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Over 450 scholars received degrees in the disciplines of Engineering, Medical Sciences, Management Sciences, Information Technology, Applied Biosciences, Physics and Mathematics at 9th Postgraduate Convocation of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) on April 25. Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed graced the occasion as chief guest. Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar, a number of other distinguished guests, parents, families of the degree recipients, faculty and students attended the event.

A total of 427 scholars were conferred Master’s degrees while 27 were awarded PhD degrees in their respective fields. After awarding degrees and medals to the successful scholars, the Chairman HEC delivered a motivational speech to the august audience. He extended his warmest felicitations to the degree holders, their proud parents and the esteemed faculty. He also lauded the efforts of the University’s management and faculty in transforming NUST into a centre of excellence within a short span of time.

The chief guest termed the University a national asset dispensing its duties with a team of committed professionals. He eulogized NUST for instituting a system geared up for the provision of a congenial environment for the holistic development of the students.

Earlier, Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar delivered the welcome address, and highlighted the university’s achievements. The Rector congratulated the degree holders on their remarkable achievements. He also remarked it was a good omen that the number of female scholars was increasing with every passing year. He wished them all the best in their future endeavours.

Best Teacher, Best Researcher and Innovation and Commercialization Awards were also conferred on the occasion.
An impressive convocation ceremony of 78th Engineering Course of College of Aeronautical Engineering was held at PAF Academy, Risalpur on March 21. Engineer Muhammad Asghar, Rector, National University of Sciences and Technology was the chief guest on the occasion. On his arrival at the academy, he was received by Air Vice Marshal Aasim Zaheer, SI (M), T Bt, Air Officer Commanding, PAF Academy Risalpur along with Commandant College of Aeronautical Engineering. Apart from parents, the ceremony was attended by some civil dignitaries and senior officers of Pakistan Air Force.

The ceremony started with the recitation from the Holy Quran, which was followed by a welcome address by the Commandant CAE. He elaborated the curricular and extra-curricular activities conducted during the semester. He also dwelled upon the achievements of the graduating course and lauded their efforts. He made special mention of the efforts made by the College and its faculty towards providing quality education, training and grooming to their students.

The chief guest conferred degrees in Aerospace and Avionics Engineering upon 55 students including 41 from PAF, 01 from Pak Army, 02 from Pak Navy, 02 from NUST, 03 from Self Finance Scheme and 07 RSAF cadets and also awarded Merit Certificates, Gold and Silver Medals to the distinction holders. Merit Certificate for best Aerospace Vehicle Design was awarded to Pilot Officer Ahsan Naveed, while Merit Certificate for Best Avionics System Design was awarded to Pilot Officer Muhammad Ibraheem. President’s Gold Medal for standing first in Aerospace and Avionics Engineering Disciplines were awarded to Pilot Officer Ahsan Naveed and Pilot Officer M Hassan Naeem. For the first time in the history of CAE, Chancellor’s Silver Medals were awarded to commend the efforts of the students who had earned second positions in both avionics and aerospace departments. Pilot Officer Sara Khushbash and Pilot Officer M Ibraheem were awarded with Silver Medals in Aerospace Engineering and Avionics Engineering disciplines respectively.

While Rector’s Gold Medal for Best Project in Aerospace Engineering was awarded to Pilot Officer Muhammad Rehan, Rector’s Gold Medal for Best Project in Avionics Engineering was awarded to Pilot Officer Muhammad Ibraheem and Pilot Officer Anam Pervaiz collectively.

While addressing the students of 78th Engineering Course, the chief guest urged the graduating cadets to explore new horizons and develop the traits of devotion, commitment and team work to excel in their profession. While talking about the role of women in society, the chief guest appreciated the increasing number of female cadets and encouraged the CAE faculty and cadets to maintain the highest academic standards.

78th Engineering Course, CAE
55 pass out with a promising future
NUST wins Academic Integrity Award

In recognition of its commitment to and effective implementation of its anti-plagiarism policy, NUST has been awarded Academic Integrity Award from Turnitin, a software designed to address plagiarism and develop writing skills among researchers.

The concerted efforts of the University’s Research Directorate for proper integration of Turnitin with Learning Management System (LMS) have been instrumental in securing this prestigious award.

The commitment shown by NUST for implementation of Turnitin to eradicate plagiarism and promote integrity has been acknowledged internationally through this award. It is indeed a recognition of consistent efforts by NUST towards implementing of its anti-plagiarism policy and eradicating malpractices in scholarly work.

World Health Day observed at Army Medical College

World Health Day was observed at Army Medical College, Rawalpindi on April 7. The occasion was organized by Department of Community Medicine to highlight the significance of this day. In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate April 7 every year, with effect from 1950, as World Health Day. Annually, this day is celebrated under a unique theme. This year’s theme was “From Farm to Plate, Make Food Safe” stressing upon five key areas: keep clean, separate raw and cooked food, cook thoroughly, keep food at safe temperature, and use of safe water.

Maj Gen Malik Muhammad Abbas, Principal Army Medical College was chief guest at the event. Dr Baseer Khan Achakzai, National Focal Person on Nutrition was invited as guest speaker, and Maj Shamaila Mohsin served as master of the ceremony. The event started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Brig. Mahmood ur Rehman, HoD, Community Medicine Department in his welcome address thanked the audience, and stressed that food safety should be considered as an area of prime public health importance. He added that it was high time to take action to protect consumers from risks of food poisoning and food borne diseases.

The organizers, mainly 4th year and final year medical students along with Department of Community Medicine, organized different activities related to this year’s theme, which were highly appreciated by audience. The activities included: video presentations, poster contest, photography competition, and a drama skit.

