ABB, China Mobile, Nokia, Ericsson, Ogilvy and BIMBA. His bestseller ‘The Idea Book (2004)’ aims at awakening the spirit of creativity and innovation among his readers. This has sold over 50,000 copies of the Swedish version alone and has been translated in 15 different languages. His latest book, The Developing World (2009) is about creativity, dreams and a curiosity about the world, written about change and awakening and the dangers of not seeing what is going on in the world today. For the attendees, the seminar was remarkable as it gave them an insight into the world of innovation and creativity. It also helped them realize their innate creative abilities and served as a stimulus for thinking out of the box in a way that eventually improves the world. They also had the opportunity to closely interact with the guest speaker, who responded well to all their queries.
Internship and Guest Researcher Program at the University of Manchester

As an extension to the last year’s international internship program, this year three more UG students and 2 PG students from College of EME, NUST visited National Composites Certification and Evaluation Facility (NCCEF), The University of Manchester, UK as internees and guest researchers respectively. The visit was sponsored as part of the British Council sponsored DelPHE project ‘Capacity building for enhancing R&D in designing, manufacturing, testing and certification of composite materials.’

After a comprehensive selection process, Muhammad Kamran Siddiqui, Muneeb Ahmed and Khurram Suleman who are 3rd year Bachelor students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering (DME), College of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering were selected for this internship. Besides the undergraduate internees this year Muhammad Kamran and Abid Hassan, two masters students from DME, were also sent to Manchester, UK as Guest Researchers to perform experimental work related to their MS thesis. As a result of this program, students were able to work with PhD students at NCCEF and acquired advanced knowledge and hands-on experience in composites manufacturing, testing and evaluation. Commenting on the program Project lead coordinator (PI) Dr Rizwan emphasized, “Composites Materials have a major role to play in bringing around our economy as these are fast replacing metals in all major industries including aerospace, automobiles and construction.’ The internship and guest researcher program is one of the series of activities planned for enhancing research collaboration between two Universities. According to the Head of Mechanical Engineering Department, Dr Syed Waheed ul Haq “The activities are aimed at giving international exposure to NUST students so that they not only excel in academic learning but also build international linkages that will ultimately foster international partnerships for development which is one of the core millennium development goals.” The importance of the international links based on spirit of mutual collaboration and respect cannot be overemphasized. Students really appreciated NUST for its efforts to produce quality Engineers and to have good relations with foreign Universities.

NUST launches computer-based entry test: a landmark development

Owing to incessant advancements occurring in the ICT domain, NUST has been effervescently employing its resources to provide students with on-campus facilities on a par with the latest technology. In this connection, NUST has achieved another milestone by introducing a sophisticated computer-based entry test system for its Fall Admissions 2012.

State-of-the-art equipment has been installed at H-12 Islamabad examination facilities which at a time can accommodate over a thousand candidates with a PC each. The software automatically generates question paper a little while prior to the commencement of the examination, thus eliminating the element of any compromise on transparency. Minutes before the start of paper, the students are given proper instructions to help avoid any disruption/ system error for ensuring smooth conduct of the examination. It is heartening to note that candidates appearing in the e-tests find themselves at great ease in attempting their respective papers. The venture in credible testing has been lauded by students and parents alike. 

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NUST organizes ‘Shabash Pakistan’

With a view to evoking the spirit of patriotism among the youth, NUST Bazm-e-Pakistan organised an exciting event titled ‘Shabash Pakistan’ in collaboration with School of Leadership. The event comprises three one-day conferences (each specified for one month). Subsequent seminars will be held in the months of November and December each.

Undergraduate and graduate students from various schools and colleges of NUST attended the event. Pro Rector Academics, Dr Asif Raza, graced the occasion as the guest of honour.

The very idea behind conducting such an exhilarating event was to stimulate the national spirit among Pakistani youth and provide them a pedestal where they may not only be well responsive to ‘Pakistaniyat’ themselves but also may infuse an invigorating spirit among their fellow Pakistanis. The event also aimed at projecting highly influential image of Pakistanis as a nation on social media.

The School of Leadership enlivened the session by engaging the audience in very constructive activities i.e., Problem Hunt, Toolkit for Change, Action Planning and prompting students to launch their own social action projects that was one of the chief objectives of the event. The audience were formed up in a group of 16.

The resource person, Umair Jaliawala conducted the session in a very convincing tone and made the day very special through his persuasive and rhetoric faculties. He was accompanied by a very agile and passionate team.

The theme of the session was ‘Main’ (I) demonstrating what one can do to bring a change in the society, through his commitment. Umair said that it was really a lethargic attitude on the part of a person who is negatively affected by a certain situation and still remains in the state of ‘inertia’. Instead he should be on the forefront to take action and nip the evil in the bud. He further said that Pakistani youth had potential in plenty; the only thing which needed to be worked on was the ‘self belief’.

Speaking at the occasion, Faculty Sponsor of NUST Community Service Club, Dr Irtaza Ali asserted on realizing the true implications of ‘Pakistaniyat’ which was nothing except feeling the pangs and wiping tears of other Pakistanis in distress. He also touched upon the recent crisis caused by devastating floods which had victimized poor Pakistanis at large scale and encouraged the youth to play their part along with NCSC towards mitigating the anguish of the poor victims.

The session ended with an action planning activity seeking answers from the audience of a very direct and straightforward question of what they will personally do to bring positive change in the society. Prominent among others who graced the occasion were Dr. Liaqat Ali, Associate Dean NICE and Mr. Mahmud Bashir Bajwa, Director Student Affairs.

NBS Research Papers gain international recognition

» Mr. Suhail Rizwan, PhD Scholar of NBS presented his research paper titled, “Short Selling Stabilizes the Market; Evidence from China” in Sherazi Board Room of NBS on Sep 20. The faculty members and students of PhD-2K12 attended. This paper has been accepted in the 3rd International Conference on Economics, Business and Management ICEBM 2012, Malaysia.

» Prof. Dr. Masrur Alam Khan Head Department of Mass Communication and International Business & Marketing gave oral presentation on “International Crime, Media & Popular Studies Conference” the United States of America (USA) from Sep 17-19. He presented his paper “Gender Bias in Pakistan Television Prime Time Commercials: A Counter Analysis” at International Conference on Crime, Media and Culture at Indiana State University, Terre Hante, Indiana. More than eighty delegates from America & International Universities presented their papers in the said conference.

» Prof. Dr. Masrur Alam Khan presented another paper on “Status of Health Communication in Pakistan” at “Interactive Dialogue on Health Communication” in Pearl Continental, Karachi on Sep 29. About seventy academicians, professionals and researchers participated in interactive dialogue sessions.
Nine EBM Systems handed over to Pak Army

A total of nine Engine Blow-by Measuring Systems developed at SMME were handed over to Pakistan Army on July 11.

The School has designed and developed custom made systems to monitor low levels of engine blow-by which is one of the most significant parameters to measure engine health.

The system is first of its kind and a joint patent between the developer and NUST has been filed. The system utilizes an advanced embedded system coupled with a sensitive flow system. The in-built system logs the data for analysis and displays it on the screen for the diagnosis of the automotive engine’s problem on the spot. Two portable versions of the system were developed: Model RAM-BB1 which can be connected to any laptop via USB port and Model RAM-BB2 with built-in panel PC for field applications.

The ceremony was chaired by Rector NUST, Engineer Muhammad Asghar. Professor Emeritus Dr. Akram Sheikh, Principal SMME Dr. Abdul Ghafoor and other dignitaries from higher management of NUST also graced the occasion. DG E&ME Maj Gen Jamshed Riaz, guest of honor, lauded the efforts of NUST in general and SMME in particular for building trust between industry and university through such products. In his closing remarks Rector NUST thanked DG EME for showing confidence in the capabilities of NUST.

NRG Bio-fuels Canada outsources research to CES

NRG Bio-fuels Canada has outsourced its research to Centre for Energy Systems-NUST and is proactively involved in R&D in the renewable energy sector of Pakistan. The Company has established a state-of-the-art renewable energy lab at CES and is currently funding many other projects involving fabrication of service equipment in collaboration with local industry with a view to testing at a commercial scale, the various technologies already developed at CES.

NRG Bio-fuels has planted the Jatropha crop near Bahawalpur on five-acre land, donated by Nawab Latif Abbasi and Nawab Salahuddin Abbasi. It is one year old and going through extreme seasons. The crop is drip-irrigated, healthy and fruitful. The seeds though younger in age, are larger in size than the Indian variety imported earlier. Out of the 3,750 saplings planted, only 17 underwent replacement, an almost negligible mortality rate. The crop is expected to yield ca. 15 tons of seeds by the end of 2013, enough to test on a commercial scale, the accelerated biodiesel and efficient expeller technology developed by NUST. The Abbasis have pledged 30,000 acres for mass scale cultivation and production of biodiesel by the industry.

Faculty development measures

At NUST, Faculty Development is given utmost significance. It is evident from the fact that in the month of July alone, almost 107 Fully Funded Scholarships in the foreign reputed universities from various sources were explored and disseminated among the faculty through the Human Resource Directorate.

As regards new induction, cases of five Assistant Professors, four Lecturers and two Lab Engineers were processed and subsequently they were added to NUST faculty strength.

As far as foreign faculty return rate is concerned, four faculty members have returned quite eager to resume their work at NUST. In order to keep faculty and employees regularly updated about the upcoming training events, training calendar has been prepared and uploaded on the University’s website. This gives out monthly roadmap for easily scheduling events.
Highlights

RCMS hosts introductory seminar on Nanotechnology

Owing to increasing importance of nanotechnology in the fields of supercomputing, environment, energy, genetics, agriculture and security, Research Centre for Modeling & Simulation (RCMS) arranged a daylong free seminar titled “An Introductory Seminar on Multi-disciplinary Applications of Nanotechnology” on July 21. The highlight of the event was the exceptionally informative address by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shahzad Khan, who is a senior professor in DeVry University, Addison, Illinois, USA for more than three decades and specializes in the field of nanotechnology.

