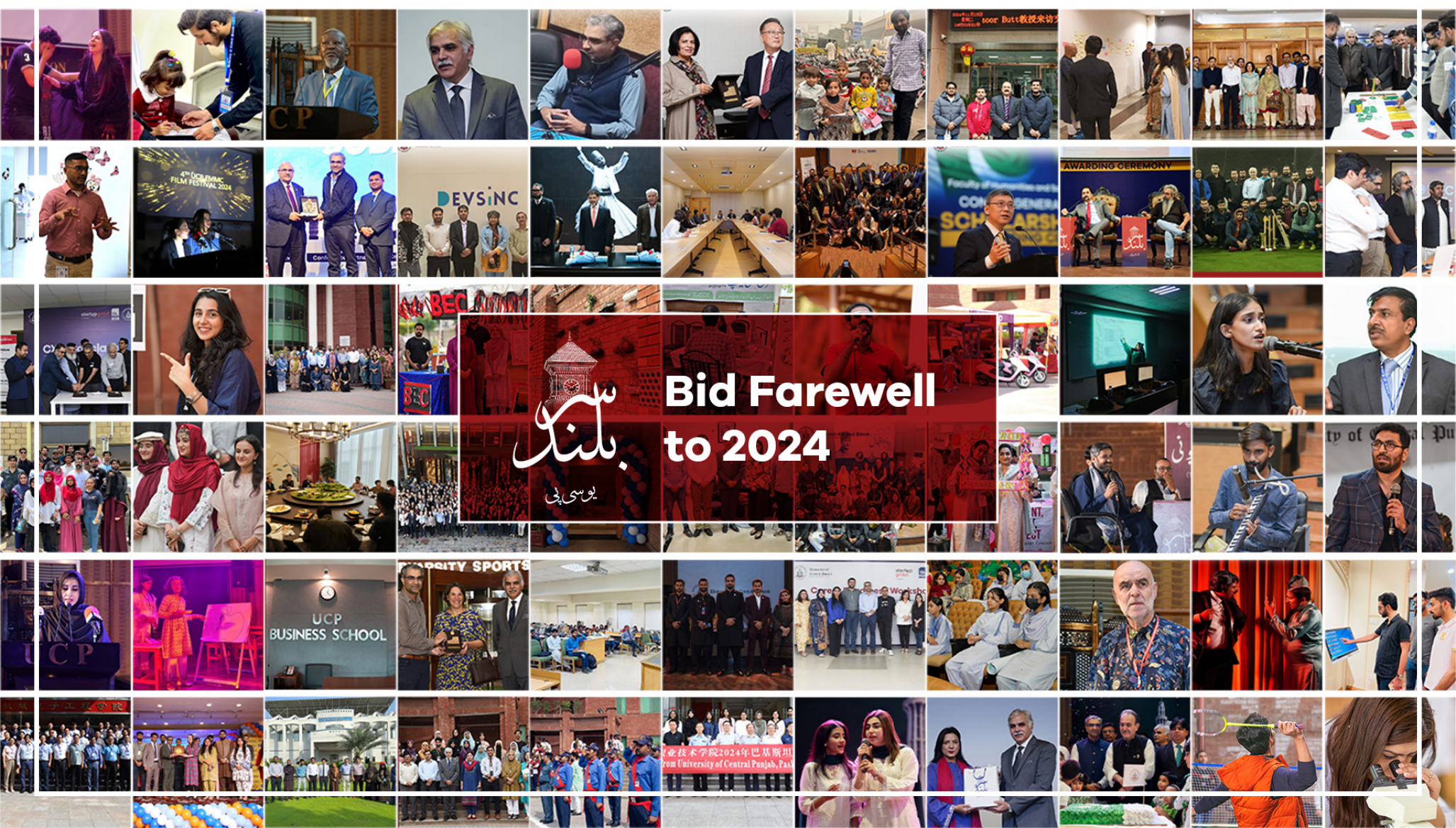


#SurbulandUCP

MONTHLY CONNECT

December | 2024



Highlights of the Month



University of Central Punjab
The Centre of Your Future



International Ranking

UCP stands

2nd 4th

across **Private Sector**
Universities

among all **Public** and
Private Sector Universities
in Pakistan by Green Metric

UCP's Recognition in International Green Metric Rankings

We are proud to be ranked 2nd among private sector universities & 4th overall in Pakistan in the International Green Metric Ranking. This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainability and innovation. With 0.5 MW of renewable energy generation, a 500-litre daily water treatment capacity, and 3 RO water treatment plants across all three buildings, we're making real strides toward a greener future.

At UCP, we are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across various sectors to contribute to a better world. Our efforts extend beyond just education, as we actively promote initiatives that support social equality, health, sustainability, and economic growth. By working on multiple SDGs, UCP strives to create an inclusive, innovative, and environmentally responsible community, where students, faculty, and society at large can thrive. Through our diverse programs, collaborations, and community engagement, we aim to reduce inequalities, improve quality of life, and contribute to a sustainable future for all.

At UCP, we're not just building leaders – we're shaping a sustainable tomorrow, together.

Workshops and Seminars

Mevlana Rumi’s Relevance in 21st Century



On December 17th, 2024, UCP hosted “The Relevance of Rumi in the 21st Century” to commemorate the 751st anniversary of Mevlana Rumi’s reunion. The event reflected on Rumi’s timeless wisdom and its significance in today’s world, where his words of love, unity, and peace continue to guide restless hearts. His message, “Come, come, whoever you are,” reminded us that the search for the Divine transcends all barriers. In an age of chaos, Rumi’s teachings remain a beacon, calling us back to love, compassion, and the eternal journey to the Beloved.



Dr. Jawad Abbas’s online talk on From Research Idea to Publication: A Step-by-Step Approach to PhD students from European universities

Dr Jawad Abbas from Faculty of Management Sciences delivered an engaging online talk titled “From Research Idea to Publication: A Step-by-Step Approach” to PhD students from European universities. Key topics covered included identifying literature gaps and establishing an impactful research topic, structuring the manuscript, writing the cover letter, and determining the right journal. Over a hundred research students attended the session, which provided practical insights on transforming research ideas into published papers. The talk represents UCP’s commitment to supporting early-career researchers.



Two-day Workshop on “Accreditation Strategies: Understanding the Revised NBEAC Accreditation Standards”

UCP Business School faculty participated in the two-day workshop on “Accreditation Strategies: Understanding the Revised NBEAC Accreditation Standards” held at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi. Facilitated by Dr. Farooq-e-Azam Cheema, the workshop provided invaluable insights into the updated NBEAC (Version 4.0) framework, covering seven key performance areas and actionable strategies to enhance quality assurance in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).



As advocates for academic excellence, we are committed to aligning with the latest accreditation standards, ensuring our programs remain competitive, impactful, and compliant with evolving benchmarks.

Job Readiness: Career Growth & Mock Interview Workshop

An insightful session on career development and interview strategies was conducted for final-year FOCS&IT students by UCP alumnae Aqsa Durrani and industry HR expert Dur-e-Sameen, both accomplished HR professionals from the IT sector. This initiative was organized under the FO CS&IT Alumni Forum’s suggestions to connect and train students with industry expertise. The session concluded with mock interviews, where valuable feedback was provided to help students refine their skills and prepare for the professional world.



Dr. Raja Irfan Sabir Led the 1st National Case Writing Competition

Dr. Raja Irfan Sabir was nominated as a “Case Mentor” and invited as the “Session Chair” for the “1st National Case Writing Competition” held at Sukkur IBA University on November 25, 2024. The competition, organized by the Case Research Centre (CRC) in collaboration with OGDCL, was led by Dr. Qamar Uddin and Dr. Mansoor Ahmad.



As the first competition of its kind, it brought together academics and experts from across Pakistan. The event aimed to foster an intellectual environment where participants could demonstrate their analytical and critical thinking skills, showcasing how they engage with a case study to offer innovative solutions. A total of 52 talented presenters from across the country participated, highlighting their skills in critical thinking, research, and innovation. This competition not only brought forth remarkable talent but also set a new benchmark for academic excellence. Dr. Raja Irfan Sabir’s leadership and insightful guidance were an integral part of shaping the participants critical thinking.

Dean Faculty of Management Sciences’ Guest Talk on Leading High-Performance Teams

Dr. Muhammad Athar Siddiqui, Dean FoMS, delivered an insightful guest talk to the senior management at @Treet Corporation on “Leading High-Performance Teams.” The session illuminated senior executives on how leaders can build high-performing teams and develop essential team-working skills. Using insights from academic research and practical experiences, Dr. Athar kept the audience glued by deconstructing key concepts such as the growth mindset, psychological safety, and the intricate relationship between trust and performance in teams.



Initiatives like this talk showcase how academia can make direct contributions to industry practices—transforming the relationship into a two-way street of mutual respect and shared growth.

Co-designing Precision Agriculture and Technology Policy



Faculty of Science and Technology in collaboration with the Climate Change Research Council (CCRC), successfully hosted an international seminar titled “Co-designing Precision Agriculture and Technology Policy” with Agricultural Stakeholders.