Later, Dr Baseer Khan Achakzai, delivered a thought provoking speech, and highlighted the key challenges faced by the government of Pakistan in dealing with food safety. Maj Gen Malik Muhammad Abbas, in his address, appreciated the efforts of the organizers. He added that changes in food production, distribution and consumption; the environmental changes; new and emerging pathogens; and antimicrobial resistance all pose challenges to food safety systems. The event ended with the distribution of certificates among the winners.
The students of Department of Mechatronics Engineering, College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering achieved outstanding successes in various events held across the country during March-April 2015. Students from College of E&ME participated in the 7th IEEE GIKI National ElectroniX Olympiad 2015 held from March 13 to 15 at Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI). The students managed to grab several top positions in numerous events (RoboMaze, MIC Night, PCB Design Competition, Project Exhibition and Robo Thorn). College of E&ME also won the coveted Overall Event Trophy.

At the Parliamentary Debates held at Military College of Signals in March, NUST student Abrahim Ali Shah was declared the best speaker. The COMSATS International Model United Nations (MUN) 2015 was held from 20 to 22 March, where the College won awards including: Best Delegate, 4 Outstanding Diplomacy Awards and 3 Honorary Mentions.

Similarly, gold medals were won in cricket and hockey in the Tri Uni Fixture (i.e. NUST, FAST and LUMS) held at FAST Islamabad, from April 11 to 12, 2015. A team from Department of Mechatronics was declared the winner for the event Rampage in the 1st PIEAS National Olympiad (PION’15) held at Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad from April 9 to 11.

The College organized the ETL Project Exhibition on April 22, wherein students from Department of Mechatronics secured first positions in two categories, i.e., ‘Embedded Systems’ and ‘Path Following Car.’
ILO arranges recruitment drives

NUST Industry Liaison Office arranged different recruitment drives for the graduates of NUST in the first quarter of year 2015 to make sure that all the graduates are employed in the competitive job market.

In this connection, ILO facilitated Nescom in introducing an Undergraduate Fellowship Program 2015 for the bachelor students of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics. The candidates were supposed to appear in the written test at RIMMS Hall and the finalists were interviewed by a Nescom selection board to award fellowships.

Moreover, Indus Motors with the aim of providing the right product and information, at the right time, in the right amount while maintaining high standards of efficiency and cost control conducted a recruitment drive for the top ten final year students of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and they were taken to a local hotel for the written test followed by the interview on Feb 11.

Similarly, Procter and Gamble recruitment drive took place on Feb 16 to 17 in which students of 3rd year of bachelor’s programs and 1st year of master’s students of all disciplines were told about the Summer Internship Program 2015. Around 600 students were selected in the written test at NUST and the shortlisted students were interviewed by the concerned authorities of P&G.

Unilever also conducted recruitment drive on 20th Feb at the exam hall. Around 600 students of 3rd and 4th year from all the disciplines were gathered to give information about the internship and GT Program of one of the world’s leading companies.

NUST research publications growing at rapid pace

The year 2014 has been extremely rewarding and full of growth in terms of NUST publications. Though NUST has been contributing progressively in global knowledge creation and scholarly work over the years, it is heartening to note that the number of NUST publications has increased remarkably both in quality and quantity during the year, touching a total figure of 1242 research papers produced by our faculty and students which included 798 journal research papers, 491 ISI Indexed papers and 444 conference papers. To meet this end, two books have also been published. The publications are available at the website.
Design and Development of Toothbrush Simulator at Optimized Cost and Feasible Upgrade: a project by Dr Shahreen Zahid at SMME

The prevalence of tooth-wear among the dentate population has been recognized as a major problem in dentistry. Wear measurements in vivo are complicated and time-consuming, leaving study of in-vitro environment as the only option. This entails simulation of intra-oral environment for handling oral cavity that is brushing on tooth surface (sample).

Simulators available in international market to mimic challenges representative for the human oral environment are highly expensive (10 lac approx). The most viable solution to this problem is the development of a new in vitro fatigue or wear toothbrush simulator that allows separate or simultaneous mechanical and chemical loading experiments, requires little technical support, is inexpensive and can be used to load a high number of specimens of natural teeth or restorative materials per experiment.

This will be a major breakthrough in the field of dental research and experimentation. It will not only help in current research but will also serve as a test bed for future research and development in the field of dentistry. This equipment will open doors for further research previously clogged by simulator cost constraints.

TIC graduates three ready-to-scale startups

In a ceremony held in the Executive Development Centre at CIE, TIC graduated 3 startups from the incubator on April 15. The ceremony was chaired by Pro-Rector (P&R), Engr Muhammad Shahid. Graduating startups included Aviation MRO, Sky Computing Solutions and Nouveau Energy Management Solutions. During their time at TIC, these companies showed impressive growth and stability and are now ready to operate independently out of spaces they have already acquired outside NUST.

On the occasion, BDM TIC Sanna Choudhary and GM TIC Adnan Faisal emphasized the importance of continuing the relationship between TIC and the graduating startups as they embark on their journey to become thriving enterprises of national and global repute. Pro-Rector (P&R) Engr Muhammad Shahid closed the ceremony by congratulating the new graduates and awarding them graduation certificates. He also remarked that the doors of TIC will always be open for them and that new startups at TIC could benefit immensely from their mentorship and guidance.
Intellectual Property Day celebrated

Technology Incubation Center in collaboration with the US Embassy, NUST Entrepreneurs Club and DICE organized World Intellectual Property Day at NUST on April 27. The event focused on the importance of Intellectual Property Rights enforcement. The event consisted of two panel discussions. The first panel moderated by Mr Joe Yang from CLDP was about copyrights on music and publications. The guest speakers on this panel were Ms Nigar Nazar (Cartoonist), Mr Salman Ahmad (Musician), Mr Umair Sheikh (Music Manager), Mr Ariez Azhar (Musician) and Mr Haroon Rashid (Singer). This panel was particularly a hit as these celebrities discussed their own experiences and talked about how initially in Pakistan, the lack of law enforcement led to their music and work being easily pirated. Mr Haroon presented a video where he introduced the audience to a social networking website, solely for musicians who intended to have their work recognized without being copied. They gave a brief overview of deal with piracy and how to prevent it.