The session was widely attended by researchers along with a number of faculty members and students from the constituent institutions of NUST. Active participation by the members was also observed during the Q&A session, where they asked numerous questions pertaining to the diverse areas associated with the impending application of nanotechnology. At the end of the seminar, Pro-Rector (Academics) NUST Dr. Asif Raza thanked Dr Khan for visiting NUST and graciously accepting NUST’s request for conducting the seminar at a very short notice. While appreciating the initiative taken by RCMS, he said that NUST was already cognizant of the importance of nanotechnology and relevant research groups in various NUST institutes have already been formed who are jointly working in this latest field, applicable to almost all disciplines of engineering, and science and technology.

Students from SEECS attend Summer Training Conference of One World Youth Project

In a formal partnership with NUST, One World Youth Project has links with universities in America, Boston University, Georgetown University, Kosovo (University of Priština), Turkey (İstanbul Bilgi University) and Guyana (University of Guyana, Georgetown) with which, utilizing modern technology and social media, participating students will be encouraged to interact on educational and personal levels so that long established barriers between cultures can be constructively demolished and then rebuilt with global peace in mind.

A total of 16 students from NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences have been enrolled with One World Youth Project for the Community Service program. The students attended online training course to qualify for the positions of Project managers and Project Ambassadors at OWYP. All the students earned honorary performance in the training course attaining more than 90 percent marks.

As the second part of the project, SEECS students Ayesha Mushtaq and Shahzeb Mirza represented NUST at the annual One World Youth Project Summer Training Conference (STC), held from July 1 to July 6, 2012. The Summer Training Conference prepared the students to become mentors for students aged 10-14 years, and facilitate a year-long global competence curriculum in local middle schools. As the third part of this Project, the project ambassador fellows were given Fall Site Training in September where Cady Voge and Mychal from OWYP visited NUST SEECS. The ambassador fellows were trained to implement the latest techniques of teaching in classrooms. Through its partnership with OWYP, NUST will continue to demonstrate its leadership as it provides 21st century educational opportunities to Pakistan’s middle schools in the upcoming academic year.
EME, PNEC students stand out at Shell Eco Marathon, Asia, 2012

College of EME and PNEC teams got 9th and 10th positions respectively at Shell Eco Marathon, Asia, 2012. They stood 1st and 2nd in the Subcontinent. Pakistan was ranked fourth in the event, which was held in Malaysia this year.

Shell Eco Marathon is a Shell sponsored event that takes place annually and is held worldwide across Europe, Asia and America. In the competition, students design and manufacture an ultra-fuel efficient, environment friendly vehicle; and come up with novel solutions to combat the impending energy-crisis.

Over 1500 students from 18 countries from all over Asia participated in Shell Eco Marathon, Asia, 2012 that was held from July 4-7 at Sepang International Circuit in Kuala Lumpur. Teams from College of EME and PNEC participated in two categories of the Marathon, which are: Urban Concept and Prototype Vehicles. Team NUSTAG from College of EME and PNEC team bagged 9th and 10th positions respectively in the Urban concept category of the competition, out of a total of 43 teams. In the Subcontinent, team NUSTAG stood 1st and team PNEC 2nd, among five teams that were able to qualify for the competition. Pakistan overall ranked fourth among 18 participating countries. PNEC also got second place in Best Communications, as an off-track award.

Seminars on Engineering Education Research

Launch of a new engineering discipline-DEER

NUST conducted a seminar on Engineering Education Research on July 3 at SEECS. Pro Rector (RIC) NUST Engr M. Mushtaq was the chief guest at the occasion.

One of the core objectives of the seminar was to get the participants familiarized with Engineering Education Research (EER) as a fast emerging discipline and make them realize the urgency of producing a new breed of engineers with intuitive subject knowledge and fully-capable of working in diversified and multi-disciplinary settings.

While talking to the audience, Head of the Department of Engineering Education Research, Dr Qaisar Hameed Malik highlighted the prospects of initiating new venture at the University. He was of the view that the University targeted initiation of PhD programs as it already had developed its strong ties with Purdue University, USA. Also, he briefly mentioned the roadmap for the launch of the program and asserted that it would definitely provide higher pedestal for learning.

Another seminar was held at College of E&ME on July 10, highlighting the same topic. E&ME College further volunteered to partner with DEER for the pilot project being launched shortly for validating the EER concepts in local setting.

Later, the Dr Qaisar emphasized the exigency of producing the erudite trainers. He further said that NUST decided to launch EER in August 2011. A nucleus was formed in March 2012 with the mandate to establish a fully functional Department of EER by fall 2014 at NUST Institute of Leadership in Education (NILE) as the University is conscious of remaining synchronized with global changes occurring in the academia.
Blood Donation Drive to fight Thalassemia disease-NCSC

It is believed that with the estimated prevalence of Thalassemia around eight percent in Pakistan, it has become a major health concern for the nation. However, proper blood screening before marriages, counseling and awareness programs on Thalassemia at all levels can reduce the risk of Thalassemia among children. In an effort to promote voluntary blood donations, NUST Community Services Club (NCSC) organized a blood donation camp in the Armed Forces Institute of Transfusion (AFIT) on July 14. AFIT deals with the patients of thalassaemia whose treatment’s prime requirement is blood. NCSC launched its blood donation campaign in NUST H-12 and students started registering for the noble cause. The campaign successfully enrolled 16 volunteers who were then taken from the H-12 campus to AFIT. After completion of necessary tests the students donated their blood for a greater cause. The 16 pints of blood collected will largely be transfused into children diagnosed with Thalassaemia. NCSC organizes blood camp in association with a reputed organization twice a year in order to play its vital part in service to the humanity and to kindle the light of compassion in students at NUST.

SCEE Signs MoU with LMKT and AiD Pvt Ltd.

The MoU signing ceremonies between LMKT & IGIS and between AiD (Pvt.) Ltd and NUST were held on August 7. Senior executives from industry and NUST were present at the occasion. Associates in Development (AID) Pvt. Ltd is an international consulting organization that provides development and management consulting services in the engineering and social sectors. Whereas, LMKT is an independent IT solutions company.

Mr. Osman Jilani, President LMKT and Mr. Ijaz Hussain, Director Operations and Business Development, AID (Pvt.) Ltd from Associates in Development (Pvt.) Ltd were invited to sign MoU with SCEE and NUST respectively. Principal School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (SCEE), Dr. Nasrullah Khan, senior faculty from Institute of Geographical Information Systems (IGIS) and CAC team was present at the occasion. Ms Rabia Shoaib Ahmad, Senior Program Manager CAC gave an overview of CAC and also gave a brief introduction about NUST. Engr. Sarwar Jamal, Associate Dean IGIS highlighted NUST’s collaboration with AID (Pvt.) Ltd and LMKT and also gave a brief overview of the projects being done with LMKT and AID (Pvt.) Ltd.

In the end Dr. Asif Raza, Pro-Rector Academics, addressed the audience and shared his views about the industry-academia linkage. Mr. Osman Jilani, President LMKT addressed the audience and shared his views about the industry-academia linkage. Mr. Ijaz Hussain, Director Operations and Business Development, AID (Pvt.) Ltd assured their full support on mutual grounds with NUST. He also mentioned that this MoU would help strengthen the linkage and in turn provide students opportunities for industry exposure. Mr. Osman Jilani, President LMKT and Dr. M Nasrullah Khan, NUST signed MoU between LMKT and SCEE, NUST.

Whereas MoU between AID (Pvt.) Ltd and NUST, was signed by Mr. Ijaz Hussain, Director Operations and Business Development and Ms. Rabia Shoaib Ahmad, Senior Program Manager CAC, NUST.

In the end Dr. Asif Raza, Pro-Rector Academics, addressed the audience and reiterated that this collaboration will enhance building trust with industry. He also said that this association should also be developed with various schools of NUST. He hoped that this event would go a long way in establishing a successful collaboration for mutual benefits for both the parties in coming years.
CES students attend 5th South Asia Economic Summit

Centre for Energy Systems (CES) launched its maiden degree program MS Energy Systems Engineering as of fall 2012 for which 45 students with background in engineering disciplines of Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical and Environmental Engineering registered for the course. The Principal CES gave a welcome address and inaugural lecture to the incoming class, which also attended a three-day South Asia Economic Summit at Marriott, Islamabad. As many as 114 foreign delegates, including ministers, economists and civil society members participated in the three-day summit that focused on issues relating to South Asia’s economic outlook, impacts of global financial crisis and economic growth. The summit was jointly sponsored by Pakistan’s Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with its regional Partner.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Defence, said that, “South Asian nations should focus on the issues that unite us rather than those that divide us.” Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said that it was economic diplomacy that was creating space for political diplomacy despite challenges such as food security, climate challenge, water and energy. She said, “we need to look into future as we have moved ahead on the path of confidence and trust-building leading to deeper regional integration.” Furthermore, in the inaugural session the publication “Power Sector Outlook: appraisal of KESC” in post privatization period was formally launched as part of the policy dialogue series by SDPI. An important aspect of this publication is that it includes a “commendation” section in which review report by NUST, also appears on page XV of the publication.

NUST inks MoU with University of Malaya, Malaysia

A Malaysian delegation led by Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon, Vice Chancellor University of Malaya, Malaysia visited Pakistan under the arrangements of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, for the purpose of seeking collaborations with Pakistani institutions of higher education. National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and University of Malaya (UM) signed an MoU covering areas of collaboration including; exchange of faculty & students and research activities.