The seminar, held on December 2, 2024, featured Dr. Maaz Gardezi, an Associate Professor at Virginia Tech, USA. Dr. Gardezi engaged the audience with his inspiring ideas on how climate change, new digital technologies, and social issues impact agriculture. He highlighted the need for sustainable and fair food systems and shared innovative ways to develop precision agriculture policies with input from farmers and other stakeholders. The event offered a valuable opportunity for discussions about the important role of technology and policies in tackling global agricultural challenges.

The seminar was concluded by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Dean, Faculty of Science & Technology, who reaffirmed UCP’s commitment to fostering knowledge exchange and research collaboration in addressing global challenges.

A Framework for New Filmmakers



Faculty of Media and Mass Communication hosted an international hands-on training session, “A Framework for New Filmmakers” on November 29, 2024. Led by Australian filmmaker Mr. Keiran Brice, the session offered valuable insights into scene analysis – identifying the main character, their objectives, obstacles, the inciting incident, turning point, and climax – and the filming process. Dean FMMC, Dr. Fawad Baig, expressed his gratitude to the distinguished guest and presented him with UCP souvenirs as a token of appreciation.

Workshop on Grants Funding for Researchers & Businesses by USAID

A workshop on “Grants Funding for Researchers and Businesses by USAID” was held to help participants understand how to access funding opportunities for their research and business projects. The event focused on how various funding sources can play a crucial role in fostering innovation and development. Experts shared valuable insights on how to navigate the funding landscape and highlighted different funding options available to help advance research and business initiatives, particularly for small businesses and emerging projects.



Students expressed great interest in the workshop, appreciating the practical knowledge gained. They felt more confident about applying for grants and using funding from organizations like USAID to support their research and business ideas. This event provided them with a clearer understanding of how external funding can help bring their projects to life and make a positive impact in their fields.

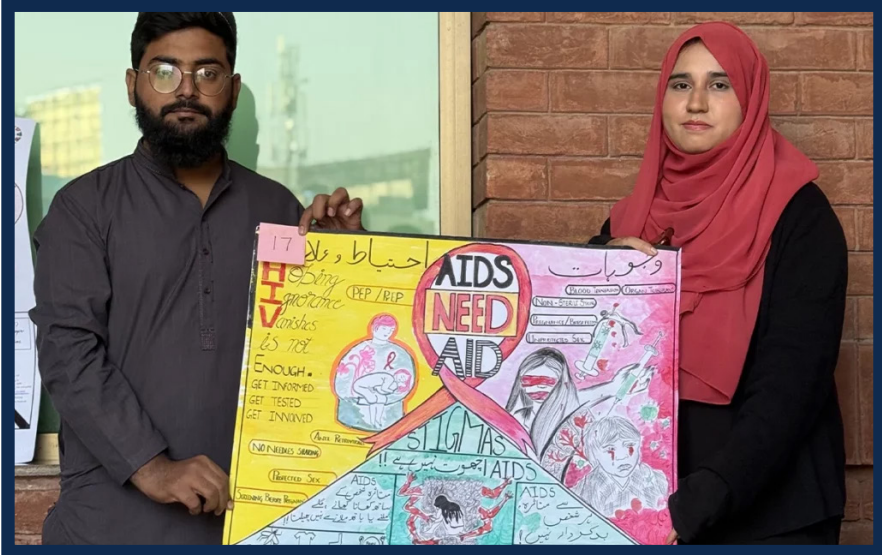
Haider Miraj’s Session on Crisis Communication



An enlightening session on Crisis Communication was conducted by Mr. Haider Miraj, Director of Communications & Marketing, for students enrolled in the Crisis Communication course, led by Dr. Fahad Anis, Head of the Department of Media and Mass Communication (FMMC). The session took place at the Comms Hub, an open and collaborative space at UCP’s Communications Office.

Mr. Haider shared valuable insights into the art of narrative building, crafting effective communication strategies, and understanding the intricacies of behavioral communication, drawing from his rich and celebrated career. The highlight of the session was an engaging Q&A segment, where students had the unique opportunity to interact directly with the expert, gaining practical perspectives and clarity on real-world challenges in the field. The session emphasized that communication is everything. Language is a powerful tool that can help conquer any challenge, provided it is used in the right way. Sessions like these fully prepare students to unlock their full potential, transforming them into well-rounded, highly skilled individuals ready to tackle any situation and offer innovative solutions.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Seminar & Poster Competition



The Health & Pharmacy Club, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, in collaboration with the Punjab AIDS Control Program, Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department, Government of Pakistan, organized a one-day HIV/AIDS Awareness Seminar and Poster Competition at the University of Central Punjab on 17th December 2024.

The seminar aimed to educate attendees about HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and support. Experts shared the latest information, debunked myths, and emphasized the importance of breaking the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS to foster a healthier and more inclusive society.

Dr. Fatima Saeed, in charge of the Punjab AIDS Control Program at Services Hospital Lahore, and Mr. Shoaib Akram, Communication Officer for the Punjab AIDS Control Program, were the guest speakers. They provided valuable insights into the challenges and solutions in addressing HIV/AIDS in Pakistan.

The Poster Competition was a creative initiative to highlight social causes through art. Students designed impactful posters to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, effectively conveying important messages to the community and showcasing their dedication to meaningful change.



FOMS Faculty Research and Case Seminar Series (Project Management Evolution)

FOMS hosted the second session of the UCP BS Faculty Research & Case Seminar Series, featuring Dr. Ata ul Musawir’s talk on “The Evolution of Project Management as a Discipline.” The session sparked thought-provoking discussions and provided a deep dive into the growth and transformation of project management.

Seminar on Cutting-Edge Underwater Robotics: A Huge Success

On December 18, 2024, the seminar on “Underwater Transparently Camouflaged Object Detection via ‘RGB’ and ‘Event Frame Collaboration’” proved to be a great success. We were honored to have distinguished speakers, including Mr. Waqar Mughal, Dr. Francesco Maurelli (Professor of Robotics, Constructor University, Germany), and Mr. Shixin Sun, who shared their ground-breaking insights into the world of underwater robotics and AI. Their expertise sparked fascinating discussions and inspired our audience. A special thanks to the participants and organizers from the Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science (FOIT&CS) and the IEEE Computer Society UCP Student Chapter for their efforts in making this event a memorable one. We look forward to more exciting events in the future!

NBEAC Case Writing Workshop



FOMS faculty members participated in the NBEAC’s modular case study writing workshop. The first virtual session was held on December 19. This workshop enhanced the faculty’s ability to create impactful and realistic case studies, fostering a deeper understanding of real-world business scenarios. It also provided faculty with valuable skills to enrich their teaching materials and research.

FOST’s Foreign Lecture Series on Environmental Sciences Course for Undergraduates

The Faculty of Science & Technology (FOST) at the University of Central Punjab (UCP) has launched its Foreign Lecture Series, focusing on a key environmental issue: Air Pollution and Its Impact on Health. The session began with a welcoming address from Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, the Dean of FOST. He emphasized the importance of tackling environmental problems through collaboration and shared knowledge.



He also expressed gratitude to Dr. Haider A. Khwaja from the University at Albany, USA, for his valuable contribution to the Faculty Exchange Program and his participation in this important initiative.

Dr. Khwaja delivered the first lecture on December 30, 2024, to students from the Human Nutrition and Dietetics (Section AH1) and Biotechnology (Section AT1) classes. His lecture focused on the crucial connection between air pollution and public health, presenting cutting-edge research and innovative solutions to this global problem.

This Foreign Lecture Series is part of FOST's broader effort to bring international expertise into its academic programs. It aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills to address both local and global challenges. By promoting collaboration and new ideas, FOST continues to work towards creating meaningful solutions for a sustainable future.

Industry Visits

FMMC’s Industry visit to Dunya News, Lahore News & Daily Dunya



Faculty of Media and Mass Communication organized an industrial visit for BS students specializing in Film, TV, and Digital Media to Dunya News, Lahore News, and Daily Dunya on November 22, 2024. The visit was planned by Dr. Atif Ashraf (HoD, Film, TV & Digital Media Department) and supervised by Mr. Muhammad Shahid (Senior Lecturer). The visit commenced with an introduction to Daily Dunya (newspaper) and Lahore News. Mr. Muhammad Muneeb, HR Manager at Dunya News, provided an overview of various departments, including the News Control Room, PCR, Programming Department, and the sets of popular shows such as Mazaq Raat. The visit concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where students engaged with experts and received insightful advice. As a gesture of appreciation, Mr. Shahid presented a UCP souvenir to Mr. Muneeb.

FoLL’s Study Tour exploring Linguistic & Academic Excellence

Faculty of Languages and Literature (FLL), organized a study tour for its final-year BS students on November 29, 2024. The delegation visited three renowned institutions: the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD), the Center for Language and Translation Studies (CeLTS) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Islamabad, and Lawrence College, Murree. This tour provided students with hands-on exposure to advanced techniques in language studies and academic practices.

The delegation, led by Dr. Khalid Ahmad, Dr. Irfan Abbas, Mr. Nohaiz Mehmood, and Ms. Fatima Urooj, was warmly welcomed at each institution. At NLPD, Executive Director Dr. Rashid Hameed and Director General Dr. Mazhar Saleem hosted the group, offering an informative session and a tour of the language project labs. The visit concluded with the exchange of souvenirs and a group photo.