The second panel was moderated by Mr Mansur Raza from WIPO. The guest speakers on this panel included Ms Kalpana Reddy, Mr Majid Bashir, Dr Bilal Khan (CES), Mr Tipu Sultan (GM-Scotman Pharmaceuticals), and Mr Adnan Faisal (GM-TIC). This panel mainly emphasized on health and education. They talked about how patent awareness is a must and any medicine or drug brought into the market needs to be patented along with any other product to save oneself from being copied. They also shared several helpful experiences of their own. A question answer session followed each panel discussion.

AM College librarian publishes paper in reputed journal

Mr Midrar Ullah, Librarian and Literature Search Officer, Army Medical College, NUST has published a research paper titled “Current Status of Information Literacy Instruction Practices in Medical Libraries of Pakistan” with co-author Dr Kanwal Ameen in the Journal of Medical Library Association (JMLA), having impact factor 0.979. Mr Midrar Ullah regularly publishes and presents research papers in international journals and conferences of good repute.
Dr Shahid Hashmat launches his book “International Conflict Resolution: Role of the UN and the OIC”

Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, Principal NIPCONS, launched his new book “International Conflict Resolution: Role of the UN and the OIC” at a ceremony held on April 28 at Jinnah Auditorium. Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar was chief guest on the occasion. Dr Gulfraz Ahmed, former Federal Secretary, Government of Pakistan, Prof Dr Moonis Ahmar, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Karachi and Brig (Retd) Agha Ahmad Gul, former Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan also graced the ceremony.

Roundtable on De-radicalization

Centre for International Peace and Stability organized “Roundtable on De-radicalization” in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation on April 23.

Former ambassadors, members of the diplomatic community, academia, think tanks, NGOs, NUST faculty members and students attended the event. In his welcome address, Principal NIPCONS Dr Shahid A. Hashmat underscored the need to learn de-radicalization best practices from across the world and suitably adapt them to the Pakistani context. Kristof Duwaerts, Resident Representative Hanns Seidel Foundation in Pakistan highlighted the importance of the event and emphasized the need to organize more meetings on the subject in the future. Dr Tughral Yamin (Associate Dean CIPS) delivered a comprehensive presentation on de-radicalization initiatives in Pakistan. Dr Riffaat Hussain HoD Government and Policy, S3H gave a scholarly presentation on the rise of radical thoughts in Pakistan.

Panel discussion on cyberwarfare

A panel discussion was held on Applicability of IHL to Cyber Warfare, jointly organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in Islamabad on April 8. The panelists included Jamie Williamson from ICRC Geneva, Dr Tughral Yamin, Associate Dean CIPS and Ali Sultan from Research Society for International Law.

Pro Rector Academics Dr Asif Raza and Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, Principal NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies also spoke about the legal vacuum in cyber space and the ambiguity regarding the applicability of IHL in case of cyber-attacks during an armed conflict.

The panel discussion was well attended by representatives from military, government ministries, think tanks, legal experts and civil society.
Department of Mechanical Engineering at College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, organized a two-day CPD short course on progressive damage analysis of structures made of advanced composite materials from March 4 to 5. The lead organizer and speaker, Dr Rizwan Saeed, is one of the faculty members from the department, while Dr Himayat Ul-lah from NESCOM was invited as a guest speaker.

Motivation behind the course was that composites materials were finding ever increasing use in civil, aerospace and defense industries. Predicting failure in composites is a complicated affair. In some cases composites may be able to sustain significantly larger load than that predicted by considerations of failure initiation alone. This means that in order to fully exploit the design benefits of these materials designers should be able to model the progressive damage growth.

The workshop was suitable for structural design engineers and MS as well as PhD students involved in composites related research.

Amcolians Alumni Association (AAA) recently organized the 11th Annual Symposium, 2015, which marked the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the 9th MBBS Course of Army Medical College. The guest of honor for the occasion General Raheel Shareef, Chief of the Army Staff, was received by the Surgeon General Army Medical Corps, Lieutenant General Azhar Rashid, HI (M) Surg Gen/DGMS (IS) at Army Medical College.

The symposium was chaired by A/principal Army Medical College: Maj Gen Malik Muhammad Abbas and President AAA Brig Shahid Rasul. The welcome address was delivered by the President AAA: Brig Shahid Rasul and founder AAA: Major General S M Imran Majeed.

While addressing the event, the COAS appreciated the services rendered by doctors and paramedics of the Army Medical Corps during war and peace. During operation Zarb-e-Azb, the role of AMC was highly commendable, said COAS General Raheel Sharif. The Army Chief added that the enormous contributions made by AMC in the management of IDPs were praiseworthy.
Seminar on “Dynamics of Energy Security” at SCEE

A lecture on “Dynamics of Energy Security” was arranged on April 8, for the 2011 and 2013 Civil Engineering Batches of NUST Institute of Civil Engineering (NICE). The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr Gulfaraz Ahmed who is Senior Advisor and Consultant (Research & Development) with Mari Petroleum Company.

Dr Gulfaraz explained many issues of energy security in Pakistan to the audience. During his presentation, he showed many graphs that explained energy consumption growth, history of knowledge, energy consumption per person by the country, GDP per capita per year of all countries of world, energy supply and GDP growth correlation in Pakistan, population and income growth and many others.