Rector NUST, Engr Muhammad Asghar, and Vice Chancellor University of Malaya signed the document on Sep 08, 2012. Earlier on Sep 07, 2012 a four member UM delegation led by Prof Dato, Dr Sofian Azirun, Dean of Faculty Science visited NUST wherein the delegation was briefed about genesis of NUST, its institutions and academic programs, research and entrepreneurship initiatives, student-achievements and future plans. The delegation also visited NUST Business School (NBS), School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SEECS), Samar Mubarakmand Research Institute of Microwave and Millimeterwave Studies (SMRIMMS), Research Centre for Modelling and Simulation (RCMS), School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (SMME), School of Chemical and Materials Engineering (SCME), Institute of Environmental Science and Engineering (IESE). The delegation appreciated the progress made by NUST in various areas of academic activities within a short period of 20 years and ensured keen interest in establishing collaborations between the two institutions in different fields.
Quality Assurance and Enhancement Conference

The conference was organized by QA Directorate on Sep 11 at the main campus of NUST and was chaired by Pro-Rector (Academics) Dr. Asif Raza, Deans and Heads of Departments (HoDs) of all the NUST Engineering Institutions attended the Conference along with Director (Human Resource), Director (Academics), Director (Quality Assurance), Deputy Registrar and Deputy Director (Research). Recitation from Holy Quran was followed by the welcome note by Pro-Rector (Academics). Deputy Director Quality Assurance Engr. Salahuddin Adil Qazi gave a brief presentation highlighting the current status of accreditation and remedial actions taken for the enhancement of quality in all engineering programs. Later, all the NUST engineering institutions presented the PEC accreditation status of their programs. They also provided updates on the actions taken on the observations made by the PEC teams during their previous visits. Various decisions was enunciated by the chairman to improve the quality of NUST Engineering Programs.

Prosperity through Entrepreneurship with DISCOVER 2012

NUST Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship announced the launch of 2nd Prime Minister’s Entrepreneurial Challenge - DISCOVER 2012 “Prosperity through Entrepreneurship” on July 3. DISCOVER is a national student business plan competition that has been endorsed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Through this platform thousands of students from universities across the country compete, transform their ideas into practical business plans and strive to develop products as well as services in order to ultimately establish business enterprises. The Rector, along with the University officials and faculty members were present at the occasion, encouraging the participation of students.

The DISCOVER 2012 Kick off Gala was also held at NUST Business School in Sep, and aimed at promoting the concept of DISCOVER competition among students at NUST. DISCOVER 2011 had proved to be a huge success with over 1200 student participants from 30 universities of Pakistan. Teams trained through the program went on to achieve considerable success and recognition at the international level. DISCOVER 2012 has been extended not only to all constituent schools, colleges, centers of NUST but also to more than 50 universities across Pakistan.

NUST represented in Cairo, Singapore

As part of Continuing Professional development and international collaboration plan for the faculty, Col. Azad Ali Azad, instructor from the Dental faculty of Army medical college visited Cairo Egypt and Singapore to present two scientific research papers at the 15th International Dental Congress of Egyptian Dental Association and the 25th IADR (International Association for Dental Research) annual scientific meeting. His visit was jointly sponsored by NUST and Pakistan Science Foundation on the basis of quality of research work and representation of the nation at these esteemed fora. His topics of research were “Comparison of Mean Tooth Attrition Score in Psychiatric Patients with Depression, with Healthy Individuals” and “Detection of Helicobacter Pylori on Denture Plaque of Complete Denture Wearers.” His research work and presentations were highly appreciated by the international scholars and researchers at both the venues.
CAS delegation

A 20-member delegation from Chinese Academy of Sciences visited National University of Sciences and Technology on July 17. Upon their arrival, the esteemed delegates were warmly greeted by Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar.

Headed by President Chinese Academy of Sciences Chunli Bai, the delegation comprised leading scientists in the fields of Nanotechnology, Information Security and Ecology and Environmental Science. Acting Ambassador of China to Pakistan Huang Xilian also accompanied the delegation. The honourable guests were briefed on the functioning of NUST and its academic and research activities. The briefing was followed by a question and answer session. After a lunch hosted in their honour, the visiting dignitaries were split up in three groups and were subsequently conducted visits to various NUST schools/centres relevant to their areas of study.

The visit culminated with a roundtable in which the participants from both the countries agreed to boost bilateral cooperation in the areas of mutual interest including student-faculty exchange programmes.

Delegation from Bahria University

A 15-member delegation led by Head of Department of Management Sciences Bahria University Islamabad visited the main campus of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) on July 09.

Upon their arrival at the University, the delegates were briefed on the genesis of NUST, its constituent institutions, academic programmes and research capabilities, the industry and international linkages, achievements of faculty and students and the future plans of the University. Later, the delegation visited NUST Business School, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Centre of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Members of the delegation showed keen interest in NUST’s initiatives in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization under the auspices of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Technology Incubation Centre, Professional Development Centre, Intellectual Property Office, Technology Transfer Office, Corporate Advisory Council, etc.

Delegation from Yasar University, Turkey

A three-member delegation led by Ms Meline Koruk of International Office, Yasar University, Turkey visited the main campus of NUST on July 06. The delegation met with Director Quality Assurance and Manager International Collaborations NUST. The visit was a sequel to an earlier visit of the Turkish delegation to NUST in February, 2012. Both the teams discussed the matters of mutual interest and identified the areas of collaboration between NUST and Yasar University. The Turkish delegation showed keen interest for mutual collaborations especially in student, faculty and staff exchange programmes between the two universities. The two sides agreed to finalize the process of collaborations by signing the MoU detailing the areas of cooperation.
USEFP Delegation

A United States Education Foundation Pakistan (USEFP) delegation comprising Mr. Jamie Dragon, Program Officer South and Central Asian Programs, Office of Academic Exchange Program Washington DC, USA and Mrs Rita Akhtar USEFP Executive Director, Islamabad Pakistan, visited NUST on July 02. The delegation met NUST Team led by Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar and discussed the matters of mutual interest. The delegation was briefed about the genesis of NUST, its institutions and programs, research and development initiatives and achievements of its faculty and students. The visiting delegation briefed the meeting participants about USEFP programs and initiatives regarding the uplift of higher education in Pakistan. Both sides agreed to collaborate in various areas of common interest.

Korean Professor’s visit

Prof Dr Sing-Jin Ban from Chonbuk National University Korea visited NUST while representing Korean Institute of Development Strategy (KDS) on August 29, 2012. Prof Ban was accompanied by Mr. Wasim Hashmi Syed, Project Director HEC Pakistan. The visit was part of the collaborative effort by HEC and KDS to formulate policy recommendations for Higher Education in Pakistan. The delegation met with Director Quality Assurance, Engr Muhammad Ismail. The visiting delegation was briefed about the genesis of NUST, its constituent institutions, academic programs, research and entrepreneurship initiatives, student achievements and university’s civic engagement thrust. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest and possible areas of cooperation between NUST and KDS. Prof Ban showed keen interest in establishing cooperation, between the two institutions, particularly in exchange of students, faculty and staff.

Professors from Queen’s University, Canada

A two member delegation led by Dr Scott Yam, Associate Professor Electrical & Computer Engineering visited NUST on Sep 4, wherein the delegation was briefed about genesis of NUST, its institutions and academic programs, research and entrepreneurship initiatives, student achievements and future plans. The delegation also visited School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SEECS) and Samar Mubarakmand Research Institute of Microwave and Millimeterwave Studies (SMRIMMS). The delegation appreciated the progress made by NUST in various areas of academic activities within a short period of 20 years and showed keen interest in establishing collaborations between two institutions in different fields.

PLA (N) Academy Delegation Visits PNEC

Senior Captain (Commodore) Liu Youngming, Dy Political Commissar along with 6 members visited PNEC on July 2. A detailed presentation and briefing about PNEC was delivered by Captain Dr M Junaid Khan TI(M) PN in College Conference Room. Commandant PNEC Cdre Ahmed Raza SI(M) presented College Crests and souvenirs to Senior Captain (Commodore) Liu Youngming and staff officers, as a memento of their visit to PNEC.
PEFMA delegation

An eighteen-member delegation from Pakistan Electric Fan Manufacturers Association (PEFMA) visited NUST on Sep 12. The delegation had a meeting with Pro Rector (P & R) Engr Muhammad Shahid where they were warmly welcomed by the latter. The members of the delegation shared the hitches that the industry confronts in the current market scenario and expressed their earnest desire of mutual co-operation, to which, the Pro Rector assured full support. Later, Dean SEECS, Dr S M H Zaidi conducted a succinct but very effective briefing about various prospects of NUST, explicating its lofty mission, international ranking, research capabilities and collaborations, development plans and discernible social impact within society at large. The delegation acclaimed the lofty stature NUST had achieved within academia and industry in a very short span of time. Later, the delegation members visited SEECS (School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) and SMME (School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering) where they were conducted to various sections and state-of-the-art labs.

Prof Dr Toshio Koike, Japan

“Water is a key for Pakistan’s economy which makes a bridge between the areas including agriculture and forestry, health, energy, etc. Those who lack water security (including security from water-disasters) are overwhelmingly likely poor, to live in geographically isolated, disaster-prone or ecologically degraded locations, and to lack the benefits of effective local government and infrastructure. Climate change adds another formidable challenge, especially in water which is essential for the human society and the natural climate system”, said Prof. Dr. Toshio Koike, Chairman Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering (SE), UT, Tokyo, Japan.