The delegation then visited the Centre for Language and Translation Studies (CeLTS) at AIOU, where they were welcomed by Dr. Ghulam Ali, Director of CeLTS, along with Prof. Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan and Dr. Furrakh Abbas. The visit included a thought-provoking session and a tour of the cultural centres, concluding with the exchange of souvenirs and a group photo. The tour wrapped up with a visit to Lawrence College, where the group explored the institution’s academic excellence and historical legacy.

The study tour proved to be a valuable experience for students, offering opportunities for future academic collaboration and broadening their professional perspectives.

FOE’s Industry Visit to 220kV AIS Substation

On December 24, 2024, the Faculty of Engineering arranged an industrial visit for BSc Electrical Engineering students to the 220kV GIS/132kV AIS Substation in WAPDA Town, Lahore. Dr. Ali Ahmad, Assistant Professor at FoE, organized the visit. The tour started with an introduction to the role of NTDC in Pakistan’s energy sector. Mr. Umair (Deputy Manager) and Mr. Shahzaib (Assistant Manager) gave an informative presentation about the different parts of the substation, such as the Control System, Battery Bank, Protection System, Transformers, CTs, PTs, Circuit Breakers, and how the voltage is stepped down from 220kV to 11kV.



The hands-on experience at the substation allowed students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, giving them a better understanding of how things work in the real world. The visit ended with a Q&A session where students had the chance to ask questions and receive helpful advice from the experts.

The Engineering Department is deeply committed to providing valuable learning opportunities like this, which help students gain practical knowledge and prepare for successful careers in the energy sector. Such visits add great value to their education by bridging the gap between theory and practice.

FOMS' Industry Visit to Fatima Fertilizer



Dr. Salman Iqbal organized a study trip for BBA students to Fatima Fertilizer in Sheikhpura, accompanied by six faculty members and 45 students. During the visit, students had the chance to ask questions about business strategy and human resource management, gaining practical insights into industry operations.

FOMS' Field Visit to FAST Cables

A study trip to FAST Cables was organized by Ms. Sidra Nasreem, Principal Lecturer of the Faculty of Management Sciences, with Dr. Ali Raza joining the group. A total of 30 students from the Entrepreneurship and Human Resource Management courses participated.

The group was warmly welcomed by Mr. Muhammad Hafeez-ur Rehman and Mr. Raja Ishfaq, the Manager of Quality Assurance at FAST Cables. The visit began with an introductory video about the company, giving the students a clear understanding of its operations. Mr. Hafeez and Mr. Ishfaq then shared valuable insights on various areas of the business, including HR policies, accounting systems, security management, and the cable production process. They also discussed the company's recent developments and its commitment to corporate social responsibility.



After the presentation, students enjoyed refreshments before heading to the production plant. They had the chance to observe the advanced technology and manufacturing processes firsthand. The students were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions that were enthusiastically answered by the representatives.

The trip provided students with practical knowledge about the industry, bridging the gap between theory and real-world experience. It gave them a deeper understanding of business operations and corporate culture, which will help them in their future careers. The visit concluded with a souvenir presentation to the FAST Cables team and discussions on potential future collaborations between the University of Central Punjab and FAST Cables.

UCP FOIT&CS Strengthens Ties with DevSinc for Student Opportunities

We are pleased to announce that faculty members from the Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science (FOITCS) at the University of Central Punjab (UCP) recently visited DevSinc, one of Pakistan's leading software houses.

The visit was a productive exchange focused on fostering collaboration between UCP and the tech industry. DevSinc showed strong interest in providing job and internship opportunities for UCP students, offering them the chance to gain hands-on experience in the real-world IT sector. These opportunities will help our students become valuable contributors to the tech industry, where rapid innovation and new ideas are essential.



Office of the Pro-Rector

Radio Hour with Pro-Rector



The Radio Hour on November 27, 2024 with Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed was an insightful session. His ideas showcased his forward-thinking approach to academia, where he aims to foster an environment at UCP where students can thrive and unleash their hidden potential. He emphasized that education is the key tool needed to tackle challenges and generate revolutionary ideas. This vision is meant to encourage students to become progressive and avid learners.

The emphasis on building an academic community reflects his belief in keeping alumni connected, as synthesized energy yields the best results. In today's dynamic world, UCP's students are polished in a way that prepares them to compete and make their own mark. UCP's student-oriented approach is rooted in the motto of improving students in all aspects of life. It was a delightful session that offered valuable insights into the person behind this vision and his aspirations for UCP's future. The Q&A session addressed student queries and provided greater clarity.

This session was incredibly beneficial, as it not only gave us a deeper understanding of UCP's direction but also inspired us to think more critically about our roles as students in shaping the future. Connecting with the ideas and vision guiding UCP was truly an enriching experience.

Pro-Rector featured on Good Morning with Armala



Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed and Dean Faculty of Media and Mass Communication, Dr. Fawad Baig, visited Public News on December 3, 2024. Dr. Hammad was featured on the live morning transmission "Good Morning Public with Armala", discussing transformative topics like strengthening industry-academia linkages, revolutionizing education with innovative methods, integrating AI in learning and research, and fostering R&D initiatives.

Pro-Rector's Participation in Monthly Vice-Chancellor's Meetup at Punjab University



UCP's Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, had the privilege of representing the university at the Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Meet and Greet, organized by Punjab University. This esteemed gathering serves as a vital platform for academic leaders from across institutions to engage in constructive dialogue, share insights, and exchange innovative ideas to address the evolving challenges in higher education.

Dr. Hammad Naveed's participation underscores UCP's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, impactful partnerships, and its mission to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and education in Pakistan. Events like these reflect the collective effort of institutions to shape a transformative future for higher learning and create meaningful opportunities for students, educators, and researchers alike."

Pro-Rector's Keynote address at the International conference on IT and Industrial Technologies 2024 hosted by FAST-NUCES



Dr. Hammad Naveed delivered a keynote address at the International Conference on IT and Industrial Technologies (ICIT) 2024, hosted by FAST-NUCES, Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus. His talk focused on the latest trends in AI adoption in Western countries and highlighted the progress of AI-assisted diagnostic studies in Pakistan.

Dr. Naveed shared insights into how AI is transforming healthcare globally and discussed collaborative studies conducted by his lab and a local hospital to enhance patient outcomes in Pakistan. These efforts demonstrate the potential of AI to address critical healthcare challenges in the region.

The University of Central Punjab proudly served as an academic partner for ICIT 2024, contributing to the success of this prestigious event.

PGC Leadership Meet and Greet



The University of Central Punjab, in collaboration with the leadership of the Punjab Group of Colleges, hosted an engaging meet-and-greet session led by Pro Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, along with senior management. The session was moderated by Provost, Mr. Muhammed Yaqoob. A panel discussion was held with distinguished panelists, including Zulfiqar Ali (Principal), Hafiz Imran (Vice Principal), Rana Naeem (Vice Principal), Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh (Dean FOST), Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt (Dean FOHSS), and Dr. Muhammad Amjad Iqbal (Dean FOIT&CS). The discussion focused on UCP’s new initiatives, programs, and future growth opportunities. The Q&A session encouraged active participation and sparked innovative ideas. This event highlighted the strong partnership between UCP and PGC leadership in shaping the future of education.

Sports Achievements

UCP Shines in National Sports Championships



The University of Central Punjab (UCP) continues its tradition of excellence in sports by making a significant mark in various competitions. UCP recently lifted the trophy at the All-Pakistan Inter-University Handball Championship 2024-25, organized by Government College University Faisalabad. Additionally, our sports team secured third place in the All-Pakistan Inter-University Cricket Championship 2024-25, held at the University of Peshawar under the supervision of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

These achievements are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our athletes. At UCP, we believe in nurturing both academic and athletic growth, as we understand that a balanced mind and body are essential for unlocking one’s full potential.

We are thrilled by these accomplishments and look forward to many more titles in the future.

MOUs

UCP x Telenor MOU



In alignment with the growing demand for advanced technological solutions, the University of Central Punjab formalized a MoU with Telenor Pakistan on December 9, 2024 to implement Chatbot Services. The MoU was officially signed by the Provost, Muhammad Yaqoob and Regional Business Manager, Telenor Pakistan, Ms. Maha Ali.

UCP x Boston Institute of Analytics MOU



Alumni Relations Office organized a collaboration ceremony between UCP and the Boston Institute of Analytics to launch transformative short courses and diplomas. With guaranteed paid internships and career support until the first job, this initiative is set to redefine opportunities for students seeking international employability. Global success is now within reach, and UCP continues to pave the way for future leaders.



Scholarships

Gilgit-Baltistan Scholarship



Eligibility	Students holding a Domicile of Gilgit-Baltistan
Scholarship Value	30% waiver on tuition fees for all undergraduate and MS/M.Phil. programs
Continuation Criteria	Maintenance of a minimum 2.70 CGPA
Female Students	Free hostel facility will be provided

#UCPCares

University of Central Punjab believes in empowering students from all regions to achieve their dreams. Our new Gilgit-Baltistan Scholarship offers the residents of this region a 30% tuition fee waiver for their undergraduate and MS/M.Phil. programs, ensuring financial support for their academic journey. For female students, free hostel facilities are also provided to make higher education more accessible. We are committed to creating opportunities that shape brighter futures because at UCP, your success is our priority.