Seminar on “Attabad Lake Landslide”

A massive landslide had occurred on January 4, 2010 near the village of Attabad, approximately 109 km north-east of Gilgit city. The landslide caused heavy loss to life and property. In this connection, a lecture on “Attabad Lake Land Slide” was arranged on April 20 for the 2011 and 2012 Civil Engineering Batches of NUST Institute of Civil Engineering (NICE). The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr Nasrullah Abeer who is consultant with FWO. He explained about the damages that occurred due to landslide, and the impacts of landsliding on the areas surrounding Attabad Lake. He also talked about the construction by FWO to counter the impacts caused by landsliding.
Seminar on “Oil and Gas Potential in Pakistan” at SCEE

A lecture on “Oil and Gas Potential of Pakistan” was arranged on April 28 for the 2014 Civil Engineering Batch of NUST Institute of Civil Engineering (NICE). The guest speaker for the occasion was Mr Shahzad Ahmed Khan who is an Exploration Manager and working with Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL).

Workshop on “Risk Management in Construction” at MCE

Engr Sohail Malik conducted a one-day workshop on “Risk Management in Construction” at Military College of Engineering (MCE), Risalpur on April 11. Engr Sohail Malik has done Masters in Engineering Management from UET Taxila. He has 15 years of experience of managing diversified projects including residential buildings, highway and infrastructure development projects.

During the workshop, he talked about Risk Planning, Risk Identification Techniques, Risk Analysis Techniques, Risk Response Techniques, and Risk Monitoring and Control Techniques.

During the one-day workshop, participants gained the confidence to handle and manage risks for any construction project, regardless of size or complexity. These goals include: Develop a detailed risk management plan to guide risk management activities; develop a risk register that is complete and accurate; qualify and quantify project risks; and prepare risk response strategies to control the risks and maximize the opportunities.

A total of 49 professionals and postgraduate students benefited from the workshop. Certificates were awarded to all the participants. The workshop was approved as CPD activity by PEC and participants earned 1.0 point.
Accountability Lab founder talks to students

In a session organized by Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) on May 4, Blair Glencorse, Founder and Executive Director of the Accountability Lab in Washington D.C., spoke to students at SEECS. Accountability Lab is an organization that supports citizens to build accountability around the world, and incubates creative ideas to make people in power more responsible. Mr Glencorse is a Social Impact Fellow at the Center for High Impact Philanthropy at the University of Pennsylvania and has worked for the World Bank on issues of governance and development across various countries. He has also won the World Technology Award and BMW Responsible Leaders Award, and has written widely on issues of entrepreneurship, governance and leadership in a variety of renowned publications.

Mr Glencorse had an interactive session with aspiring social entrepreneurs of NUST and spoke about how social enterprise could transform development for billions of young people around the world. He explained how using an entrepreneurial approach to challenges in Pakistan, combined with integrity, could provide a path towards a more inclusive, fair and prosperous country. He shared some thoughts on how students and young people can play a central role in transforming their societies, which were very well received by the audience.

Workshop on “Future Trends in Technology”

ACM SEECS chapter held a two-day workshop on “Future Trends in Technology” from 18th to 19th March. Its aim was to give the audience an insight into the recent advances made in the World Wide Web technology. Dr Bebo White was the honored speaker, who is Departmental Associate (Emeritus) at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, operated at Stanford university. Apart from other numerous achievements, he has written eight books and over one hundred journal/proceedings articles. Dr Bebo White delivered lectures related to Cloud and Mobile computing, Cyber-currency/Bitcoin, Linked Open Data and other such trends in Web science. This workshop turned out to be very productive, with lots of students turning up. Moreover, an interactive session was also held where students got the opportunity of asking questions to Dr Bebo White.
“Suicide Prevalence among Pakistani Youth: Role of Educational Institutions as a Mentor”

Centre for Counselling and Career Advisory (C3A) arranged a seminar on “Suicide Prevalence among Pakistani youth: Role of Educational Institutions as a Mentor.” The guest speaker Professor Dr Murad Moosa from Psychiatry Department of Agha Khan Hospital emphasized the proactive role of teachers, parents, peers and relatives in preventing suicide. Educational institutions can provide awareness regarding suicide risks and factors and sensitize them on how to be empathetic and passionate. A large number of faculty and students from psychology department of renowned universities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi attended the seminar. The audience also consisted of military psychologists and professionals from development sectors. The participants appreciated the interactive talk and encouraged the idea of C3A, NUST to bring forward such burning issues in future as well.

Lectures on “Teachers’ Role in Youth Suicide Prevention”

C3A team conducted lectures on “Teachers’ Role in Youth Suicide Prevention” and “Teachers as Mentors for Students at Risk” for faculty at EME, AMC, MCS, MCE and CAE. In this two hour interactive forum the basic etiological factors were discussed along with highlighting the major role of teacher in moulding his student’s life. Considering the increasing rate of youth suicide rate in Pakistan, C3A felt it inevitable to make teachers aware of suicide incidences, its causes, identification and prevention and their role as a mentor. The lecture aimed to help participants understand the process of mentoring, attributes of a mentor and what they can do to be a mentor of at risks students. The lecture concluded with highly encouraging feedback by the participants.
NCSC conducts workshop on “Social Entrepreneurship” for CSL-401 course participants

In the last decade or so we have seen tremendous change in society. Owing to this change, we have also seen a growing trend of people taking responsibility for themselves and the society they live in by becoming social entrepreneurs. Looking at this trend NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) arranged a workshop for the CSL-401 (community service learning) course participants on social entrepreneurship on 2nd April and 7th April at NIT Seminar Hall respectively. The workshop was conducted by Assistant Manager Community Service Ms Maheen Mumtaz.