He delivered a speech on “Water Cycle Data Integration towards better water resources management under Climate Change” to the faculty and students at NICE (SCEE), NUST on Sep 11. It covered the global practices on institutional coordination leading to “Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)” by using modern technologies and community empowerment and such experiences can help Pakistan manage its recurring floods and droughts under the climate change variability for better adaptation.

Conclusively, the speech of Prof. Koike was a part of preliminary strategy for prospective collaboration between NUST and UT at school level i.e., SCEE (NUST) – SE (UT) level, which subsequently will be extended to universities level collaboration. Further, a preliminary roadmap has been devised and to progress for such an effort Dr. Shakil Ahmad, A/P NICE (SCEE), who recently graduated under the supervision of Prof. Koike is soon visiting UT, Japan to attend meetings and follow-up.

JAICA Group

JAICA Group from Japan visited CES-NUST on Sep 28. The delegation was warmly welcomed and received at SCME by the Principal CES. The delegation was briefed on the ongoing projects being undertaken by CES. Some new projects of common interest were also discussed to explore the possibilities of mutual collaboration.

The delegation was keen to learn about the prospects and utility of the hydrogen injection kit designed for both gasoline and diesel engines. The hydrogen injection kit has been found to improve the engine efficiency by 20 % which can be optimized up to 40 % by design modification and subsequent validation.

The delegation also visited the research facility associated with Bio-Diesel Production and modified oil extraction technique with very high efficiency. The algae oil with super critical fluid extraction and the flash point of Bio-Diesel as per the EU standards were also demonstrated during the visit. JAICA Group intends installing solar panels at NUST Campus with a potential of approximately 1 MW. To pursue this project the delegation also visited the campus. The requisite data for conducting the project was subsequently shared with JAICA.
18th UG Convocation of College of E&ME

339 conferred bachelor degrees

NUST College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering held its 18th Undergraduate Convocation on Sep 4. Mir Changez Khan Jamali, Minister for Science and Technology, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Among others the event was attended by Engineer Mohammad Asghar Rector NUST, Major General Obaid Bin Zakria HI (M) Commandant NUST College of E&ME, parents, and faculty members.

A total of 339 graduates received bachelor degrees in the disciplines of Electrical, Mechanical, Mechatronics and Computer Engineering. Federal Minister for Science and Technology gave degrees to the passing-out students. He also distributed gold medals among high achievers. Umar Nawazish Ali, Amsal Naeem, Hassan Khalid and Fatima Mehmood were awarded Prime Minister’s Gold Medal for their best performance in academics in Electrical, Computer, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering respectively. Amsal Naeem of Computer Engineering was also awarded the President’s Gold Medal for being the overall best student of the year, while Raheel Mumtaz of Computer Engineering was conferred the Chief of Army Staff Gold Medal for Best Technical Cadet of the year.

Students were also awarded gold medals for their projects. Kamran Sial of Mechatronics Engineering, Farjad Adnan of Electrical Engineering, Usman Sajid of Computer Engineering and Mansoor Ghazi of Mechanical Engineering clinched Rector’s Gold Medal for best projects in their respective disciplines.

Speaking at the occasion, the chief guest congratulated the graduating students and lauded the role of EME College in providing exceptional engineering skills to the graduates in the disciplines of Electrical, Mechanical, Computer and Mechatronics Engineering that will enable them to lead a professionally sound life. He also appreciated the College for its focus on key areas of engineering in terms of imparting technical knowledge with emphasis on research and development both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Rector NUST Engr Mohammad Asghar appreciated the efforts of the College for providing the most conducive academic environment, state-of-the-art labs and highly qualified faculty for its postgraduate and undergraduate students. He said if Pakistan were to establish itself as a technology source or as a global research and development platform, three elements namely basic knowledge, innovative application and social organization have to be strengthened. He reiterated his commitment to provide to its students and the faculty a platform through NUST to inculcate these three elements. Commandant NUST College of E&ME, Major General Obaid Bin Zakria, also addressed the august gathering and congratulated the students and their parents. Referring to the current socio-economic condition of the world, he said the fresh engineers must be ready to take up the challenges as it is their sacred duty to keep the country’s flag flying high. He stressed upon acquiring skills, knowledge, and professional expertise to meet the challenges of this ever changing era of technological advancements. The Commandant also highlighted the numerous national and international achievements of the students of College of E&ME.
Workshop on Anger Management

Centre for Counseling & Career Advisory (C3A) at NUST conducted a workshop on Anger Management for students from July 3 to 4. Anger is an emotion much mishandled and negatively expressed; the purpose was to highlight its benefits and use this energy to the optimum. The session began with identifying group expectations and making norms, followed by techniques of effective communication and enhancing personal styles. The participants, with the role-play and other activities learnt about the different behavior patterns and to use them in appropriate situations. They also identified obstructive thought and behavior patterns that hindered their personal growth and development. Anger as a useful feeling was highlighted and the participants were given activities to understand their personal patterns, identify pitfalls and devise means to make healthy changes. Helpful strategies were introduced to assist internalizing and also to view situations and people with an improved perspective. The end notes included the suggestion of conducting groups with different issues in future.

Stress Management Workshop

C3A, NUST in collaboration with Professional Development Center (PDC) conducted a workshop on ‘Stress Management’ for Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) officers. This was a one-day workshop, conducted on July 19, 2012 and was attended by senior staff members of OGRA. Dr. Qaiser Hameed Malik, Principal NILE, chaired the closing session and awarded certificates to the participants. The workshop had an activity-based interactive format. The first half focused on understanding stressors and minimizing the effects, followed by prioritizing commitments to manage time and reduce stress induced by delaying important tasks. Standardized tests were administered to assess stress levels and time management skills. The second half was based on understanding the stress response, types and intensity of stress and introducing a healthy recovery cycle. Short movie clips were shown to develop a better understanding of the concepts and guided imagery was introduced to help learn techniques of reducing stress at personal level.

Counseling sessions on improving presentation and stage skills

C3A at NUST conducted three confidence building sessions from July 10-12 and it was noticed that the students’ main concern regarding confidence was making class presentations and handling stage fright. Addressing this concern a summer workshop was planned. The workshop was based on experiential learning and right from the beginning the students were encouraged to come up and speak on the stage. Content was based on making effective Power Point presentations and delivery to keep the audience involved. The participants were given multiple choice quizzes to assess their level of understanding. Energizers to overcome inhibitions and develop comfort level were included. The last session was based on presentations by students using effective and innovative visual aids.

SCME Final-year Project Know How

SCME Students were joined by the school's alumnus, Kamal Mustafa, on Oct 9. Mr Mustafa is currently enrolled to pursue a Masters degree in Chemical Engineering. The focus of his lecture was one of the deciding points of a student’s degree; the Final Year Project (FYP). Kamal Mustafa shed light on the general considerations and the basic checklist for FYP completion. He did so by quoting an example of his own, much credited FYP “Design of a Coal Gas – Urea Complex Pilot Plant” which his group undertook under supervision of Dr. Samar Mubarakmand himself. From this topic, the students were able to visualize the areas where their theoretical knowledge would gain application. Mr Mustafa was particular about the motivation and excitement behind a project deeming it to be priceless. The event proved profitable for all students giving them an early head start. It specifically benefitted those students who intended to do a plant design project.
Team PNEC at Formula Student Annual Event, UK

Formula NUST (PNEC-NUST) team was one of the 134 teams selected from 32 countries to compete in this prestigious event held from July 11 to 15 at Silverstone circuit, United Kingdom. Formula Student Annual Event (FSAE) is Europe’s most established educational motor-sport competition. It is run by the “Institution of Mechanical Engineers” with the patronage of industry and high profile engineers like Ross Brawn OBE. The competition is a testing ground for the next generation of world-class engineers, challenging universities across the globe to design and build a single-seat racing car. Team from NUST being the first ever and the only team from Pakistan was very much appreciated and encouraged by the organizers and the judges alike. It was also heartening to see Pakistan’s flag printed on the Formula Student car picture that takes up the cover page of the Formula Student event book.

During the fabrication phase of the formula racing car the team members exhibited true spirit of teamwork and discipline. The team Formula NUST participated in the static events that included a business presentation, a cost report presentation and the car’s overall design judgment. Due to some technical issues the team could not take part in the concluding dynamic events. However, important lessons were learned through this experience which will help future participating teams from Pakistan to go further in the competition in the coming years.

Pink Day observed at NUST

NUST Science Society, in collaboration with Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust, organized their annual session regarding ‘Breast Cancer Awareness’ on Sep 17. This session aimed to promote alertness regarding the prevention and early diagnosis of breast cancer among women, who happen to be the higher risk targets.

Dr Ayesha Riaz, expert nutritionist at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital, took the audience through a tour of cancer growth process, risk factors, signs and symptoms, diagnostic and screening tools and treatment options. The speaker stressed on the importance of a balanced and healthy diet. Dr. Ayesha described the instinctive need to feel healthy and cure illness, as inborn. Similarly breast cancer too demands timely attention, followed by diagnosis and treatment. “Breast Cancer is not a taboo. It’s a disease,” stressed Dr. Ayesha, as she regretfully

Dr M.A Aynul Hasan delivers lecture at NBS

NUST Business School conducted a lecture, stressing on “the role of human capital in economic development: Some myths and realities” at NBS Seminar Hall on Sep 10. It was delivered by Dr M.A Aynul Hasan, Chief Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). While deliberating on the topic, Dr Ayn-ul-Hasan shared his view that social sector investment was a long-term proposition and asserted the exigency of competitive wages and good governance as these factors play a pivotal role in economic growth. He also brought the issue of ‘global rebalancing’ into limelight and added that the world economy was rebalancing because the shift in economic power towards emerging markets had continued. He believed that average disciplined labour force at mass scale was the need of the hour as it was a major contributor towards economic growth. “An enabling environment”, he further remarked was another key component facilitating economic development. Lastly, he viewed insightful vision to be the most effective tool that was an integral pre-requisite for the entire economist community setting the foundation stone of a thriving economy.

