

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015



Namal College celebrates its **Second Convocation Ceremony 2014**

On Sunday, 14th of December, Namal College, Mianwali held its second convocation ceremony awarding degrees of the University of Bradford to students graduating in Computer Science, Software Engineering and Electrical & Electronic Engineering.

Also joining Namal students at the ceremony were students from Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and

Research Centre (SKMCH & RC) who graduated with University of Bradford degrees of BSc in Medical Imaging.

This is the first time the two institutions, founded by Imran Khan with one fundamental vision of social inclusivity, came together for such an occasion.

101 students (79 from Namal College and 22 from SKMCH & RC) graduated at

the ceremony and were presented with their awards by Mr. Imran Khan, Chairman Board of Governors, Namal College. Many of these students graduated with outstanding academic achievements. 20 first class honours were awarded at the ceremony. 13 of these were awarded to the first batch of students graduating in Electrical & Electronic Engineering (29 students).

Namal College hosts Graduate Lunch at Royal Palm Golf & Country Club



Namal College honored the endeavors of its students with a graduate lunch on December 13, 2014 at the Royal Palm Golf and Country Club. Mr. Imran Khan, Chairman Board of Governors, Namal College, expressed his utmost gratitude to the guests for their support for making Namal College a leading educational institute of Pakistan. He also delivered an inspiring speech to the graduates and exhorted them to make challenging goals in life in order to make this world a better place to live for all.

Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Vice Chairman Board of Governors, gave away medals and awards to the outstanding graduates in recognition of their meritorious academic achievements.



Sponsors of Graduate lunch

The graduate lunch for 2014 was sponsored by leading brands of Pakistan. Main sponsor of the event was Advance Telecom and co-sponsors were Brighto Paints, Dove Pakistan, Dairy Milk, Auriga Group and Royal Palm Golf & Country Club.



Namal College Graduates

attend Convocation at University of Bradford, UK

Star performers of Namal College were invited by University of Bradford to attend its Convocation held in December at Bradford, UK. Eleven graduates received University of Bradford degrees that provided them an opportunity to interact not only with the faculty and staff but also with the international student community of Bradford.

Namal students get a Second Family: Student Exchange Programme with the University of Bradford

Namal College, Mianwali has achieved another milestone in its journey towards the realization of Imran Khan's dream of uplifting Pakistan's rural areas through the provision of quality higher education.

Four Namal students have been selected for the student study programme at the University of Bradford, UK. They are spending the Spring semester of the current academic year, 2015, in Bradford, funded by the University, its as-

sociate institution which awards Namal College degrees.

The students include third year BSc Computer Science students Muhammad Usman (Rawalpindi) & Mazhar Abbas (Attock) and third year Electrical & Electronic Engineering students Bilal Ahmad (Vahari) & Kashif Fareed (Battagram).

Mr. Imran Khan congratulated the students on their outstanding achievements at being selected by the University of Bradford. He said "Namal College greatly appreciates the support being provided by the University of Bradford, in its efforts to make quality higher education accessible and affordable for the underserved youth of Pakistan."





Namal Launches Centre for Entrepreneurship Supporting Innovation

Mr. Imran Khan inaugurated the center to provide an incubation platform to students and aspiring entrepreneurs as a support for emerging technology startups. The launch was made possible by the generous support of Platalytics, a Lahore based IT company which started its operations from the Silicon Valley. The objectives of the initiative are to:

- Collaborate with other aspiring student entrepreneurs
- Gain strategic guidance from established entrepreneurs
- Conduct business trainings and workshops
- Access potential partners and networks

Namalians: Agents of Social Change

The impact of your support to students of Namal College is endless. This can be best demonstrated by the fact that Namalians have volunteered to provide educational sessions to children residing in surrounding areas of Namal Valley. As many as 40 students are regularly attending the classes being taught by 19 of our volunteers. The subjects being taught include English, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry & Urdu. Your support is contagious as it has allowed our students to become generous contributors of the gift of education.



Completion of Access Road: Making easy access possible



Namal Education Foundation got completed an access road that aligned the Namal campus with Mianwali- Islamabad highway for easy and safe commutation. It is also part of the bigger vision of building Namal Knowledge City. The construction cost around PKR 25 million that became possible due to generous funding from the donors that keep contributing to this noble cause of promoting education in Pakistan.