The workshop started with the explanation of the importance of Social entrepreneurship especially as societies continue to face challenges of every sort. Social entrepreneurs were therefore in turn motivated to understand the adaptive capacity and life changing potential their work carried. In order to inspire the participants even more, examples were given from the international community as well as from within Pakistan. An example from within Pakistan which was nothing but inspiring was that of Women’s Digital League, a venture started by Maria Umar, which empowers women by giving them a platform to work on their own and establish themselves as talented professionals.

The workshop ended by a few pointers for the participants that would guide them on how to start and compose an enterprise for themselves. The workshop was very informative and gave the participants the push they might need to go out and change the world around them.

Resume-writing workshop held at SMME

Resume, an integral part of job search, is something most people struggle with, to write for a long time. In this connection, a workshop on resume-writing was held at SMME on March 7. Students from all over NUST came to attend it so they could hone their resume writing skills and further their chances of success in getting jobs. Mr Shazil Pervaiz, Assistant Manager, Mobicash conducted the workshop, which proved very beneficial for the participants.
Dr Salma presents paper at SRCD Biennial Conference, USA

Dr Salma Siddiqui, HoD Department of Behavioral Sciences (DBS, S3H) attended the SRCD Biennial Conference in Philadelphia USA (March 19-21) and presented a collaborated work on “A Cross-cultural Examination of Interpretation and Revenge Goals in Response to Peer Provocation.” The conference being a high profile event was an opportunity to represent NUST and Pakistan at an international forum. The presentation followed by a discussion on what factors might play a role in shaping the response of Pakistani adolescent in times of conflicts. The work was appreciated as it was unique and provided cross cultural insight into two different cultures with regard to individualistic and collectivistic values.

Dr Salma Siddiqui also had an opportunity to talk about the psychological trauma of the victims of APS Peshawar and how the Department of Behavioral Sciences (DBS) helped in dealing with traumatic reaction of the survivors. This invitation was from “Thought Works” Chicago Office, which is an organization focused on providing software solutions to clients and also gives importance to the cause of social justice. The audience appreciated the sharing of information as they were not aware of the nature of tragic incident and how it was managed. Many questions were raised with regard to shooting incidents in schools in the USA and the recent conflict in Ferguson, Missouri after the fatal shooting of a young man by a policeman also came under discussion. One of the participants inquired about the psychological first aid and its effectiveness and discussed about using this in her volunteer work in Ferguson. The exchanges of ideas during this visit were mutually beneficial.

Students complete week-long placement – C³A

Students successfully completed one-week work placement from April 21 to 27. During this placement, students were introduced to a range of guidance and counseling institutions offering services in various settings. Students observed and participated in the counseling services through job shadowing of various staff members. This helped them develop awareness regarding career counseling and information practices, career assessment tools, links between career counseling and effective working relationships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>School/university where placement completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tayyaba</td>
<td>Counseling and Wellness Center, Comsats Institute of Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rashida</td>
<td>Fatimah Jinnah Women University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atiya</td>
<td>The Center for Counseling and Career Advisory</td>
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<td>Faisal</td>
<td>FAST University</td>
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<td>Ahmer</td>
<td>SEECS (NUST)</td>
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<td>ZiauddinKhoso</td>
<td>Institute of Business Administration (Sukkar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qurat-ul-Ain</td>
<td>Career Development Center (NUST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zainab</td>
<td>Preparatory School Islamabad (PSI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanwal and Aminah</td>
<td>Access Center, Beaconhouse School System (BSS)</td>
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RCMS scholar publishes paper in reputed journal

A recent publication by an MS Student at Research Centre for Modelling and Simulation, Samar Hayat Khan Tareen, being supervised by Assistant Professor Dr Jamil Ahmad of RCMS, in the reputed PLOS ONE journal sets out to find the molecular regulation of the circadian rhythms when stimulated by the feeding habits. Modelling the peripheral circadian clocks of human hepatocyte cells, it has been found that not only the peripheral clock indeed responds to the feeding regimens, but the frequency of feeding also affects the respective expression of involved proteins and associated signals. More importantly, modelling of specific feeding regimens led to the conclusion that either 2 or 3 meals a day produce healthy oscillations whereas more or less than said meals-a-day resulted in significantly different expression behaviors.

C³A organizes “Orientation on Handling Children’s Worries regarding School Safety”

Center for Counseling and Career Advisory (C³A) arranged a workshop on “How to Help Mothers/Teachers Deal with their Worries Regarding School Safety.” The session was arranged specifically for teachers and mothers after the terrorist attack on a Peshawar school. The terrorist attack had traumatized both adults and children all over the country and developed fears and concerns regarding safety in general and school safety in particular both among parents and children. The workshop aimed to help teachers and mothers learn different simple techniques to deal with their children’s worries and help them cope with their worries in an effective way.
NUST, NDSU department heads hold video conference

NUST and North Dakota State University, USA hold an active MoU for mutual collaboration. Rector NUST Engr Muhammad Asghar along with a NUST delegation had visited NDSU last year. The corresponding schools/ departments of both the universities are keenly looking forward to implementing the clauses of the agreement in letter and spirit. Different departments of the universities have exchanged the documents detailing departmental and program highlights, faculty interests, research interests and admission requirements, etc. To discuss the way forward, a video conference session was held between the department heads in March, 2015. The panel from NUST included Principal NUST School of Chemical and Materials Engineering (SCME), Dr Mujahid, Head of Materials Engineering Department SCME, Dr Muhammad Shahid and Principal NUST School of Civil & Environmental Engineering (SCEE), Dr Tariq Mahmood. The panel from NDSU comprised Professor and Chair - Coatings and Polymeric Materials Department, Dr Dean Webster, Director - Graduate Program in Materials and Nanotechnology, Dr Erik Hobbie and Professor and Chair – Chemistry and Biochemistry, Dr Gregory Cook.