Another seminar on “Possibility of Research & Funding in Environmental Economics” was organized by NUST Public Policy Research Centre (NPPRC) at NBS on Sep 18, 2012. About 50 students of MS Economics Program and faculty members attended the seminar. Dr Mani Nepal was the resource person. Earlier, Dr Ashfaq Hasan, Principal NBS, acknowledged meritorious services of Dr Ayn-ul-Hasan as the chief economist at UNESCAP. In the closing session, Principal NBS presented souvenir to the chief guest.
discussed the hesitance of women to come forward with this condition. Shaukat Khanum’s marketing manager, Ms. Naila Khan, delighted in the spirit exhibited by the congregation, which was dressed in pink on the occasion. She recognized spreading of knowledge as a responsibility upon every one who has access to it. She informed the audience regarding Shaukat Khanum Hospital’s ‘One Stop Breast Clinic’ which performs necessary diagnosis within a 24 hour period and the ‘Walk-in’ clinics that provide free consultation to diagnosed cancer patients.

The session was concluded by the chief guest Dr Asghari Maqsood, as she expressed her gratitude towards the guests for their time and NUST Science Society for providing the opportunity for exposure. An exciting addition to the programme was a puzzle designed to test the knowledge gained by the participants, with the correct answers earning them a prize.

Training Session on Microsoft Excel

A three-day training session on Microsoft Excel (Advanced) commenced on July 7 at School of Chemical and Materials Engineering (SCME) with Engr Syed Muhammad Aniq from Skills Development Council as the prime facilitator. The workshop was aimed at helping the participants gain a hands-on experience on this useful software and maximize its optimum use. This course was intended to cover creating and updating of spreadsheets, including basic use of formulas and functions to perform calculations, etc.

The workshop was attended by students of different schools of NUST. 12 hours training was planned over an evenly distributed teaching and practicing session with tests planned to evaluate the understanding of the participants. Owais Moinuddin, Executive Technical coordinated the workshop.

Addressing the participants of the workshop, President NUST Science Society, Osama Hassan emphasized the importance of acquiring technical skills in terms of software’s and IT interfaces for a successful career ahead. He presented the trainer with a souvenir on behalf of the society.

A short course on Soil and Site Improvement-NICE

A one-day training course was organized by National Institute of Civil Engineering (NICE) at the auditorium of School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (SCEE). The course commenced on July 3 in which Dr. Liaqat Ali, Assoc Dean, Dr. Syed Muhammad Jamil and Dr. Kamran Akhtar participated as lead resource persons. The purpose of the course was to help understand the concept and mechanism involved in various ground improvement techniques. The course focused on discussing the limitations of different ground improvement technique, its advantages and disadvantages. Different ways to identify the appropriate ground improvement technique in different soil and site conditions were also deliberated. The course was to familiarize the students with actual soil improvement projects and help them to design and execute ground improvement projects in the field.

Examination

IGIS, SCEE conducted a subject specific GRE type exam in RS & GIS on 6th of August 2012 for its first PhD intake to fulfill HEC admission criteria for PhD. This type of exam is the first of its kind in Pakistan conducted by NUST. There were 13 students who applied for PhD and 11 appeared in exam.
Training Session on Microsoft Project

A three-day training workshop on Microsoft Project was held at Islamabad campus under the auspices of NUST Science Society on July 2. Engr Syed Muhammad Aniq was the prime facilitator with Owais Moinuddin, Executive Technical coordinator.
The objective of the training workshop was to provide a comprehensive overview of ultramodern tools, techniques and technologies to enhance knowledge and skills of the participants. During the workshop, the participants were educated to keep them abreast with the basic concepts and progress in the field, as well as the ingredients required to develop a plan, assign resources to tasks, manage the budget, analyze workloads, to build a typical schedule and then to track its progress and enable the participants to work on their own projects. Participants were awarded certificate of participation at the end of 12 hour training session.

TECHTALK on Career Planning in Biotechnology

NUST Science Society organized a techtalk on Career Planning in Biotechnology, at Atta Ur Rahman School of Applied Biosciences on July 17. The event was an interactive opportunity for the students as they were joined by Director General Agriculture and Biotechnology, PAEC, Dr. Yusuf Zafar, who enlightened them regarding the practical aspects and increasing dimensions of Biotechnology in the society. Dr Zafar has recently been awarded the World’s Best Cotton Scientist Award by International Cotton Advisory Council. Addressing the students Dr Yusuf Zafar introduced them to the Pakistan’s pioneer institutes which laid the foundations for producing M. Phil and PhD students in the field of biotechnology. Dr Zafar stressed on the relation between the world’s advancement and biotechnology applications in various technologies for human welfare. He identifies the field as strongly influential in the future and he believes that serious focus is required to give rise to new ideas for its development. He updated the students with latest advancements in the field of biotechnology with emphasis on genetic engineering and biomedical, highlighting their demand in the job market. Dr. Yusuf Zafar concluded this session extending an invitation to the students to visit the great institutes of Biotechnology in Pakistan i.e. NIBGE and CEMB, so that they may gain inspiration from the roots of this subject.

Celebrating 65 Years of Scientific Excellence

Since 1947, Pakistan has seen many scientists, engineers, doctors and technicians in the growing field of science and technology. To bring to surface the success stories of these luminaries of Pakistan science, their history, ingenuity and inventions, NUST Science Society, a student organization at NUST launched a Social Media campaign of acknowledging the scientific leaders of the nation. During the whole month of August, the campaign enlightened the youth via social networks offering them with an opportunity to get acquainted with the glorious scientists of Pakistan like Salimuzzaman Siddiqui, Dr. Rafi Muhammad Chauhdary, Dr. Muhammad Riazuddin Siddiqui, Muhammad Afzal Hussain Qadri, Dr. Ishrat Hussain Usmani, Dr. Abdul Qadeer, Dr. Muneer Ahmad Khan, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed, Dr. Riazuddin, Dr. Noor Muhammad Butt, Engr Pervaiz Butt, Dr. Atta ur Rahman, Dr. Samar Mubarakmand and Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary. It shared their history, their works and more importantly their inventions each day for the whole month. The initiative received an overwhelming response and appreciation by more than 30,000 people, as a dawn of illumination, motivation and a food for thought for those looking for inspiration.
NBS

NUST Business School (NBS) organized Job Fair-2012 on July 18, at the University’s Campus. This mega event was a resounding success and over 32 companies and organizations benefited from this opportunity to evaluate and select quality human resource from this elite academic institution. Industry and corporate sector used this platform to hire and interact with talented graduates in the disciplines of Business Administration and Economics fields. The job fair expo demonstrated how NBS faculty prepare and groom their students to meet the demands of the job market.

Dr. Ashfaq H. Khan , Principal & Dean NBS, welcomed delegates from the industry. He also highlighted the recent achievements of the NBS students which included winning of the prestigious Procter & Gamble University Challenge Competition for second year in a row (2009 & 2010) and the CFA Investment Research Challenge in Pakistan which enabled them to compete for the Regional Challenge in Bali, Indonesia on February 24-25, 2011.

NICE

The first job fair after the establishment of NUST Institute of Civil Engineering (NICE) was held on July 17. It was meant to provide the civil engineering design & related construction community the opportunity to meet the graduating students of UG CE-2008 session for career employment and other associated opportunities. It was inaugurated by Pro Rector Dr Asif Raza. He visited 29 project stalls displayed by the final year students. A number of firms from all over the country participated in the Job Fair.

The project “Traffic Database Management” supervised by Dr. Irfan Ahmed was declared the best industrial project of the year and the syndicate leader Mr. Fahad Islam Tiwana was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000.00. The project “Blast Design of Building” supervised by Asst. Prof Ammara Mubeen was declared the runners up and the syndicate leader Mr Syed Ali Hamza Naqvi was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5000.00.

The panel of judges were from three different construction companies including Mr. Sohail Kibria, General Manager, Geotech Division NESPAK Lahore; Mr. Azhar Ali Bhatti, Director Design Izhar Group Company and Mr. Azam Khan Lodhi, Director Traffic Engineering and Transport Planning CDA, Islamabad.

The next day, students gave presentations on their projects in front of the panel of judges. The project “Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Reinforced Concrete Structures in Islamabad” of Dr. Shaukat Ali Khan as advisor was declared the best and was nominated for the Rector’s Gold Medal. At the end of Job Fair the Chief Guest addressed the outgoing graduates and motivated them to start their career with vision, passion, hardwork and in organized manner. Shield was presented by Dr. Muhammad Nsrullah Khan to Chief Guest Mr. Waseem Nazir, Country Manager Mott MacDonald.
SEECS

This year School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences prepared a much diversified and interactive welcome for the new comers. The week kicked off with a musical evening arranged by Music Society of SEECS in which the performers mesmerized the audience. The next day Orientation Leaders conducted some ice breaking activities among the freshmen students, they not only organized small games like Ball bouncing, darts, line tracking with the ball but also went to the individual classes to interact with the shy students who usually need a push to start. Afterwards, the internal societies of SEECS were given a chance to showcase the society and its achievements. Making use of the opportunity IEEE –SEECS, YES and ACM displayed their banners and organized different fun games. A food festival was also organized where stalls of Pizza, Muffins, Golla Ganda, Pasta and Sandwiches were set up in the UG Lobby. The incoming class was genuinely interested in getting the information about the societies of SEECS and they were roaming on the stalls to get some insight. Later, a survey was also conducted for the most productive Society of SEECS and IEEE won with the majority of votes. The activities of the week of Welcome were concluded with a batch parade of all the batches from Scholars Avenue to SEECS grounds where Students joined together to make the aerial view of the word ‘NUST’. All in all, the week was fun for both the organizers and the students because it allowed everyone to interact amongst each other and have fun at the same time.