Faculty Achievements

Ms. Sheba Sultan Completes Two Online Courses in Comparative Religious Studies

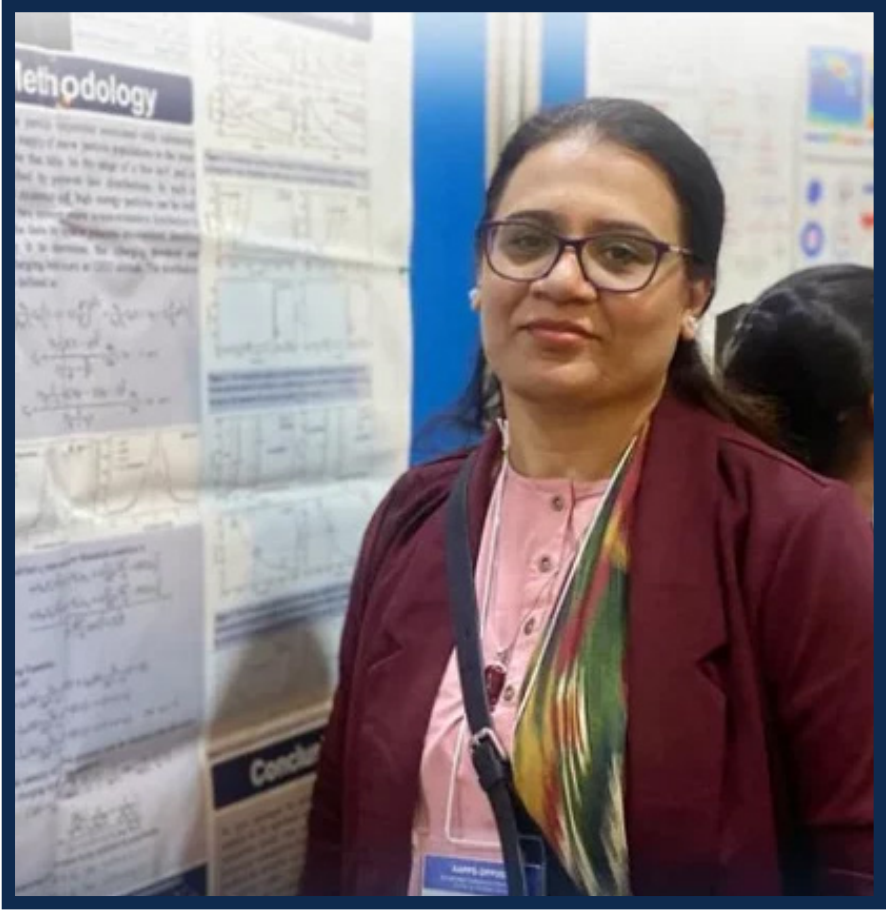
With a passion for expanding her knowledge, Ms. Sheba Sultan has successfully completed the online course “Quran and Bible 1” at the Center for Muslim and Christian Studies in Houston, USA, earning a certificate for her efforts. This course, for which she received a scholarship, involved regular coursework and active participation. It focused on the comparative study of the Quran and the Bible, enhancing Ms. Sultan’s understanding of the shared themes and differences between the two texts. Her dedication and hard work have allowed her to deepen her insights into this critical area of comparative religious studies. Additionally, Ms. Sultan has completed the course “Introduction to Quranic Arabic,” further strengthening her academic foundation. Through this course, she gained a solid understanding of the Arabic language as it pertains to the Quran, which will significantly contribute to her ongoing research. Her commitment to mastering the language reflects her dedication to advancing her studies in comparative religious research.

Dr Ramsha Naeem’s (Head of MBA) participation in Qatar University’s International Conference



Dr. Ramsha Naeem, Assistant Professor and Head of the MBA Program, presented her work titled “An Examination of the Costs Incurred by Pak Suzuki’s Administration” at the 7th Conference on Entrepreneurship for Sustainability and Impact (ESI) held at Qatar University. Ms. Naeem’s paper was an insightful contribution to the goals of the conference. The conference served as a platform to explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is shaping the way businesses operate, offering innovative solutions by addressing gaps in various domains. AI is increasingly being deployed to find solutions to a wide range of contemporary issues, from economic challenges to climate change and other pressing global problems. The conference highlighted the important theme of utilizing AI efficiently to build a better future. The event emphasized how AI is expanding into broader areas to drive sustainable development and innovation.

FOST Faculty Member’s Participation at the AAPPS-DPP, 8th Asia-Pacific Conference on Plasma Physics, Malacca, Malaysia



Dr. Nazish Rubab has been awarded the Best Poster Prize for her research work at the AAPPS-DPP, 8th Asia-Pacific Conference on Plasma Physics, Malacca, Malaysia held from November 3-8, 2024. Dr. Rubab is honored to have been invited to serve as a member of the International Organizing Committee for the same conference, representing the UCP platform.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh’s participation as a Chief Guest at 4th International Conference on Recent Advances in Interdisciplinary Sciences



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology was honored as the Chief Guest at the 4th International Conference on Recent Advances in Interdisciplinary Sciences (ICRAIS), hosted by the Department of Chemistry, Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) from December 4–6, 2024.

Dr. Farrukh also delivered an insightful plenary talk titled “Sustainable Graphene-Based Nanomaterials for Environmental Solutions,” emphasizing the role of advanced nanotechnology in addressing pressing environmental challenges. His presentation highlighted innovative approaches to the synthesis, application, and potential scalability of graphene-based materials for environmental remediation and sustainability. Dr. Farrukh also engaged with faculty and students at GCWUF, encouraging young researchers to pursue innovation in scientific research and explore sustainable solutions to global challenges. He emphasized the commercial products being developed at UCP under the guidance of Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, particularly in the area of wastewater treatment. These initiatives aim to enhance academic-industrial collaborations while advancing interdisciplinary research for the betterment of society.

Faculty of Science and Technology’s Faculty Readiness for New PG Programs



The Faculty of Science and Technology is dedicated to introducing new postgraduate programs that are both up-to-date with the latest technology and relevant to the challenges we face today. Our primary goal is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to address real-world problems, bridging gaps, and finding solutions that will make a difference. We aim to offer innovative education that empowers our undergraduates to be the ones who create meaningful impact in society.

By offering these advanced programs, we hope to inspire students to think critically and act as leaders who can drive change. We want them to be prepared to tackle the complex issues of the future, helping build a better world

with their skills, ideas, and contributions. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering a learning environment that emphasizes both innovation and practical solutions.

We strongly believe that by equipping our students with the right tools and knowledge, they will play an essential role in shaping the future, bringing fast and effective solutions to the global challenges we face. Our focus is on creating a generation of thinkers, innovators, and problem-solvers who will not only succeed but also lead to making lasting contributions to society.

Sadia Safir Tarar’s PhD. Defense

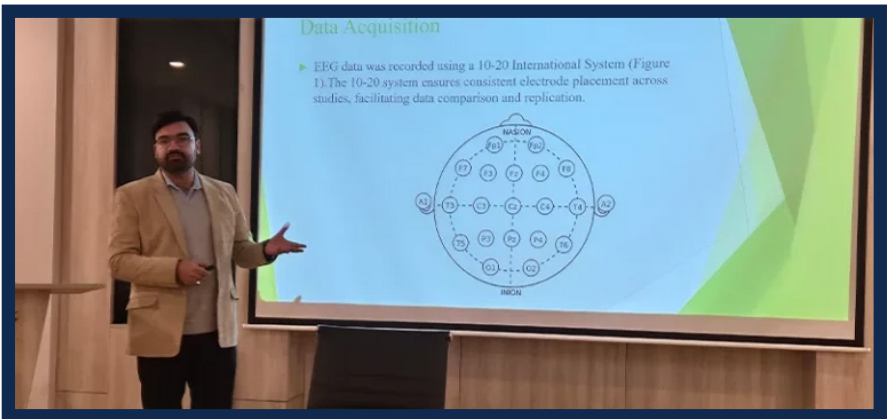


The PhD defense of Ms. Sadia Safir Tarar was held at FMMC on December 18, 2024, where she successfully presented and defended her dissertation titled “Relationship of Big Five Personality Traits and Motivations to Use Social Media.” The study, conducted under the guidance of Dr. Fawad Baig, Dean of FMMC at UCP, explored how personality traits influence social media use and the motivations behind it.

The external evaluators for this defense were Dr. Zaeem Yasin, Associate Professor at LCWU, and Dr. Saleem Abbas, Associate Professor at FC College University, Lahore. Dr. Noor Hayat, Assistant Professor at FMMC, served as the internal examiner. The session was convened by Dr. Fahad Anis, Head of the Department at FMMC, who concluded the defense with sincere congratulations to Ms. Sadia Safir Tarar for achieving this major academic accomplishment.

The research explored the relationship between human personality traits, particularly the Big Five, and how they influence social media usage. It delved into the underlying motivations behind social media engagement and how an individual’s personality traits shape their interactions and behaviors on these platforms.

Nabeel Khalid Successfully Defends Doctoral Thesis



Nabeel Khalid, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Engineering, successfully defended his doctoral thesis titled “Detection and Classification of Degenerative Disorders in Electroencephalogram”, which he completed under the supervision of Dr. Sarwar Ehsan, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology. The defense took place on December 19, 2024, with the session conducted by Mr. Ali Raza, Manager of the Graduate Studies Office, and convened by Dr. Rizwan Shad, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.