Workshop on GRE

To give an overview of the GRE exam to NUST students, a workshop on GRE was held at NIT seminar Hall on March 17.

Guest Lecture at MCE

Dr Ali Ahsan, Chairman (Engineering and Management), CASE Islamabad visited Military College of Engineering on March 19 to deliver a lecture on ‘Entrepreneurship’. The dean, faculty members and students of the college attended the lecture. He highlighted various qualities an entrepreneur should possess and gave some tips on polishing the entrepreneurship skills.
CAE team participates in “All Pakistan Design, Build, and Fly Competition, 2015”

All Pakistan Design, Build and Fly Competition (DBFC) is a national level event, organized by Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Science and Technology student chapter of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), in collaboration with STEM careers program. The event provides an opportunity to the students to get hands-on experience while using their theoretical knowledge in aircraft design discipline. DBFC-10 was held in a category of electrical motor driven battery powered aircraft from April 24 to 26 in two categories including electric powered and solar powered radio controlled aerial vehicles.

Three teams from College of Aeronautical Engineering (CAE) represented National University of Sciences and Technology in the event. The event included design report submission, quiz, viva examination and flying of the aircraft in both the categories. In solar power category, CAE team demonstrated the proof of concept of solar flight and successfully completed the required mission. CAE shared the top prize in this category with PIEAS team.

In Electric category, CAE team won the consolation prize. CAE Aerial Design team has represented NUST in many competitions in the past as well and reached victory stands. Some of these competitions held last year include All Pakistan AirEx innovation challenge, and Future Flight Design Competition held in Turkey.

Minute to Win It draws maximum participation

ASME SMME student chapter organized another creative and fun-filled event “Minute to Win It” on April 14. As the name suggests, the event included a range of games that the participants had to complete under a minute to advance to the next round. Minute to win It (MTWI) was a huge success and was able to attract students from all over NUST to register and participate in the event. The competition included eight rounds with different games that increased in difficulty as the event progressed.
Paragliding Training held at MCS

Military College of Signals offered its students and faculty members a paragliding course, which was scheduled in two shifts in February 2015 at Army School of Physical Training (ASPT). The first group went on the course from February 9-13, while the second group underwent the course from February 16-20. In total, 84 cadets and 2 officers participated in the activity.

The activities of the course were spread over a period of five days. Day 1 focused on familiarization with the equipment to be used during the course after a physical fitness check of the cadets. The equipment consisted of a paraglider, a safety helmet and a harness. Ground handling was the main activity on Day 1. On Day 2, flights from the ramp were made. Each individual was made to take a minimum of two flights so as to get himself accustomed to controlling the glider during flight. Flights from Mang were conducted on Day 3 and 4. It consisted of flights from 50 m and 100 m height. On Day 5, flights from Khalid top were scheduled. The best pilots were announced on the basis of their performances during the first four days of training, and were allowed to take flight from Khalid Top.

MCS has also coordinated such ventures with ASPT in future, in which more GCs, NCs, faculty members and Officers will take part. Any NUST students and faculty member desirous to join the activity may approach CO Training Battalion MCS to get their names included against a nominal fee.

NSS holds SciON 2015

SciON 2015, held on April 24, was a mega event that involved five different student chapters of international organizations working in four different departments of NUST. There was IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) at SEECS, ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) at NICE, ASM (American Society for Metals) and AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineering) at SCME and IMechE (Institute of Mechanical Engineers) at SMME.

The three-day event involved activities held all around NUST. Each student chapter held events that tested students in academic and practical fields. IEEE hosted Xtreme Programming and Speed Circuiting while IMechE had a Potato Cannon and Hydraulic Robot building contest. The participants at the ASCE event, Space Shelter, designed a model shelter for a mission to Mars. The participants of AIChE Chem Mania and ASM SciMat engaged in quizzes and rapid fire rounds as well as small scale building competitions.

Last of all, NSS held its own event, Mind Maze, which true to its name was a collection of puzzles designed to test logic and rational thinking as well as speed. A total of 65 teams played in the events from all around NUST and other universities of Islamabad. The closing ceremony was held on April 26 and the winners were presented with cash prizes and certificates by Dr Mujahid, Principal of SCME and patron of NUST Science Society.
SEECS DramaFest 2015

The much awaited SEECS annual DramaFest was held on Friday, March 13 at Rawalpindi Arts Council. The event had the honor of being graced with the presence of literary personalities like Mrs. Mehmooda Ghazia, a proficient writer and Mr. Hameed Shahid, a prominent Urdu fiction writer as the judges of the performances. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Bughio, Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sindh joined as the chief guest of the evening.

The Freshmen Batch captivated the entire audience with their beautifully scripted play, ‘Shadows in the Dark’. Not only did they highlight the social issues very effectively but also left some strong imprints on the minds of the audience.

The long-awaited serial, ‘Dus Gyara’ by sophomores finally made appearance only to leave the audience plunged into grief over the Peshawar APS tragedy. The concluding lines tended to push the spectators into a thoughtful phase of personal development. Mughal-e-Azam has been an all-time favourite subject but the way Juniors presented it in their ‘Raza Phans Gaya Mughlon mein’ mesmerized the entire audience. Not only beautifully scripted but well performed!

“Social Vices” brought in by the Senior Batch highlighted the numerous evils prevalent in the society and having criticized a few, they called upon the audience to ponder over the role they have been and should be playing on stage this world.

The event came to an end with both performers and audience eagerly awaiting the results. Finally, the chief guest was called on stage, where he announced that the junior batch was crowned DramaFest Champions for the year 2015.