SCME

Students at School of Chemical & Materials Engineering (SCME) took part in ‘Welcome Week’ to greet the freshmen of Batch-05 on Sep 10. A series of events were conducted to familiarize the new students with the campus life and activities apart from usual academic schedule. To start it off, the orientation ceremony was hosted by senior students who gave an introductory presentation about the school and its development over the past few years. Principal SCME, Dr. Mujahid, formally welcomed all the new students at the end of the session and wished them a great future throughout their stay at the new campus. The orientation was followed by a casual ice-breaking session to guide the students about the rules & regulations and ideas & opportunities available on campus.

A friendly futsal match was held between the ChE-05 and ME-05 students the next day with seven players each side with rolling substitutes. ME-05 was leading the first half with 1-0 score till ChE-05 students made an astonishing comeback with four goals to claim their victory of 4-1 at the final whistle. On Wednesday, 12th September, a scavenger hunt, in which a total of nine teams participated, was organized. The teams were provided with some clues of the locations and allotted a time of one hour to complete the hunt. Top three teams were awarded cash prizes at the end. On the final day of the program, a documentary named “Physics: 100 Great Discoveries” was screened to build an urge for scientific knowledge among the students. Overall, it proved to be a great opportunity for the freshmen to interact and socialize with their seniors to ease into life at NUST.

PNEC

The Freshmen Week officially began on September 12, 2012 with an opening ceremony organized by the newly formed ‘Freshmen Friendly PNEC’, the official organizing committee for the welcome of the juniors. In the ice-breaking session, the freshmen were acquainted with the societies at PNEC, with the respective heads of IEEE, MACS, ECCS, APSS and AIR and NASR, briefing them about the areas each society covers and its activities. The juniors were then given a warm welcome by different fun activities so that they could get to know each other and also acquaint themselves with the seniors. On Friday, games like Thumb-Wrestling and Water-sliding were played and Waqas Sohail of A.L.I.V.E, a youth activist organization, was also invited to give a lecture to the participants with the focus on increasing the youngster’s concentration and team-working abilities. This was followed by a Marathon Race for the boys and a Spoon Race for the girls. An overwhelming response to the Marathon was followed by the Bake Sale, the balloon fights, and the spontaneous dance shows. The charity-raising and sports events were an interesting prelude to the professional Quiz organized the next day. A play was also presented after the Quiz, which had been scripted especially to acquaint the freshmen with the social norms and activities at PNEC coined as ‘Bibi Yeh PNEC hai’. The audience laughed at the theatrical representation of PNEC as they pulled off an entertaining performance.
Course on Satellite Image Processing at SEECS

Research Group of Remote Sensing and Geo-informatics (RGRG) at SEECS conducted a short course on Satellite Image processing and GIS from July 16 to 20. It focused on providing both, a solid theoretical understanding and a comprehensive practical introduction to the use of geographic information systems and remote sensing technologies for the analysis of Earth resource mapping and management. Research Group of Remote Sensing & Geo-Informatics was formed in 2011 at SEECS and is actively involved in the research of remote sensing, satellite image processing and GIS.

The group comprises a multi-disciplinary team of scientists with expertise in remote-sensing, image processing, GIS, computer vision and computer science. The concept of this workshop was Earth Resource Mapping using earth observation and Geospatial technologies. It helped the students, researchers and professionals working in the field of Geo-informatics to understand the satellite image and geospatial analysis. The participants were given a sound understanding of the newest technologies in GIS and remote sensing along with the basic principles underlying the GIS management of Earth resource mapping. It also provided them with the hands-on training on ArcGIS and other satellite mapping tools. At the end of the course, all the course participants were awarded with certificates.

Two-day Intensive Course on Solar & Wind Energy Conversion Systems-SEECS

The shortage of old-fashioned energy resources and the pollutants harming the society have led to a fast pace research on alternate energy resources to meet the energy needs of the industry. For this purpose, NUST-SEECS organized a two-day workshop on wind and solar energy conservation from Aug 28 to 29. The speaker of the workshop was Dr. Syed Muhammad Raza Kazmi, Masters in Systems & Control from The University of New South Wales, Australia. He accomplished his PhD from Tohoku University Japan in Efficient Control of Renewable Energy Systems and his research mainly focuses on Power Electronics & Control Design for Renewable Energy Conversion Systems. During the crash course on the topic he talked about the principles, characteristics and Simulation Modeling of such systems, Power Electronics Building Blocks & Converter Topologies and answered the different questions regarding maximum efficiency Control. He also highlighted some of the Research Areas in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Solar & Wind Energy Conversion Systems and the need of the hour to implement such systems well in time to avoid any future inconsistencies.

SADA Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

SADA celebrated its second anniversary on Sep 20 with its high aiming students and determined faculty staff. Everyone was dressed-up in blue expressing their unity under SADA’s umbrella. Principal SADA, Mr. Sikandar Ajam, inaugurated the event with words of encouragement, sharing his opinions, experiences and even inside jokes with students and faculty. This was followed by the cake cutting ceremony. A specially designed cake was arranged for this purpose which represented a beautiful cityscape silhouette, appreciating the ever progressing work of architects in modern world. Students united to rejoice the place they would spend five memorable years of their life and sang birthday songs and prayed SADA to keep providing fun and successful academic opportunities to students in the years to come.
UN ESCAP/APCTT Policymakers’ Forum on “Policy Analysis, Formulation and Development of Policy Instruments for Promoting Renewable Energy Technology Transfer and Adoption” was held from July 23 to 24 in Manila, Philippines. Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Technology Application and Promotion Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Republic of the Philippines organized the event. Dr. Mohammad Bilal Khan, Principal Centre for Energy Systems participated on behalf of NUST and presented a paper titled “Renewable Energy Policy Incentives and Issues.” APCTT is an institution cooperation mechanism that has been set up in accordance with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) resolution 64/3 of 30 April 2008 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Dr Bilal in his presentation emphasised that Pakistan must go for indigenous manufacturing of renewable energy equipment to make it affordable and sustainable. He highlighted NUST’s effort in this dimension wherein designing, construction and operation of a photobioreactor and a more efficient oil expeller was successfully carried out. The forum concluded with the resolve that the ESCAP/APCTT will hold the next meeting in Islamabad.

Update from Schools

College of E&ME further strengthens its Developmental Partnerships in Higher Education

College of E&ME has developed international linkages with different UK universities. In this regard, a visit to four major UK universities took place in July. The visiting team comprised Comdt College of E&ME (Maj Gen Obaid bin Zakria, Dean College of E&ME, Brig Muhammad Younus, Col Dr. Syed Waheed ul Haq (HOD Mechanical and PI British Council INPIRE, FMI2 and SPEKE projects) and Dr. Rizwan Saeed Choudhry (PI British Council DelPHE project). The visits were funded through British Council DelPHE and INSPIRE project grants and were focused on looking at ways of continuing the partnerships once the DelPHE and Inspire grant period runs out. So developing sustainable relations was the keyword for this visit.

The first three days were spent at Manchester University with meetings with senior Professors and University Management. For sustainable long term partnerships, the Commandant outlined his vision of outsourcing industrial research projects from Manchester University to NUST. Since the DelPHE project’s prime focus is on Composites a series of presentations were given to the visiting team to update them about the state-of-the-art in composite research and industrial applications. Later, they visited Southampton University with which NUST has ongoing British Council SPEKE project for commercialization of cost-effective surface water turbine blades. The visits were highly successful. Professor Mark Spearing (Pro-Vice Chancellor Southampton University) identified aerospace, renewable energy and composites etc., as some of the areas of mutual interest. The success of the visit can be judged from the fact that in order to take the partnership further, the team of Senior Management from Southampton University will be visiting NUST College of E&ME in the end of September 2012.

Orientation for Graduate Students of Batch-5 at RCMS

The orientation programme for the new batch of students admitted for Masters in Computational Science & Engineering (CS&E) was held at RCMS. While presiding over the programme, Engr. Sikandar Hayat Mirza welcomed the new students at NUST and emphasized the need to strive for excellence in the domain of modeling and simulation. While addressing the new entrants, he stated that in today’s world, modeling and simulation has become an intrinsic part of all the science and engineering disciplines. Modeling and simulation enables the researchers to translate their creative thinking into tangible products with minimal time, reduced project & development costs, detailed testing and validation, less chances of error and reducing the stakes. He urged the students to think innovatively and out of the box. He spoke about the expectations from fresh graduates and briefly highlighted about achievements of RCMS. The event was concluded with light refreshments and networking session.
The “Chemistry behind Chemical Engineering”

The “Chemistry behind Chemical Engineering” was the opening session in the brand new series of “Special Lecture Series” organized by the NUST Science Society, aimed at improving the subject knowledge of students enrolled in various disciplines at NUST. The session was conducted by Mr. Osama Hassan, a graduate Trainee Engineer from Engro Fertilizer Company, Daharki and an alumnus of NUST School of Chemical and Materials Engineering. It was held at SCME on Sep 19.

The lecture was designed to introduce 1st year students to what Chemical Engineering is truly about. It is not Chemistry, but Reaction Engineering that differentiates Chemical Engineering from other Engineering disciplines. The focus of the lecture remained on the various core subjects involved in Chemical Engineering and the career opportunities available to a Chemical Engineer. The second of the “Special Lecture Series” was “Firing the Furnace,” also conducted by Mr. Osama Hassan. The objective of the lecture was to introduce 3rd and 4th year Undergraduate Students of Chemical Engineering with the basic scientific principles regarding furnaces. A furnace is a critical component of many industries including fertilizer plants and petroleum refineries. The session included a detailed overview of the types, components, working, operation and applications of a furnace. These proved to be informative lectures for all students.