International Faculty Exchange Program

The Faculty of Science & Technology (FOST) at the University of Central Punjab (UCP) hosted an esteemed international scholar through its Faculty Exchange Program. This initiative highlighted FOST’s commitment to connecting global research with local efforts. With air pollution becoming a major issue in Pakistan, the program aimed to equip undergraduate students with advanced knowledge and practical solutions to tackle this environmental problem. Through this event, FOST emphasized the importance of collaboration, innovation, and raising awareness to develop effective strategies for a sustainable future.

Dr. Haider A. Khwaja, a renowned researcher from the University at Albany, USA, visited UCP from December 30, 2024, to January 16, 2025. During his visit, Dr. Khwaja delivered a series of lectures tailored for undergraduate students, focusing on the health impacts of air pollution and innovative approaches to mitigate its effects. He also led an international seminar titled “Particulate Matter and Health Effects: What is Known and What Needs to Be Done,” offering an in-depth analysis of the challenges posed by particulate matter and potential strategies for improvement. In addition to these academic engagements, Dr. Khwaja conducted a specialized workshop on “Understanding Air Pollution Dynamics and Effective Sampling Strategies.”

The program was organized under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Dean of the Faculty of Science & Technology, who served as the Principal Investigator of the project. Dr. Nimra Afzal, Assistant Professor of Zoology, was the focal person coordinating this impactful initiative. This exchange program exemplified FOST’s dedication to addressing critical environmental challenges and empowering students and researchers with the knowledge and skills to lead the way toward a healthier, more sustainable future.

This initiative reflected FOST’s ongoing commitment to bridging global research with local action. With air pollution being a growing concern in Pakistan, the program aimed to provide students with the tools and knowledge to address this environmental challenge effectively. FOST reinforced the significance of collaboration, innovation, and awareness in creating impactful strategies for a sustainable future.



Student Achievements Theatre on Wheels



UCP is proud to share the incredible journey of its students in the Theatre on Wheels campaign by UNWomen, part of the #16DaysOfActivism initiative. Over 15 days, our Faculty of Media and Mass Communication’s students journeyed across six cities—from Sindh to Punjab, KPK, and the Capital—engaging in meaningful dialogue and spreading awareness on critical societal issues. This transformative experience allowed our students to master the art of storytelling and gain unparalleled exposure by interacting with peers, diplomats, ambassadors, and government officials. Such initiatives reflect UCP’s commitment to nurturing socially responsible leaders equipped with real-world perspectives.

Together, we continue to champion causes that make a difference and inspire our students to lead purposefully.

Pro-Rector’s Award for Excellence



Congratulations to the top 5 societies for their exceptional achievements during the 2023-2024 session. The UCP Mosaic Society secured 1st place, earning a prize of Rs 25,000, followed by the Islamic Guidance Club in 2nd place with Rs 20,000, and UCP NISA Society in 3rd place with Rs 15,000. The UCP Welfare Society claimed 4th place with Rs 10,000, and the Environmental Protection Society rounded out the top 5 with Rs 5,000.

Dr. Hammad Naveed, Pro-Rector of UCP, praised the efforts of these societies, acknowledging their vital contributions to the university’s vibrant community. This award recognizes the hard work of student-led societies, which provide immense value to students. Through participation, students develop teamwork, collaboration, and various other skills, ensuring they become well-rounded individuals. The numerous events organized by these societies play a key role in fostering personal and academic growth.

Community Service

Smiles express with Aleem Dar Foundation



Volunteers in Service (VIS) department, in collaboration with the Aleem Dar Foundation, organized the heartwarming Smiles Express activity to brighten the lives of thalassemic children. UCP Volunteers from various faculties came together to create a day filled with joy and love for these brave young warriors.

The transfusion hall was transformed into a vibrant and welcoming space, radiating warmth and positivity. Volunteers engaged with the children through thoughtful interactions, presenting them with gifts and candies that brought smiles to their faces.

Adding to the excitement, a lively coloring and drawing competition allowed the kids to showcase their creativity, with prizes awarded to the budding artists by UCP Volunteers. The day also featured fun-filled games, spreading laughter and cheer throughout the venue.

This meaningful event was not just about bringing happiness to the children but also served as an inspiring and fulfilling experience for the volunteers. The courage and resilience of these young heroes left a lasting impact on everyone involved.

Mr. Aleem Dar thanked and appreciated the enthusiasm and motivation of UCP Volunteers. He also distributed souvenirs among the volunteers.

This initiative aligns with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, Goal 10: Reduces Inequalities and Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals.



University Events

Out of Thin Air: A Creative Journey



The “Out of Thin Air” event was organized by Takhleeq Business Incubator in partnership with ARVO. Over two exciting days, UCP students came together to brainstorm, design, and innovate in a fun and creative environment. There were no complicated tools or coding involved—just teamwork, imagination, and the spirit of collaboration.

The event focused on encouraging students to think outside the box, allowing them to explore their creativity without any limitations. Participants were grouped into teams and worked closely with inspiring mentors from various industries, who guided them throughout the process. The teams engaged in dynamic problem-solving, designed unique concepts, and presented their ideas in a supportive and energetic atmosphere.

Along the way, students gained valuable skills in teamwork, design thinking, and innovative problem-solving. They not only expanded their knowledge but also had the opportunity to network with professionals and learn from their experiences.

The event was a great success, and everyone walked away with new skills, unforgettable experiences, and the confidence to take on future challenges with creativity and collaboration.



Inspiring Session with Idrees Butt, Founder & CEO of RLTSquare

On December 27, 2024, the Faculty of IT and CS had the privilege of hosting an inspiring session with Idrees Butt, Founder & CEO of RLTSquare, titled “Our Degree is Just the Trailer, But Your Mindset is the Blockbuster!” The session, held from 10 am to 12 pm at Building Hall, was specifically designed for 7th and 8th-semester students but was open to all IT enthusiasts. Idrees Butt shared invaluable insights into the rapidly evolving IT industry, highlighting the importance of a growth mindset in unlocking new career opportunities. His practical career advice equipped attendees with the tools they need to navigate a competitive job market and stand out in their professional journeys. The session was a tremendous success, leaving participants motivated and empowered to elevate their career potential.

Innovative & Sustainable Packaging Solutions: Transforming Waste Management and Reducing Plastic Pollution



The QEC-UCP (Sustainability Wing) recently held an important panel discussion called “Innovative & Sustainable Packaging Solutions: Transforming Waste Management and Reducing Plastic Pollution.” This event was part of the World Bank’s PLEASE project and supported by ISP Environmental Solutions.

The event was graced by the presence of our Provost, Mr. Muhammad Yaqoob, whose encouraging words highlighted UCP’s strong commitment to protecting the environment.

The panel included experts such as Dr. Raja Irfan Sabir and Dr. Kanza Aziz from UCP, Dr. Zillay Mariam and Dr. Waqas from ISP Environmental Solutions, and Dr. Farhan Saeed from UET. They shared important insights on the need for sustainable packaging and its role in supporting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This event added significant value to the students by giving them the opportunity to engage with experts in the field, deepening their understanding of sustainable practices and waste management solutions. It also inspired them to think critically about how they can contribute to environmental sustainability through innovation.

In addition, our students earned a Runner-Up position at an SDG event at UET for presenting an innovative pollutant reactor model. We sincerely thank the panelists, students, and faculty for their contributions. Together, we are working towards a cleaner and more sustainable future.

The Ray of Hope



The Islamic Guidance Club invited guest speaker Mr. Raja Zia ul Haq for a spiritually enlightening event titled “The Ray of Hope.” Mr. Raja Zia ul Haq discussed the profound significance of hope, explaining how it pierces through dark clouds, much like the transformative effect of having God in one’s life. He emphasized that hope is not just a feeling, but a powerful force that can guide us through life’s challenges. When we trust in God, hope becomes a light that helps us find peace, even in the most difficult times.

The event added great value to the students by helping them understand the importance of maintaining hope and faith, especially during challenging times. Mr. Raja Zia ul Haq’s words inspired them to reflect on their own lives, encouraging them to stay resilient and trust in God’s plan. His message helped them realize that hope isn’t just a passive emotion, but a strength that empowers them to overcome obstacles and grow spiritually. The students left the event feeling uplifted, motivated, and with a renewed sense of purpose and optimism for the future.

Mastering Communication with Mr. Atif Rahim Khan

We had the privilege of hosting Mr. Atif Rahim Khan, Consultant at Stanford University SEED and Adjunct Faculty at LUMS, for a session with BBA students in the Human Behavior course at UCP Business School. The session focused on mastering communication skills and effective strategies for professional interactions. Mr. Khan shared practical tips on communicating with managers for better clarity and alignment, along with the GROW Model (Goal, Reality, Options, and Way Forward) to guide coaching and development conversations with subordinates. We are grateful to Mr. Khan for sharing his insights. The session was organized by Dr. Ramsha Naeem, Assistant Professor and Head of the MBA Program at UCP.



Digital HRM Insights by Anam Yousaf



We recently hosted a session on how Digital HRM is transforming employee training and improving organizational productivity. Guest Speaker Anam Yousaf, HR Business Partner at Packages Group, shared her experiences with implementing digital HR processes. The session was organized by Nahan Iqbal and Shafaq Aftab from the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship.