Celebrating Diversity: Cultural Day

Namal Society for Social Impact (NSSI) staged an inspirational and colourful Cultural Day on 13th March at the campus. Students, faculty, staff and alumni clad in traditional dresses of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, KPK, Baltistan and Kashmir enthusiastically participated in the event. One of the special features were the performances from Namal Montessori School children who were representing the Kashmir culture and gave a wonderful dance show of Kashmiri songs. Ms. Alison Darnbrough, Director of Namal College, spoke about the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan and Namal's incredible diversity with students representing more than 56 different districts of the country. Ms. Aleema Khanum and Dr. Arif Nazir Butt, board members of Namal College, graced the occasion as chief guests. They appreciated the efforts of NSSI and the immense talent of the Namal students show-cased at the event.



Session on Pedagogy

Learning and role of technology in education

by Dr. Ashraf Iqbal



Dr. Ashraf, Professor of Computer Science at Namal College, came up with some amazing ideas on how to develop a unique style of teaching so as to develop a sense of self learning and curiosity amongst the students. He also explained the im-

portance of technology on the teaching pedagogy and briefed the faculty members of a few negative impacts on students that the technology is having on raw minds due to easy access to electronic media and its impact on the society. He reminisced his experience of teaching and shared his various styles of teaching at various institutes under different conditions and circumstances. He stressed the point that the teacher must give students a realization that they should come to own their tasks during their professional studies so as to be able to do quality research at higher level.

Ms. Alia Khan

Conducts a workshop on personal success

The three days long session was highly appreciated by the students. Ms. Alia stressed the point that successful and happy life is all about making clear goal based on well-defined mission in the light of vision. She also tried to bring home the point to students that only meaningful and well-constructed life with noble aims can bring real happiness. She also had an interactive session as to what makes someone a leader and what qualities set apart a leader from a follower.



Based in Dubai, UAE, Alia Khan is the Founder/Chairwoman of Islamic Fashion and Design Council (IFDC), an organization established for the development of Islamic design industry.



Yunus Textile Conducts a Training Session

How to get employed & become successful in professional life

It was an interactive session that encouraged students to ask some critical questions regarding various aspects of communication & presentation skills, interview handling and time management. Mr. Ahsan Rizvi, Manager Training & Development and his team highly appreciated the campus facilities and the conducive academic environment of Namal Col-

lege in such a rural setting. He was also impressed by the zeal and vigor of the students with which they participated in the session, creating an engaging environment. He appreciated the fact that Namal students are equally capable of competing in the professional life on account of their intelligence coupled with hunger and thirst for learning.



Namal Students Star in **ARY Morning Show**

Famous anchor and actress Ms. Sanam Baloach hosted Namal College students in her Morning Show on ARY Television Network on 24th December, 2014. The Dean of Namal College, Dr. Malik Jahan led 11 member delegation to the ARY Karachi studio. Ms. Sanam Baloach introduced the participants and highlighted the respective achievements of each student. Dr. Jahan voiced the Vision of Namal College: "to become a centre of academic excellence in the region for rural development." All the students were pleased to represent Namal College on a national television network that projected them internationally as proud brand ambassadors of an emerging educational institute of Pakistan.

Minting Entrepreneurs: Namalites Participate in LUMS Center for Entrepreneurship (LCE)

A team of students from Namal attended internationally renowned "Startup Weekend" hosted by Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) from 27th to 29th March, 2015. This unique platform allows aspiring entrepreneurs to develop an idea of theirs into an applicable business over the course of a weekend, with plans to market and sell the product on a global level.



A team of three talented Namal students including Hafiz Awais Afzal, Muhammad Usman Safdar and Muhammad Hammad Masood presented their idea 'MENT ME' that was declared the third best idea out of a total of 61 entrepreneurial concepts. LUMS Center for Entrepreneurship has offered the Namalites incubation for implementing the idea. This is a monumental achievement for Namal College that has already launched a Centre for Entrepreneurship of its own at Namal Campus for the economic uplift of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Ashraf Iqbal

joins Department of Computer Science as Professor

Dr. Ashraf Iqbal has been a professor for over 30 years teaching at some of the leading educational institutions in Pa-



kistan including UET Lahore, LUMS and NUST. He completed his doctorate from the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore in 1991 and subsequently conducted research in algorithms and graph theory at the University of Southern California in 1992 and again at the University of Stuttgart in 1996. He has also authored a book on Graph theory and algorithms. Dr. Ashraf is a welcome addition to the Namal faculty.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas Ch.