Fulbright scholars visit NUST Business School

Dr. Nancy J. Scannell, a Fulbright scholar and Associate Professor at College of Business & Management, University of Illinois, Springfield, IL visited NBS from August 15 to 24. During her stay, she conducted a seminar “How to finance your education abroad” on 23rd Aug, 2012 in NBS seminar hall. As many as 200 people attended the seminar including NBS faculty and students. Earlier on 18th August, Dr. Nancy delivered a lecture on finance at Fulbright House, Islamabad. The students of MPhil-2K11, MPhil-2K12 & PhD were in attendance. Dr. Nancy visited more than 55 countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Finland, France, India, etc where she gave lectures to students in universities and conducted research. Her research is reflective of her global sojourns. Dr. Nancy is three-time Fulbright award recipient and an International Research Exchanges Board grantee.

Another Fulbright Scholar Professor, Kathleen Mulligan of Theater Arts at Ithaca College, NY visited Islamabad on Fulbright Specialist grant from August 9 to 22. During her stay, she visited NUST on Aug 09 and delivered a lecture on “Verbal and Non-verbal Communication” to the NBS students of BS Mass Communication 2K-10 & 2K-11. On August 10, a group of three students of the Mass Communication department interviewed Prof. Kathleen on “Acting & Re-acting: Role of Body Language in Dealing with Controversial Topics” in NBS TV studio. Later, Prof. Kathleen called on Rector NUST. It was decided that Prof. Kathleen will visit NUST in January, 2013 for 4-6 weeks to teach Mass Communication to the students of NBS.

ASAB student at LISYF, London

Zainab Sohail from Atta-ur-Rehman School of Applied Sciences (ASAB) brought honor to NUST when she was selected by Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Ministry of Science & Technology to represent Pakistan at London International Youth Science Forum (LISYF).

LISYF was a two-week residential event held at Imperial College London with lectures and demonstrations from leading scientists, visits to industrial sites, research centers, scientific institutions and several organizations, including world class laboratories and universities. LISYF attracts over 300 of the world’s leading young scientists aged 17-21 years from more than 50 participating countries. This year, a PSF initiative opened opportunities for students from Pakistan to be a part of this prestigious event. Of the 150 applicants, only four were selected, Zainab Sohail being one of them, after interviews by eminent scientists of Pakistan and a thorough scrutiny and selection procedure. The visits to Stonehenge, Salisbury, University College London, Oxford University and many others were also a part of this two weeks package which was fully funded by PSF and Govt of Pakistan.

This young Pakistani delegate was also invited by Pakistan High Commission and was much appreciated for her achievement. Important current issues were also discussed in this meeting like dealing with economic crisis, high pricing of edibles, protection of plants without use of chemicals and ways to increase job opportunities for the youth. It was a fruitful session with Pakistan High Commission.
NUST leaves its mark in APMUN Conference in Bangkok, Thailand

A team of nine students, headed by Ms Maria Qadri, President Student Affairs NBS and Faculty Sponsor NUST Drama and Debating Society/ NUMUN 2012, participated in Asia Pacific International Model United Nations (APMUN) conference held from Sep 19 to 24 in Bangkok, Thailand. The team brought pride to both their university and country, as they won two out of five outstanding delegation awards, with Farah Khan (BBA), Hamza Butt (BS-Eco), Yasir Mehlood (MBA), Hammad Khan (MBA), Kanza Haider (BBA) and Akber Zaidi (SCEE) representing Finland. The second winning team, the delegation of Eritrea, composed of Shaafat Gillani (BBA), Zainab Cheema (BBA) and Ahmed Salman (SMME). Syed Shafaat Gilani and Kanza Haider also won the Individual Best Delegate award. Therefore, NUST team managed to secure 4 out of the top 15 awards in the conference.

The event was attended by 84 teams in total, representing universities from South Asia, Europe and Middle East. The conference included 17 committees with competitive sessions from 8 in the morning till 10 at night where the students were required to exhibit their diplomacy skills along with extraordinary research and communication capabilities. APMUN was a platform for global interaction and exposure. Our delegates received invitations from MUN clubs representing India, China, Germany and Russia. The team also invited other delegations to NUMUN planned to be held in H-12 campus from 16th to 19th January 2013.

Math Lovers gather at GIKI for All Pakistan Mathematics Olympiad, 2012

An All Pakistan Mathematics Olympiad (APMO) was held at Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute (GIKI), Topi, from Sep 28 to 30. High school and undergraduate students from all over Pakistan participated in different competitions. Ali Arsal Raza, Muhammad Talha Attiq, and Saad Munir of Team ‘SMME’ grabbed the first position in the module ‘Mathematical Modeling’, which involved developing a mathematical solution to a provided, real-world problem. Round ‘Invent the Blueprint’ which was aimed towards creative thinking in mathematics, was won by Hassan Nadeem, Rehan Ameen, and Bakhtiar Khan of Team ‘CAMPians’ from Center for Advanced Mathematics and Physics (CAMP). Team SMME were 1st runners up in the same category and Team ‘French Toast Mafia’, consisting of Syeda Qudsia, Hafsa Akhtar, and Nayab Nawaz from Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB), stood as 2nd runners up. The Olympiad was arranged by GIKI Mathematics Society in collaboration with Mensa, Pakistan Chapter. The Olympiad featured a number of competitions, assessing mathematical and analytical skills combined with the presence of mind. The main feature of APMO was a compulsory Mensa IQ test whereby the high score-takers, scoring in the top 2% population of Pakistan, would be offered Mensa membership.
Bridge your Innovation

The annual ‘Bridge Your Innovation’ competition was organized at NUST School of Chemical and Materials Engineering (SCME) on July 12. More than 50 teams from fifteen universities of Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Taxila took part in the competition. NUST Science Society organized the event.

The event comprised a bridge construction and designing challenge, utilizing basic raw materials namely glue and Popsicle sticks. This activity put to test the education and skills acquired in civil engineering, mechanical engineering and architecture, concurrently merging them with practicality and creativity, to allow contestants to explore the art of structure and design. The best bridge designer with maximum ability of managing weight to load ratio in the structures wins the competition.

Dr M. Mujahid, Principal SCME joined the event as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winning teams. Black Hawks team including Muhammad Ahmed Malik, Hafiz Khawaja Turab, Hafiz Farhan Iqbal won the ‘Structures Category’. Whereas, in the Design Category, Hitech Alpha Squad team including Hassan Ahmed, Hafiz Abdul Waheed Zahid, Omer Sarfaraz stood first in the competition.

World Tourism Day Wall Climbing Competition

The Adventure Club of Pakistan, in collaboration with PTDC, organized “World Tourism Day Wall Climbing Competition” on Sep 27. It was held at Ibex club, Lake View Park in Islamabad.

Nine NUST students, sponsored by NUST Adventure Club (NAC), participated in the event, along with a number of competitors from all over Pakistan. Anisa Rasheed (NBS) from NUST secured the third position in the Female Open Category. The boys were not to be outdone, with Mir Manzar Elahi (SMME) bringing home the laurels by coming first in the Male Open Category and Murad Ali (SEECs) securing the third position. There were five categories, ranging from Under 9 to Open. The main competition was held in two rounds, ‘The Qualifier’ and “Speed Route”. Adrenaline rushes and agoraphobia dominated the scene as the participants raced up the edifice to perch at the top. This was followed by the award giving ceremony.

Intra-NUST Science Essay Competition

NUST Science Society organized an intra-NUST essay competition focusing on prevailing scientific issues. The topics encouraged the entrants to be creative, while at the same time discussed prominent issues in today’s technological world. These included, Clean energy: our future or just a dream?, Animal testing should be limited to drug research, Artificial intelligence is just a good idea for sci-fi movies, In the next ten years people will be flying to work and Holographic display will change the world!

The winners for the NUST Essay Writing Competition were Ayesha Wasti (IESE), getting first place, Muhammad Rizwan (SEECs) in second place, and Hasaan Ali (SEECs) in third place. All other participants received certificates for their efforts, while the winners were awarded cash prizes. Anum Shafique, Director Publications was Event Coordinator for this event.

NCSC’s Fund Raiser—Movie screening of ‘Behind Enemy Lines’

NCSC welcomed the new academic year with a fund raiser on the evening of Sep 12. A movie screening of ‘Behind Enemy Lines’ was organized at ASAB auditorium. Press Secretary, NCSC, Usman Mehfooz commenced the evening’s proceedings with his welcome address and introductory video of NCSC’s involvements. The audience was continually engrossed in the fast paced movie about the gripping tale of a soldier forced to survive in the unforeseen and oppressive conditions of an enemy’s territory. President NCSC, Abdur Rehman Bin Tahir concluded the event as he expressed his gratitude to everyone for showing up and contributing. He stressed that working for humanity is a responsibility that falls on all of us. He then finished the proceedings by inviting everyone to join NCSC in its struggle to help the humanity.
T-20 Cricket Fever at NUST

NUST Media Club (NMC), which is one of the central clubs & societies, the polestar of all photography and media related events at NUST organized its first event of this semester on Sep 23. The T20 World Cup Screening set the NBS seminar hall on fire during 15:00-18:00 hours. The match between Pakistan and New Zealand went head to head till the end, disappointing audience one minute, elating them the next. The local ‘Chacha Cricket’ showered the audience with his love in the form of flying chips at every fours and sixes. The enthralling evening ended with delight at Pakistan beating New Zealand by 13 runs.