Resilient Sales Pipelines with Najeeb Ali Raja



This guest speaker session on “Resilient Sales Pipelines: Techniques for Long-Term Success” with Najeeb Ali Raja, Senior Sales Manager at Packages Converters Pvt Ltd., was a game-changer for our sales students! The session focused on building sustainable strategies, sharing inside stories of vendors and sales targets, and overcoming challenges. Students gained actionable insights to thrive in competitive markets. The interactive approach and real-world examples made a lasting impact, equipping future sales professionals for resilient growth.

NFDP Cohort III by Dr. Ahmed Siddiqi



Dr. Ahmed Siddiqi, a Fulbright Scholar and Professor of Statistics, was invited as a resource person for the National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) 2024 Cohort-III by the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE). He delivered a session on Learning Management Systems (LMS) and Blended Learning at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore, covering strategies, blended lesson delivery, and course management with interactive discussions and hands-on training.

Entrepreneurial Finance Session



The Business Entrepreneurship Club organized a guest speaker session on entrepreneurial finance, supervised by Dr. Amina Rizwan. This session provided students with practical knowledge on managing finance in startups, equipping them with tools to make informed financial decisions. It also allowed students to gain real-world insights into the financial challenges entrepreneurs face.

Rise of the Project Economy by Antonio Nieto



FOMS hosted an inspiring guest session with Antonio Nieto-Rodriguez, a leading project management expert and author. He shared insights on navigating the project-driven world and succeeding in project management’s evolving landscape. Students gained a clearer perspective on how project management is crucial in today’s global economy and were inspired by practical strategies for career success in the field. Antonio’s expertise broadened their view on future opportunities in project management.

Live Case Study



FOMS conducted its first Live Case Session, focusing on real-world family business dynamics. The session featured the second-generation owner of Makki Oil, who shared valuable insights into their business structure and challenges in a competitive market. Students were able to connect classroom theories to actual business practices and understand the complexities of managing a family business in a competitive landscape. This live case study also offered a unique opportunity to analyze and discuss real-time business challenges.

UCP FMMC Film Festival 2024 (4th Edition)



On December 19-20, 2024, the Faculty of Media and Mass Communication (FMMC) held the 4th UCP FMMC Film Festival 2024, bringing together creative individuals from all over Pakistan. Over two days, the festival showcased the best student and independent filmmaker works, including Short Films, Documentaries, and Music Videos. But it wasn't just about watching films – it also served as a space for discussion and inspiration. A key moment was the panel discussion on "Film as a Medium of Social Critique," led by Mr. Kamran Butt (Principal Lecturer & Team Lead). The panel included Mr. Hassan Zaidi (Documentary Maker & Lecturer at NCA, Lahore) and Mr. Syed M. Raza Zaidi (Associate Professor at UoL & former Senior TV Producer), who shared their insights on how cinema can bring about social change. FMMC students Horeb Shams and Ghulam Shabbir also entertained the crowd with beautiful acoustic performances. The event was hosted by FMMC students Qaima Amir and Minahil Rauf. At the end of the festival, Dr. Hammad Naveed (Pro-Rector UCP) presented shields to the special guests, and Dr. Fawad Baig (Dean FMMC) gave a shield to the Pro-Rector as a thank-you gesture.

The festival provided great learning opportunities for students. It allowed them to see their work showcased alongside others and learn from industry experts. Through the panel discussions, performances, and networking, students gained valuable insights into the power of film and media, boosting their creativity and passion for the field.

UCP x Pakistan Dairy Association Safe Dairy Nutrition



Faculty of Science and Technology in collaboration with the Pakistan Dairy Association (PDA), held a webinar titled Safe Dairy Nutrition on December 19, 2024. The event focused on the importance of safe and healthy dairy practices for public health.

Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology delivered the welcome speech. Dr. Muhammad Zubair, Manager Operations, Pakistan Dairy Association, gave an enlightening keynote on "Dairy Nourishment for Youth Wellness: Building a Healthier Nation." Mr. Usman Sami, Head of Research and Development, Haleeb Foods Limited, discussed "Ensuring Food Safety and Quality from Farm to Table." Mr. Khawar Paracha, General Manager Operations, Haleeb Foods Limited, spoke about "Empowering Industry Through Safe and Nutritious Dairy." Finally, Ms. Somal Babar Khan, Assistant Manager Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs, Pakistan Dairy Association, highlighted the importance of "Safe Milk-Safe Nation."

The session concluded with a Q&A and Dr. Kanza Aziz Awan's (Head Food Science and Technology department) closing remarks that emphasized the vital role of academia-industry collaboration in fostering food safety.

2nd Day of the 4th UCP FMMC Film Festival



On December 17th, 2024, UCP hosted "The Relevance of Rumi in the 21st Century" to commemorate the 751st anniversary of Mevlana Rumi's reunion. The event reflected on Rumi's timeless wisdom and its significance in today's world, where his words of love, unity, and peace continue to guide restless hearts. His message, "Come, come, whoever you are," reminded us that the search for the Divine transcends all barriers. In an age of chaos, Rumi's teachings remain a beacon, calling us back to love, compassion, and the eternal journey to the Beloved.

2nd International Conference on New Trends in Civil Engineering



The Department of Civil Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering (FOE), in collaboration with leading industry stakeholders like Packages Group, Union Developers, NESPAK, and DESCON, successfully hosted the "2nd International Conference on New Trends in Civil Engineering" on December 9–10, 2024, at its Lahore campus. Spanning three venues—the Main Auditorium, Webinar Room, and Conference Room—the event included 13 technical sessions, panel discussions, and tech talks, bringing together global experts, researchers, and industry professionals.

Inaugural Session

Engr. Prof. Dr. Rizwan Shad, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, welcomed attendees, thanking chief guest Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiative, and guest of honor Mr. Amir Izhar, CEO of Izhar Construction.

Key Sessions

Main Auditorium: Keynote speeches included Engr. Sameer Zahur Khan, CEO of Rendel International UK, and Dr. Tahir Hayat, CEO of Diamir Basha Dam Consultants, along with research presentations and industrial talks by leading construction firms like Izhar Group, NESPAK, and HILTI.

Closing Ceremony

The event concluded with UCP Provost Mr. Muhammad Yaqoob appreciating the organizing team. Shields were presented to the organizing committee, and Engr. Prof. Dr. Kafeel Ahmed acknowledged faculty and student contributions. A group photo marked the event's success, and the dates for the next conference were announced: December 16–18, 2025.

TechWoman Information Session with Emerging Leader 2024, Ms. Hina Raza

On December 31, 2024, the University of Central Punjab (UCP) had the privilege of hosting a highly inspiring and empowering TechWoman Information Session, led by the remarkable Ms. Hina Raza – a true trailblazer in the tech industry. With over 11 years of experience in Computer Science, Hina’s journey has included roles as a software developer, lecturer, and co-founder of WEEPO CODERS.

During the session, Ms. Hina shared her experiences, insights, and challenges in the world of tech, emphasizing her dedication to empowering the next generation of coders, especially women in STEM. Her story is a testament to innovation and resilience, illustrating that the future of tech is bright, diverse, and full of endless possibilities.

As an advocate for women in tech and a passionate promoter of creative innovation, Hina continues to drive change, not just in Pakistan but on the global stage. Her leadership and vision serve as an inspiration to all aspiring tech enthusiasts and women looking to make their mark in the world of technology.

This event, part of UCP’s ongoing commitment to fostering creativity and innovation, was a true celebration of the potential of women in STEM and the limitless opportunities in the tech industry.

Global Thought Processes for Entrepreneurs



University of Central Punjab host Tahir Javed, a distinguished serial entrepreneur, investor, and Deputy Finance Chair of the Democratic Party USA for a seminar on “Global Thought Processes for Entrepreneurs” on December 4, 2024.

During his visit, Mr. Javed toured the campus with the Provost, appreciating UCP’s state-of-the-art facilities and emphasizing the importance of providing students with multiple avenues for growth and converging their energy effectively.

At Takhleeq, UCP’s innovation hub, he interacted with young startups working on groundbreaking solutions in medicine, food sciences, and material sciences. In a thought-provoking fireside chat, co-hosted by Takhleeq and the Department of Student Affairs, he shared valuable insights with aspiring entrepreneurs and problem-solvers.

Key takeaways from his talk:

- Embrace a global perspective when building ventures.
- Recognize and value the unique contributions you bring to the table.
- Dare to dream big, even when starting small.

Mr. Javed also enjoyed the vibrant UCP Music Hour, appreciating the efforts of the Music Society in fostering creativity and community on campus.

8th Model United Nations



University of Central Punjab recently hosted eighth edition of Model United Nations (MUN) event, a dynamic three-day conference that brought together students from various academic disciplines to engage in meaningful debates and cultural celebrations. The event provided a platform for participants to explore global challenges, develop diplomatic skills and embrace the values of collaboration and understanding.

The conference began with an opening ceremony, attended by faculty members, special guests and passionate delegates. The ceremony featured thought-provoking speeches and captivating performances, setting the stage for a weekend of intellectual engagement and cultural exchange. Delegates were encouraged to think critically, communicate effectively, and work collectively to find innovative solutions to pressing global issues.