NMC organizes Photo Walk

On the fine morning of April 18, NUST Media Club members went on a journey to District Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with a number of excited students to capture the picturesque and the breathtakingly panoramic region of the North of Pakistan, through the eyes of their cameras.

After reaching the base of Miranjani, the highest peak in district Abbottabad, everybody stood glancing at the peak, submerged in their thoughts to reach the summit. The hiking track was a challenging one; it gave all participants a tough time. The girls went breathless and air hunger struck quite a few. However, everyone managed to reach the top. They stayed there for some time and then returned with lots of snaps stored in their DSLRs, as it was a photowalk after all.
Skiing at Shogran

Skiing is one of those sports that get very little public attention in Pakistan. Owing to this particular reason coupled with the positive energy showed by the students of NUST about this event, the NUST Adventure Club organized a skiing training program at Shogran from March 13 to 15. This trip was aimed at promoting the sport of skiing among the youth of NUST and providing an opportunity for the skiing enthusiasts at NUST to learn and showcase their skills in this particular area.

Despite being the first event of its kind in the history of events organized by NUST societies/clubs, the trip according the participant feedback was a success. It was also the first time an event with overnight stay arrangements was organized by a NUST student society.

The organizing committee with a total of 22 participants and 2 trainers departed for the slopes of Shogran on Friday afternoon, via a coaster which took the route that turns from Abbotabad to Kiwai. The team reached Shogran in jeeps on Friday night. The participants were briefed about basic skiing instructions on the first night around a bonfire. Skiing practice commenced early the next morning with the participants being divided in groups of six. The entire day was spent on skiing practice as each group was trained through the basics of the sport, taking only a break for lunch in the afternoon.

After skiing practice, a rappelling training activity was organized for the participants near the Shogran Hotel, to make the trip even more enthralling for the participants.

On Sunday morning, after breakfast, the team packed up and moved down to Kiwiai to transfer into a coaster, from there they took the Muzaffarabad route back to Islamabad finally bringing an end to the three-day trip full of adventure and excitement.
Photowalk to Miranjani by NMC

On the fine, sunny and blooming morning of April 18, NUST Media Club took on a daring journey to District Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with a number of hyped up students. Three buses locked and loaded, on the way to experience which no other club in NUST has done before; to reach the summit of Miranjani, in the essence of a photowalk, to capture nature’s gifts to us, the picturesque and the breathtakingly panoramic region of the North of Pakistan.

The hiking track was a challenging one; it gave all participants a tough time. The students went breathless and air hunger struck quite a few. The students reached the top in three-hour time. The participants along with the executive NMC crew made it through thick and thin and reached the panoramic partially snow caped peak. Everyone felt accomplished to have reached the top.

Aik Pakistani Dharkan!

Renowned photographer, sculptor and photojournalist Mobeen Ansari was welcomed at NUST by NUST Media Club on April 6. He was welcomed with a thunderous applause as he walked through the NBS Seminar Hall. The seminar hall was packed with students from all-over NUST. NUST Media Club’s Décor team had painstakingly selected various photos from Mobeen’s collection and had displayed them all around the hall for the audience to see.

NUST Media club had the privilege of inviting Mobeen who shared his life experiences with the students and revived their spirits that dreams indeed come true. He began with the brief details about his disability, i.e., partial hearing impairment. The doctors suggested Mobeen be taught sign language as his hearing would not be improved however his mother’s belief in her son’s deafness to be improved, lead him to where he is today. Mobeen attended the prestigious National College of Arts and is a qualified sculptor and painter. It was at NCA that Mobeen figured out his life’s motto: If you want to stand out, find beauty in the most common and the ugliest of places.

His most important work, to date, however, is the book ‘Dharkan: The Heartbeat of a Nation’, a collection of pictures of the people of Pakistan starting from a common man to people like Imran Khan and Abdul Sattar Edhi. His next photobook titled “The White In Our Flag” is dedicated to the minorities of Pakistan.

Mobeen Ansari truly awakened the souls of many students with his words and left them in awe with his unwavering attitude and strong character. The session was interactive and NMC awarded one lucky student a signed copy of Dharkan. The session concluded with photographs, autographs and smiles.
Being Pakistan’s No. 2 in snooker, Shahram Changezi, Adm and Estate Officer at NUST, was selected to represent Pakistan in the subject championship. Shahram Changezi along with Hamza Akbar and Muhammad Asif were drawn in three different groups. He took a flying start and defeated Japanese opponent by 4-0 hammering two consecutive century breaks of 121 and 102. He defeated his next two opponents from Malaysia and Korea by 4-1 and 4-0 respectively.

In knockout stage, he was set to play against India’s Manan Chandra who is Ex- World number 3 and Ex-Asian Indoor Games Gold Medalist. Shahram won the match by 4-3. In Quarter Final, he met his countryman Hamza Akbar. Shahram lost the Quarter Final despite making an elegant break of 120 in frame 2. Hamza Akbar eventually became Asian Champion. However, Shahram stood 5th in the mega event with Asian record of making two back-to-back centuries in debut match and also made the maximum number of centuries in the championship, i.e., three (121, 120 and 102). He returned home with a beautiful trophy and certificate. While talking to media he credited NUST for his achievements.

Futsal Competition at MCE

MCE organized Inter-course Futsal Competition which started on March 16. All CED and OD courses participated in the event. All the teams participated with sportsmanship, comradeship and displayed valor of physical fitness.