NCSC members represent Pakistan at Beijing Sister City Youth Camp 2012

Under the theme Experience-Beijing, Embrace Future, the 2012-Beijing Sister City Youth Camp was held in Beijing from August 13 to 19. The camp was organised by University Of International Business and Economics, and co-hosted by Beijing Youth Federation and Foreign Affairs Office of People’s Government of Beijing Municipality. Almost a 100 students from more than 20 countries were a part of this camp. The main aim of the camp was to promote cultural exchange as well as friendship between students from different countries and to establish cordial and convivial relationship between them.

Abdul Rehman bin Tahir, President NUST Community Service Club, and Rabia Anwar, Gen Secretary NUST Community Service Club from NUST H-12 Islamabad participated in this Camp and represented Islamabad as a Sister City of Beijing. The Nustians represented Islamabad under the topic charming city and its life. Campers were divided into 10 different groups. Each group was assigned different topics to present their views on. Various indoor and outdoor activities were put together including visits to historical places like; The Great Wall of China, etc.

NUST Adventure Club invites Moin Khan

Adventure knows no bounds. Moin Khan, 25, has the courage and conviction, which he proved by travelling across the world on his motorbike and then reaching back home (Lahore) all the way from California, San Francisco.

Moin set up a noble agenda of exposing the world to the peace loving nature of the people of Pakistan. Despite, having no maps or GPS with him, he set out to travel a distance of 40,000 kilometers on his sports bike. With strong faith in his conviction, he was able to complete his journey and reached Lahore, Pakistan via San Francisco – Canada – New York – London – Scotland – Germany – Switzerland – Lichtenstein – France – Monaco – Italy – Austria – Slovenia – Slovakia – Hungary – Romania – Bulgaria – Greece – Turkey – Iran.

NUST Adventure Club arranged an interactive session with the young daredevil for NAC members. While talking to a gathering of over 100 students at NIT Auditorium, Khan said it was the kindness of strangers that led him to accomplish this extraordinary feat. Khan said that the driving force behind travelling across the globe was to challenge the popular perception of Pakistan as an extremist country and to project a soft image of its people. Having successfully accomplished his first adventure ride, Moin Khan is well poised to make another world record wherein he plans to explore every nook and corner of Pakistan.
Nustians win National Business Competition: INVENT

Two teams from NUST Business School (NBS) and School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (SE ECS) have won the Pakistan’s largest business plan competition INVENT 2012 held in the IBA main campus Karachi from July 11 to July 14. More than 300 teams from 50 universities all over Pakistan participated in this year’s event.

Two multidisciplinary teams from NUST, namely, ‘NAVIGATE’ and ‘NANOCIDE’ made it to finals and secured first and second positions respectively. ‘NAVIGATE’ is an android application that helps people with visual impairment navigate through obstacles while ‘NANOCIDE’ is a nanotechnology based business. The teams comprised Muhammad Yaqoob (SE ECS), Muhammad Yasir Khan (SE ECS), Rushan Qaisrani (SE ECS), Shafa’at Gilani (NBS) and Zohair Niazi (NBS). These students worked under the supervision of Mr. Shamyl Bin Mansoor, Ms. Iram Tariq, Maajid Maqbool and SMART Lab in developing the prototype device. INVENT is a unique student level business plan competition that provides a platform to the participants where they can come up with innovative Ideas pertinent to the domains of Social Entrepreneurship, Technology Entrepreneurship and other Entrepreneurship.

Faculty selected as TWAS Young Affiliate Fellow

Dr. Mubasher Jamil, Assistant Professor at Center for Advanced Mathematics and Physics (CAMP) at NUST has been selected as TWAS Young Affiliate Fellow for five years (2012-2016) from Pakistan. Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in Italy represents the best of science in developing countries and its main mission is to promote scientific excellence and capacity in the South for science-based sustainable development. Each year, the five TWAS Regional Offices select up to five scientists each under the age of 40 to be ‘TWAS Young Affiliates for a period of five years. During their five-year tenure, TWAS Young Affiliates are invited to participate in five TWAS general meetings and conferences. In this connection, Dr. Mubasher Jamil participated and delivered a talk based on his research at TWAS’s 23rd General Meeting held in Tianjin, China in September.

SCEE Student awarded 3rd Best Student Oral Award

MS student from IGIS-SCEE, Ms Hena Shahzada presented her research work on “Post Flood Drinking Water Quality Assessment in Charsadda District using GIS Technology” and was awarded “3rd Best Student Oral Award” at Earth Science Pakistan 2012, jointly organized by the National Centre of Excellence in Geology and Department of Geology, University of Peshawar, held on 23-24 June at Baragali Summer Campus, Pakistan. There were about 90 participants in the competition, predominantly from NCEG Peshawar, UET Peshawar, COMSATS Peshawar, Bahria University Islamabad and three students from ITC Netherlands.

NUST Student Wins Best Paper Award

Humaira Gul, a graduate student at RCMS represented NUST with her paper titled, “Modeling and Formal Verification of Inverted Pendulum Based Two-Wheeled Transportation Vehicle” at the Annual Conference of Society of Instrument and Control Engineers (SICE) held in Akita, Japan in August 2012. More than 400 researchers presented their papers in the conference. In recognition of her scholarly contribution, she was awarded a monetary award of ¥100000/- Japanese yen. Humaira Gul was jointly supervised by Dr. Jamil Ahmad (RCMS), Dr. Mian Ilyas Ahmad (RCMS) and Dr. Farid Gul (SEECS), who were also the co-authors of the paper.
NUST teams win laurels in IEEE Pakistan Student/WIE/GOLD Congress, GIKI

Teams from Pakistan Naval Engineering College (PNEC) and School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS) attended a three-day IEEE Pakistan Student Congress held from Sep 7 to 9 at Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute. Both the NUST teams in all of the competitions and earned top positions.

IEEE NUST PNEC Student Branch won first prize for the “Best WIE Affinity Group Video Contest”. The Team PNEC, comprising Onib Nasir, Adil Faqah Ur Rehman and Rehma Javed also won the Sky Hawk Rocket Competition. Aymen Zehra and Bilal Baqar from SEECS secured second position in the Programming Competition. The Team SEECS, comprising Mofassir Ul Islam Arif, Umair Akmal and Tooba Sana qualified for the final round of Race to Innovation Challenge. Apart from all other achievements, Rehma Javed from PNEC won “Most Active WIE Volunteer Award.” The congress was a great endeavor for healthy interaction with the students from all over Pakistan. The congress successfully brought together the student branches of IEEE in Pakistan on one platform to discuss and safeguard the global presence of IEEE Pakistan and mostly focused on the technical, entrepreneurial and leadership skills development of the participants.

Achievements

Faculty awarded Research Grant

Dr. Arshad Hussain, Associate Professor at Chemical Engineering Department, School of Chemical and Materials Engineering (SCME) has been awarded the research grant of NOK 3.008 Million (Norwegian Krone) in support of his project title “CO2 Capture from Natural and Flue Gases by Using Polymeric Membrane”. The research project is to be implemented jointly by National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) and Norwegian University of Sciences and technology (NTNU), Department of Chemical Engineering Norway over a period of 3 years. The joint project selected for this is highly competitive and based on scientific merit.

Student from SEECS wins Google Scholarship

Ms. Ayesha Binte Ashfaq, a student of PhD at SEECS, won a Google scholarship to attend the 2012 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. NUST alumnus, Ms. Mobin Javed from Berkley helped the SEECS students/faculty through scholarship applications to attend this conference. Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (GHC) is an annual conference and is the world’s largest gathering of women in computing. Leading researchers present their current work, while special sessions focus on the role of women in today’s technology fields. The main aim of the conference is to recruit, retain, and advance technical women. This year, the conference is being held in Baltimore, Maryland on 3-6th October 2012.

NUST QA Directorate gets Highest Ranking by HEC

NUST has been ranked 1st amongst the Top Universities of Pakistan consistently for last three times. For Period January 2012 till June 2012 NUST Quality Assurance Directorate attained a score of 95% and was included in category ‘W’ of the Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs). Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) rated it at first position among the 84 Universities of Pakistan. This also speaks of the diligence of NUST administration and faculty for their unstinted effort in implementing HEC policies and programs to enhance quality of education at their campuses.
From its northerly vantage point
NUST looks majestically robed
   In ravishing graces;
   With a patch of lovely hills
   Garlanding its westerly flank

It looks like gliding down a hill
Into a vale-city of academia
Bristling with men and women of learning;
   Young bright, promising youth;
   Capable administrative corps

What a feast for eyes to behold!
A magnificent modern university
Boasting a mosaic of architectural marvels;
   A yester-years’ sapling
   Nurtured into a stately form;
   An island of excellence
   Nestling in tranquil serenity;
   A sprawling campus bejeweled
   With a galaxy of top-notch schools

NUST stands out as a different class;
A riveting kaleidoscope of the light of learning;
   A gladsome blend of domes and buildings;
   Rows of exquisite hostel blocks
   Named after great Muslim legends;
   Aply labelled roads and avenues;
   Neat, well-kept winding pathways
Spectacular structures; bewitching landscape
An enviable array of scholastic facilities;
   Fabulous Cafeterias, par excellence;
   An elegantly built rectorate, perched atop
Overlooking the whole span of the campus
   Under its wings

NUST, God willing, seems destined
To flourish to new heights of glory
   As a burgeoning National University;
   A prized asset of the nation;
   The proud flag-carrier; a beacon of light;
   A pace-setter and model of excellence
For sister-seats of learning across the nation;
   A rainbow of hope, courage and vision

Aslam Bazmi
Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.

Charles W Eliot