joins Department of Electrical Engineering as Professor

Dr. Muhammad Abbas Choudhary served as the Vice Chancellor of University of Engineering & Technology Taxila and also of



Balochistan University of IT, Engineering & Management Science. He also served in Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Higher Education Commission and taught at the George Washington University Washington DC., USA, National University of Science & Technology and Allama Iqbal Open University. He served as Gradu-

ate Research Fellow at Turner Fairbanks Highway Research Center, US Department of Transportation. He did his Masters and PhD in Engineering Management both from the George Washington University, USA in 1988 and 1993 respectively. Dr. Choudhary brings rich experience of management, teaching and research and has extensively published in national and international Journals and Conference Proceedings.

Dr. Amir Khurrum Rashid

promoted as Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering

Amir Khurrum did his PhD from NTU Singapore and BS in Electronic Engineering from Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences & Technology, Topi, Pakistan. He has already served Namal College as Assistant Professor and Head of Electrical Engineering Department.



Dr. Junaid Akhtar

completes his post-doctorate from University of Virginia, USA

Dr. Junaid Akhtar, Assistant Professor in Computer Science Department, has successfully completed his post-doctorate from University of Virginia, USA. His area of research study was in the field of Evolutionary Algorithms based on non-Darwinian Theories of Evolution. This is a milestone not only for Dr. Junaid but also for Namal College as it would help in



raising academic standards of the college to international level.

Dr. Rabiah Badar

joins Department of Electrical Engineering as Assistant Professor

Dr. Rabiah completed her PhD from COMSATS Institute of Info Tech, Abbottabad in 2014. Her area of research was "Control Systems and Power System Dynamics" with special focus on "Adaptive Soft Computing Synergistic Paradigms VSC based FACTS Damping Controls". She did her MS in Computer Engineering from COMSATS Institute of Info Tech, Islamabad and also MSc in Electronics from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

Dr. Aisha Mahmood

joins Electrical Engineering Department as Assistant Professor

Aisha Mahmood has completed her PhD from the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, UTM Johar Bahru, Malaysia. Her area of research is "Engineering students' personas and emergent themes while thinking mathematically during problem solving through blended learning". She did her MS in Computer Engineering in 2011 from Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore and BS in Electrical Engineering from University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore in 1998.

Mr. Muhammad Fayyaz Kashif

joins Department of Electrical Engineering as Senior Lecturer

Fayyaz Kashif has done his MS in Electrical Engineering in 2013 from Seoul National University, Korea and his BS in Electrical Engineering in 2008 from University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore. He has been associated with both the industry and the academia since 2008.



Muhammad Zafeer Ijaz

joins Department of Electrical Engineering as Lab Engineer

He has done his BSc in Electrical Engineering from University of Engineering & Technology, Taxila.



Muhammad Amjad Khan

joins Department of Electrical Engineering as Lab Engineer

He has done his BSc in Electrical Engineering from UET, Lahore.



Ground Breaking Ceremony for New Academic Building

A ground breaking ceremony was held on 14th December 2014 to mark the beginning of constructing a new academic building. Mr. Imran Khan and Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood took part in the ceremony which is the first stepping stone towards developing Namal Knowledge City. The new academic block would be highly energy efficient and ecofriendly. It will primarily be used for the upcoming new disciplines of agriculture business management along with the current programs at Namal College.

It would be a four story building with a covered area of approximately 110,000 square feet.



Namal College Celebrates 100,000 fans on Facebook



We are excited to announce that Namal College, Mianwali official facebook page crossed 100,000 fans in December 2014. Namal College digital marketing campaigns have seen exponential growth in recent months. We have one of the highest engagement rates from online marketing at our official page. In recent months our official facebook page has acquired more than 80,000 page likes with thousands of clicks on its digital content postings.

Namal College, Mianwali participates in PakWheels Islamabad Auto Show 2014



Namal College marketing team participated in PakWheels Islamabad Auto Show 2014 on 23 November at Fatima Jinnah Park in Islamabad. People from all walks of life attended the event and took special interest in Namal College's efforts to make higher education accessible and affordable for the bright youth of Pakistan. People gave and pledged donations and signed up to offer their voluntary services for the noble cause.

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