The second day featured rigorous committee sessions and cultural vibrancy. Delegates delved into intense debates, representing their assigned countries and tackling complex international topics. The day concluded with a memorable Qawwali Night, a soulful celebration of South Asian culture. The enchanting music and heartfelt performances created an atmosphere of unity and joy, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

The event concluded with a closing ceremony on day 3. Delegates were recognized for their outstanding contributions and reflections on the conference underscored the importance of empowering youth to take on leadership roles in addressing global challenges. Faculty and organizers expressed their pride in the participants’ dedication and enthusiasm, applauding their efforts in making the event a resounding success. It was not merely an academic exercise but a transformative journey that combined diplomacy, leadership, and cultural appreciation. It highlighted the potential of young minds to shape a future rooted in mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration. This event stands as a testament to the university’s commitment to fostering intellectual growth and cultural exchange among its students.

UDC’s Annual Play Kechehri ka Ladoo



The UCP Dramatic Club captivated audiences with its adaptation of Saadat Hasan Manto’s short story “Kacheri ka Ladoo” from December 24th to 28th, 2024, at the UCP auditorium. Directed by Mr. Aamir Nawaz, the production highlighted the incredible teamwork and talent of our students. We are grateful to our chief patron, Dean Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, and patrons Ms. Ayesha Kashif, Ms. Noor ul Ain, and Ms. Omaina Lone for their continued support. We also commend Abdullah Nadeem, the President, and his team for their outstanding efforts. The event was honored by distinguished guests, including Dr. Hammad Naveed, Pro-Rector of UCP, on the second day. On the third day, the play was attended by notable dignitaries such as Prof. Sajida Haider Vandal, CEO of THAAP, Dr. Hassan Shah, former VC of NCA, Dr. Perwez Vandal from THAAP, Dr. Hamid Mukhtar, Dr. Atif Yaqub, and Dr. Sameer Ahmed from the GCU Dramatic Club, all of whom praised the exceptional performances. Due to the enthusiastic response from the audience, the play was extended for a fourth day.

Dr. Nuha PhD Arabic Literature visit to UCP



We were honored to welcome Dr. Nuha Afouni Alaydi, Secretary of the Administrative Council of the General Union of Palestinian Union of Writers and Authors and Professor of Modern Arabic Literature and Criticism. She is the first Palestinian woman to earn a Ph.D. in Arabic Literature. During her visit, Dr. Nuha engaged with our leadership, toured the campus facilities, and shared her inspiring journey in an exclusive interview on FM 92.6. Her story of resilience and scholarship is a testament to the power of education in transforming lives and societies. At UCP, we are proud to connect with such inspiring personalities, fostering a culture of learning and empowerment.

Peace in South Asia Challenges and Mission



UCP Voltaire Society in collaboration with the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a guest lecture on “Peace in South Asia Challenges and Mission” on December 5, 2024. Speaker, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, a renowned scholar, prolific author and Professor Emeritus at Stockholm University, Sweden, delivered an insightful lecture on the topic. The lecture was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where students posed thought-provoking and interesting questions, to which Dr. Ahmed responded comprehensively. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Dean, FOHSS extended gratitude to Dr. Ahmed for his valuable time and for sharing his profound knowledge, enriching the academic experience of the students. The event concluded with the presentation of a UCP souvenir to the guest.

Staff Town Hall

The Learning Innovation Centre (LIC) hosted the Staff Town Hall on December 12th, 2024, at the Webinar Hall in C-Building. The event brought together staff from all areas of the institution, providing a chance to share ideas, talk about concerns, and strengthen connections in a friendly and open setting.



- Key Takeaways from the Town Hall:
- A platform for open dialogue and meaningful discussions.
 - Insights gathered through priority-based topics chosen by participants.
 - Strengthened camaraderie & inclusivity among staff.

We are grateful for the active participation and thoughtful contributions of everyone who attended. Your input is instrumental in shaping a more innovative, supportive, and collaborative workplace. At LIC, we remain committed to fostering an environment where every voice matters. Thank you for making this event a success!

Chinese Consul General Scholarships Awarding Ceremony



Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), University of Central Punjab (UCP) hosted the Deputy Consul General of China at Lahore (DGC) Excellency Mr. Cao Ke for Scholarships distribution ceremony as Chief Guest. It is an important aspect to celebrate academic excellence and Pakistan-China friendship. This event featured esteemed guests, including DCG, UCP Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed, and Dean FHSS Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt. The Consul General Excellency Zhao Shiren had initiated this scholarships program last year with an amount of Rs.500,000 and this year he has doubled the amount to one million rupees to give financial aid to 20 high achievers and financially challenged students from Psychology, Economics, Political Science, and International Relations departments. Indeed, it's an inspiring initiative for the students, shared by Dr Khalid Manzoor Butt. Excellency Cao Ke stated that China wanted to see Pakistan growing and we would help in all respect. Dr. Hammad Naveed, emphasized education's role in fostering integrity and development. He also thanked the DCG for the financial help to continue scholarships program. At the end a souvenir was presented to the Chief Guest Excellency Cao Ke by Prorector UCP Dr Naveed. The event concluded with a group photo, symbolizing collaboration and mutual respect.

International Office Initiatives

Fostering Global Collaborations for Training and Growth



The International Office at UCP recently hosted a productive meeting with representatives from Holt Green Training Ltd, including their CEO, Mr. Kashef Ahmad. The meeting focused on fostering global collaborations aimed at expanding training and growth opportunities. The discussions centered around exciting prospects for mutual collaboration, particularly UK-certified training programs for both students and staff. The meeting also explored expanding initiatives at the Takhleeq Business Incubation Centre to enhance entrepreneurial and professional development resources.

Representatives from the Centre for Professional Excellence (CPE), Takhleeq, and the International Office engaged in discussions to bring internationally recognized certifications and training opportunities to UCP. This will provide students and staff with valuable global exposure and opportunities for skill enhancement. We are excited about the potential for these transformative initiatives and look forward to bringing them to life through our collaboration!

Alumni Office Initiatives

FOMS Feedback Forum



Alumni Relations Office organized FOMS Feedback Forum on November 28, 2024. It was attended by 40+ recently graduated alumni from diverse fields, including HR, supply chain management in multinational corporations, IT firms, business ownership, research, operations, and more. They shared feedback with the Pro-Rector and Dean, FOMS. The forum concluded with the note that the standard of education, facilities, and faculty at FOMS is undoubtedly among the best in Pakistan.

Alumni Relations Office's Interactive Sessions for Final-Year FOIT&CS Students



Alumni Relations Office organized interactive sessions for final-year Computer Science and IT students where they had an incredible opportunity to learn from industry experts in:

"Navigating the Tech Industry After Graduation" with Namra Nasyr (IT Soft Skills Trainer).

"Communication Skills for Career Success" with Ayesha Ibrahim (UCP Alumna & Game Developer).

The sessions concluded with a hands-on mock interview experience, preparing students for real-world challenge.

FMMC Alumni Feedback Forum



Alumni Relations Office organized Faculty of Media and Mass Communication’s Alumni Feedback Forum. It was attended by over 45 distinguished alumni from renowned media organizations. The event was chaired by Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed and Dean, FMMC, Dr. Fawad Baig. Head Alumni Relations, Muhammad Ali Aizaz moderated the session and HoD, FMMC, Dr. Fahad Anis focused on enhancing the Faculty of Media and Mass Communication to achieve national and global excellence. Suggestions for curriculum updates, increased practical assignments, and hands-on demonstrations were discussed. Gratitude was extended to UCP’s leadership for initiatives like alumni cards and sports facility access, while the Alumni Association, led by President Mr. Ali Haider, was appreciated for organizing support. Together, a brighter future for FMMC is being shaped.

UCP Alumni Day Cricket Tournament



Alumni Relations Office organized UCP Alumni Cricket Tournament on December 28, 2024. The tournament brought together six teams comprising alumni, staff, faculty, sports club and students. A special highlight was the exhibition matches played by the senior alumni team alongside the Pro-Rector and Provost, leaving unforgettable memories. UCP Sports Club Team was declared undefeated champions of the tournament!

Alumni Led Job-Readiness Session

The Alumni Talk session titled “Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace & Behavioral Interviews: Ace with Confidence” was successfully organized for the students of the Faculty of Information Technology (FOIT) by the Alumni Relations Office in collaboration with FOIT. The session, held on Tuesday, 24th December 2024, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at B - 303, provided valuable insights into navigating the workplace and excelling in behavioral interviews. This event was highly significant for the students, as it equipped them with practical knowledge on emotional intelligence and interview strategies. The expert advice shared by alumni helped enhance students’ confidence, preparing them for professional challenges and boosting their employability.

The department remains committed to offering such opportunities, ensuring that students are well-prepared for their careers and future success.



Bridging Experience and Ambition: Alumni Inspire UCP Civil Engineering Students



On November 27, 2024, the Society of Civil Engineers organized a remarkable Alumni and Industrial Interaction Session, exemplifying its dedication to nurturing well-rounded, industry-ready engineers. The event brought together students from all batches and three illustrious alumni excelling in their respective fields. The purpose was to share valuable experiences, paving the way for success as learning from others’ experiences saves time and provides insights early on.

This interactive session created a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and guidance, empowering future engineers to face challenges and seize opportunities in the ever-evolving field of civil engineering. It aimed to equip students with an innovative and polished perspective to identify gaps and find solutions.