A total of six teams participated out of which two best teams CED 81 and CED 77 managed to qualify for the final. The final match was played on March 19, in which CED 77 stood victorious. The chief guest at the final match was Chief Instructor Civil Engineering Wing Colonel Dr Shahid Iqbal who distributed prizes among the winners and runners-ups.
Sports Gala 2015

ASAB-RCMS

SCME

SMME
Endowment Fund Program opened for CSL-401 course participants

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) Endowment fund is used to pay the fee of financially challenged NUST students. In the Spring semester 2015, the program was opened for Community Service Learning (CSL-401) course participants as well. Final-year students made efforts in raising as many funds as they could for the fund.

Blood donation drive

NUST Community Service Club in collaboration with Jamila Sultana Foundation organized a three-day blood donation drive, which kicked off on March 10. All donations were meant for children suffering from thalassemia and registered with Jamila Sultana Foundation. NUST administration also provided ample support in setting up the camp.

NCSC TABA team organizes book fair

NUST Community Service Club TABA team arranged a book fair in SEECS lobby on March 3 and 4, with the main inspiration of helping victims of famine at Thar that has claimed many lives and has rendered almost 17000 families homeless.

The idea of this event was not only to facilitate students by providing them with the academic material they required but also to generate funds for the drought victims of Thar. TABA is trying to make an effort to reach out to the drought ridden Thar by providing aid, and also by creating awareness regarding the situation among the students at NUST. TABA in its quest to achieve social excellence worked hard to collect books for this event. Desks were set up for two days consecutively. Most of the books presented in the book fair were related to academics. Students appreciated TABA’s efforts and showed interest in the event and expressed their zeal to help the victims by buying books.
Cloth donation drive

Cloth donation drive was organized by NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) as part of the community service learning (CSL-401) course project. It was a 10-day drive which began from March 30 and lasted till April 9. The purpose was to collect and then donate the collected clothes to EDHI homes.

NCSC bags 2nd position at second PCTN conference

Pakistan Chapter of The Talloires Network (PCTN) held a conference on “Sustainable Development Solutions and Action Plans for Universities and their Youth” on March 18, 2015 at Jinnah Auditorium. Many renowned speakers took part. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Mr Ahsan Iqbal honored the conference with his presence in the opening session. The closing session was attended by Mr Nisar Memon.

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) set up three stalls at the event. The “education for empowerment program” stall was set up consolidating all the education-related programs. Another stall was set up about the Community Service Learning Course (CSL-401). On the occasion, Akhtar Hameed Khan Community Services Award were given to universities on the basis of their services for the community. First position was seized by Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Sukkur Campus, while NUST Community Services Club (NCSC) Education for Empowerment program bagged the second position for its commendable services to the community. Assistant Manager Community Services Ms Maheen Mumtaz and NCSC President Ms Rida Aleem collected the award, which was jointly presented by Mr Nisar Memon and Rector NUST, Engr Muhammad Asghar.

Mentoring and coaching on water conservation

CSL-401 (Community Service Learning course) participants carried out an awareness campaign regarding water conservation at NUST. The objective of the project was mentoring and coaching community of NUST about conserving water.
NCSC Serving the Servers team organizes sports event for NG staff

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) newest allied team, Serving the Servers, held their first event on March 14. The team’s objective is to organize recreational and entertaining events for the LS/Green-Card Holders/NG staff of NUST exclusively. After conducting a survey amongst the staff belonging to various directorates at NUST, the team decided to hold a sports event for the NG staff from the hostels branch.

A closing ceremony was arranged at the end in the presence of HoD Mechanical Engineering Dr Shahid Ikram Ullah Butt. He handed over the trophy to winning team’s captain and delivered a closing speech.

Consolation of Children project at Services School F-8/4 by NCSC

NUST Community Service Club (NCSC) TABA team arranged a visit to “Services School F-8/4, Islamabad” for Consolation of Children project. Community service learning course (CSL-401) participants joined in the activity as part of their mandatory field project. The school is for children of maids, servants, drivers and similar who cannot afford regular schools for their children.

A team of 45 NUST students led by Ms Sadia Khaf, arranged sports, painting, teaching computer skills and debates and confidence building activities for children. Smart and active students were awarded with sports equipment, coloring books, paints and chocolates.
First aid and firefighting training

Keeping up with the tradition of spreading awareness about various community related issues, the fourth workshop of Community Service Learning course (CSL-401) was organized at SCEE auditorium on March 17 and 19. The course participants belonged to SMME, SCEE, SEECS and RCMS. The subject of this interactive session was first aid training and firefighting.

Miscellaneous Activities at a Glance

- NCSC organizing Free Eye Camp 2015 in collaboration with Al-Shifa Trust
- NCSC Fund-raising for old homes
- NCSC Masa’adah Team organizing free medical camp in collaboration with TDC
NCSC Knack of All This 2.0

Mural Painting by CSL-401 course participants

Micro-finance Awareness Campaign

CSL participants conducting survey of slums
Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus, Mr Mikhail Zhuravkov visited NUST on May 25. On the occasion, an MoU was also signed to formalize the collaboration between NUST and Belarusian University in the areas of joint research, fellowships and exchange of faculty and students.

An 85-member delegation from Command and Staff College, Quetta including faculty members and student/officers visited NUST on March 11.

Xi’an Jiaotong University (XJTU) China Delegation to NUST on April 21
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance for Budget, visits NUST on April 18

A 12-member delegation from Bahria University, Islamabad led by Rector Bahria University, Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Saeed visited NUST on March 15

A three-member delegation from Otto-Von-Guericke Universitat Magdeburg (OVGU), Germany, visited NUST on March 31
CAS-EN Industrial visit to Bestway Cement Industry on April 24

Visit of faculty of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology on March 27

Visit of 10 faculty members (Mech Department of IIUI) on March 27
Students, faculty and staff of all the campuses of NUST are encouraged to send their Essays, Poems, Book Reviews, Caricatures, Short Stories and Quality Jokes for inclusion in the forthcoming issue of the magazine.