The event featured three distinguished UCP graduates who have made significant impacts in the industry:

- **Mr. Noman Ahmad**, a Civil Engineer at NESPAK, shared his journey of working on high-profile projects and emphasized the importance of adaptability and innovation.
- **Mr. Zain Anjum Minhas**, an Executive Officer at Central Business District (CBD) Punjab, captivated the audience with insights into urban development and infrastructure growth in Pakistan.
- **Ms. Ume Omaira Naz**, an Estimator Engineer at Stella Services International, inspired students with her precision-driven role in project estimation and planning.

Interactive and Insightful: A Memorable Session

The vibrant Q&A session was a highlight of the event. Students eagerly participated, seeking advice on career planning, skill enhancement, and overcoming challenges in the engineering profession. The alumni generously addressed questions, offering practical tips and sharing real-world perspectives.

Fostering Connections and Aspirations

Events like these strengthen the bond between UCP and its alumni, showcasing the university’s role in shaping successful professionals. The interaction not only inspired students but also highlighted the diverse career pathways civil engineering offers, from consultancy and urban planning to estimation and project management.



Message from the Society of Civil Engineers (SOCE)

This highly successful event was organized under the leadership of Zulfiqar Ali, President of the Society of Civil Engineers at UCP. Reflecting on the event, the SOCE President said:

“Connecting our students with accomplished alumni is an essential step in bridging the gap between academics and industry. Events like these not only inspire our students but also help them build professional networks that will guide them throughout their careers. We thank our alumni for their time, insights, and dedication to giving back to the UCP community.”

Looking Ahead
The Alumni and Industrial Interaction Session served as a bridge to prepare aspiring engineers for the professional market, equipping them with the knowledge to effectively apply theoretical concepts in real-world scenarios.

On-Campus Recruitment Drive

Meezan Bank on-campus Recruitment Drive for FOMS Graduates



Career Services Office successfully organized an on-campus recruitment drive for the fresh graduates from the Faculty of Management Sciences. During the event, students were briefed about the core concepts of Islamic banking, as well as career growth and opportunities at Meezan Bank. It was followed by in-person panel interviews for the Personal Banking Officer position.

Global Career Drive by UCP and Boston Institute of Analytics, LLC



The upcoming event will offer students valuable career counselling and global placement opportunities, connecting them with top employers worldwide. In addition to expert advice, students can participate in fun activities, enjoy exciting giveaways, and attend a free master class on Data Science and AI to develop essential skills. A keynote speech from industry leaders will provide insights into the future of technology and careers. This event will empower students to make informed career decisions, expand their professional networks, and gain the knowledge and confidence to succeed in the global job market. It's a unique opportunity to jumpstart a successful career and stay ahead in a competitive world.

Celebrating Days Women Entrepreneurship Day



Business Entrepreneurship Club in collaboration with WEDO organized a Women Entrepreneurship Day celebration, empowering women entrepreneurs and providing a platform to share their experiences. The event featured keynote address inspiring women entrepreneurs to pursue their passions. A panel discussion where the panelists shared experiences, challenges, and successes of women entrepreneurs. It was followed by networking session connecting women entrepreneurs, investors and industry experts. Female entrepreneurs placed stalls showcasing innovative products and services, including handmade crafts, jewelry, and clothing. The celebration attracted a large and enthusiastic audience, providing a platform for women entrepreneurs to connect, learn and grow.

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science and Technology, UCP Hosts World Fisheries Day 2024: Promoting Sustainability and Innovation



The Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Central Punjab, Lahore, hosted an inspiring and thought-provoking event on World Fisheries Day on November 28, 2024. The day-long celebration highlighted the critical importance of sustainable fisheries and innovative approaches to aquaculture, bringing together academia, industry experts, and students for a collaborative learning experience.

The event commenced with an awareness walk, where participants carried messages of conservation and sustainability, followed by a group photo session with the esteemed guests. The formal proceedings began with a warm welcome by Dr. Tanzeela Riaz, Head, Department of Zoology, whose address emphasized the significance of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems in fostering ecological and economic balance between nature and progress.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Dean, FOST, delivered an insightful message, addressing the role fisheries in achieving various SDGs like SDG 1, 2, 3, 13 and 14. A thought-provoking documentary video was screened, showcasing conservation efforts and the importance of collective responsibility in protecting aquatic ecosystems.

The heart of the event featured a series of engaging insights by aquaculture experts:

Yasir Awan, Director, Research and Innovation, UCP, captivated the audience with his insights on "Entrepreneurship". Kashifa Naghmana from Punjab Fisheries Research & Training Institute, Manawan, Lahore, delivered a compelling talk on "Preserving the Deep: A Journey from Pollution to Protection", highlighting the urgent need for pollution control and ecosystem conservation. Muhammad Saad Yousaf, COO of Dhabeji Aqua food, addressed "Challenges and Opportunities in Aquaculture Entrepreneurship", shedding light on the evolving dynamics of the industry. Iffat Amin from Kinnaird College for Women shared an innovative approach to urban aquaculture through her talk, "Fish Culture on the Rooftop: Harnessing WWW Hydroponics for Green Entrepreneurship." The event culminated in a lively panel discussion, where experts engaged in meaningful dialogue on bridging the gap between research and industry to foster sustainable fisheries and innovative aquaculture practices. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of souvenirs and certificates, followed by a networking session over refreshments, fostering connections among students, faculty, and industry leaders.

Faculty Meetings

27th Board of Advanced Studies & Research (BAS&R) Meeting

The 27th Board of Advanced Studies & Research (BAS&R) meeting was organized at the University of Central Punjab (UCP), Lahore, on Thursday, December 26, 2024. The session was chaired by Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed and attended by a distinguished group of internal and external experts.

A key participant in the meeting was Prof. Dr. Arif Mahmood, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Department of Computer Sciences at ITU, Lahore. Dr. Mahmood praised UCP for its continuous efforts to improve the quality of education and foster research excellence.

The meeting also included the Registrar, Dean of Academics, Deans, Heads of Departments, Manager-GSO, and other relevant members. The session began with the recitation of verses from The Holy Quran, followed by an introduction to the agenda by the Registrar, and then a series of presentations and discussions. Key decisions included the approval of Doctoral degrees for 12 PhD scholars and the award of MS/M.Phil. degrees to 239 scholars.



Dr. Naveed expressed sincere appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research and the Registrar's Office, recognizing their significant contributions to academic excellence. The board members provided valuable insights to enhance future research initiatives and strengthen UCP's research profile.

The meeting ended with a renewed commitment to maintaining the highest standards in research and academia at UCP, emphasizing its importance in advancing the university's educational and research objectives.

Faculty of Science and Technology (FOST) Hosts Industrial Advisory Board Meeting on New Academic Initiatives to Foster Employability and Entrepreneurship

The Faculty of Science and Technology (FOST) at the University of Central Punjab (UCP) held an Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) meeting on December 9, 2024. The meeting focused on reviewing new academic programs in Microbiology, Zoology, Chemistry, Food Science, and Biotechnology. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Dean of FOST, chaired the meeting, which included industrial experts, department heads, and senior faculty members.

During the meeting, department heads, including Dr. Aatif Amin, Dr. Tanzeela Riaz, Dr. Sumera Zaib, Dr. Kanza Aziz Awan, and Dr. Muhammad Naveed, presented plans and strategies for their departments. The discussion centered on introducing new programs that match market needs and help students gain industry-relevant skills.



Industry leaders shared insights on current trends, required skills, and opportunities for collaboration between universities and industries. The Dean highlighted the importance of creating innovative and practical programs that prepare students for jobs and entrepreneurship. This meeting showed FOST's commitment to offering courses that meet real-world needs and close the gap between education and industry.

Industrial Advisory Board Meeting Held by Department of Mechanical Engineering



The Mechanical Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering held a meeting of its Industrial Advisory Board on December 12, 2024. The meeting was co-chaired by Prof. Dr. Faiz-ul-Hasan, a highly experienced industrial expert with over 40 years in academia and industry, and Dr. Rizwan Shad, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. Prof. Dr. Faiz-ul-Hasan began the meeting with a recitation from the Holy Quran and welcomed the distinguished industry members in attendance:

- Mr. Abdul Mannan, Senior Technical Manager at Millat Equipment Ltd.
- Mr. Bilal Gauhar, CEO of Infinity Engineering.
- Mr. Anas Waseem, Managing Director of MECAS Engineering.
- Mr. Farhan Saleem, Manager of OEM Parts & Sales at Honda ATLAS Cars.
- Mr. Abid Ameen, CEO of Singularity Pro (SMC).
- Mr. Fayyaz Ahmad, Senior Manager of Projects at IZHAR Steel Ltd.
- Engr. Muhammad Usman, Assistant Director at WAPDA.

Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, presented the meeting agenda and invited suggestions from the participants. The board members shared valuable recommendations, including the need for goal-oriented summer internships where students could gain hands-on experience by working on real-world problems faced by industries. These internships not only provide practical exposure but also prepare students for professional challenges.

The board also emphasized aligning final-year projects with current industry demands, helping students develop relevant skills and innovative solutions. The meeting concluded with the Chair expressing gratitude to all participants for their support, collaboration, and insights in shaping a brighter future for Mechanical Engineering graduates at UCP.

Welcoming 2025





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