

MONTHLY

CONNECT

November | 2024

Highlight of the Month

The Natural Products Research Network for Eastern & Central Africa NAPRECA Winter School 2024



21st NAPRECA Winter School marked a milestone in advancing natural product research and fostering international collaboration.



Chief Guest, Director General, COMSTECH, Dr. M. Iqbal Chaudhary's keynote address highlighted the critical role of research and capacity building in addressing global challenges.

Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed's welcome address, expressed UCP's dedication to promote global research initiatives and support the exploration of natural products for the betterment of humanity. NAPRECA Executive Secretary, Dr. Sameh Abouzid and Dr. Solomon Tesfalidet from Uppsala University, Sweden offered insights into the global impact of natural product research.

An 11-member delegation from various African countries brought incredible diversity and energy to the event, engaging in a transformative journey filled with lectures, hands-on laboratory sessions and workshops.



Dr. Faheem Ahmad Siddiqui's lecture on "Harvesting Nature's Pharmacopoeia: Techniques for Extracting Bioactive Compounds from Plants" captivated the audience with the significance of bioactive compounds in modern medicine, advanced techniques for extracting and analyzing these compounds and the potential of natural products in addressing global health challenges.

On day2, CEO, Dr. Masood Homeopathic Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Muhammad Zubair Qureshi, delivered a keynote address on "Testing of Phytomedicines and Their Legal Regulations". He shed light on the testing protocols, quality control measures, and regulatory challenges in the phytomedicine industry. His expertise highlighted the importance of ensuring the safety and efficacy of natural medicines while addressing the socio-economic potential they hold for regions like Pakistan.



Dr. Faheem Ahmed Siddiqui and Dr. Ayesha Asif led a training session on, "Extracting Potential: Hands-On Methods for Bioactive Compounds from Plants" focusing on cutting-edge techniques for extracting bioactive compounds from plants, gaining invaluable skills and insights into the practical applications of phytochemical research.

“The first impression started with well coordinated pre departure engagement with Mr. Sikandar and Prof. Sameh that were supporting us in looking for travel documents. The warm reception by Mr. Sikandar and his team from the airport. Then the interaction with host professors, it was wonderful and then me appearing on University TV. The Chicken I, the tour with our professors. In Uganda, we are not used to being close and going for a dinner with professors, so I was personally enjoying every moment while close to them and asking them. Finally I am so happy with collaboration that Prof. Sumera promised to have with us at Makerere University. I am very sure my supervisors will welcome the brilliant idea once I discuss the details with them.”

A series of talk shows were hosted by UCP International Office to provide awareness and information on each of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s). In this episode, Dr. Mavinga Blaise Mbala, Mr. Yeremiah Ekyibetenga and Mr. Eden David Yawe shed light on SDG 3 with reference to current research and development happening in natural product sciences across the globe. Dr. Kagisha Vedaste and Mr. Sauli Lingson Kalinga shared their views of their experience in Pakistan and academic and research facilities at UCP on UCP Radio.



On day 3, Prof. Dr. Sami Khalid from Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Science and Technology, Sudan delivered an online keynote lecture on the topic of Herbal Medicines in Africa – Where we are and the way forward to catch up with the quality assurance technologies.



The NEPRECA delegate along with Dean, FOPS and faculty members visited Masood Pharmaceuticals as part of industry visit in the mobility programme. They were shown a documentary on the 100 years history of Masood Pharmaceuticals followed by a visit to their drug manufacturing facility and quality control labs. COO, Masood Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Shoaib Hakim conducted a hands-on session on the different techniques of Spectroscopic Analysis of Natural Compounds with the delegate in their laboratory. The visit concluded with a working lunch hosted by Masood Pharmaceuticals and presentation of souvenirs to the delegate members.

NAPRECA delegate were provided hands on training on using chromatographic techniques by Dr. M. Asad and Dr. M. Zaman in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Lab where the delegate members learned the cutting-edge research skills in the wet lab setting.



“My experience was beyond wonderful, from the reception we got from students, staff and everyone involved, I had a fantastic experience at UCP and NAPRECA.”

-Yaone Moabi

The day concluded with a shopping trip at the Emporium Mall by the UCP International Office to get them acquainted to local merchandise in Pakistan. The participants took interest in the local textile and handicrafts and perfume products and purchased few merchandises to carry them back home. The shopping trip was followed by a dinner arranged by UCP Alumni Office through UCP alumnus, Mr. Shoaib Mubarak, representing Aduvo Consultants, at China Town and Jade Café in Lahore. The networking dinner was also attended by Dean FOST, Dean FOIT, and Dean FOE along with faculty members.



On day 4, Dr. Sumera Zaib from Faculty of Science and Technology on “Nature’s Drug Cabinet: An Overview of Biological Activities and Therapeutic uses of Natural Compounds”. Dr. Zaib provided a hands-on session in the Biochemistry Lab, where the members dig their hands into laboratory techniques for accessing biological activities for natural product screening. Dr. Zaib also moderated a panel discussion on “Afro-Asian Collaborations in Natural Product Sciences” gathering experts from industry and academia.

“I was well looked after from the moment I applied for my visa until I arrived in Lahore, where the UCP staff came to give me a warm welcome. At UPC, all the participants were also made to feel very welcome, all the activities were beautifully organised and the timetables were kept to. My experience at the NAPRECA winter school was excellent. I think I came to the right place. Many thanks to all the organisers.”

-ZAME MEVA'A Golda Reine

The panel discussion was followed by the closing ceremony of 21st NAPRECA Winter School at UCP. NAPRECA Executive Secretary, Dr. Sameh Abouzaid addressed the participants online to thank them for their participation and to UCP for organizing a successful NAPRECA Winter School first time ever outside Africa. Deputy Director, International Office, Mr. Sikandar Sethi expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all stakeholders for their support in successfully organizing an event of this magnitude at UCP.

“Had it not felt like things had to be cut short, this would have been a 10/10 experience. The faculty were maximally engaged, the facilitators were attentive to our needs and eager to help, and my fellow participants were great company. It has been incredible.”

-Eden Davis Yawe

Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, addressed the audience with his closing remarks and congratulated all the participants, trainers and organizing team. Dr. Naveed presented shields and souvenirs to NAPRECA delegates, trainers and the organizing committee.



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The delegate was provided with a sightseeing tour of historical places in Lahore, Shahi Qila, Minar-e-Pakistan, Greater Allama Iqbal Park, Badshahi Mosque and old food street to give them a flavor of Lahore's rich culture and history. This tour was graciously sponsored by AlKhidmaat Foundation through UCP VIS Office. The sightseeing visit was followed by extravagant dinner hosted by Bargad (A youth empowerment NGO) through UCP VIS Office at the iconic Haveli Restaurant in the old city of Lahore where the international delegates thoroughly enjoyed the

scrumptious food with a view of Badshahi mosque in the background.

Winter School concluded with UCP International Office's facilitation in the departure of the delegate members to Lahore Airport to catch their respective flights back home.

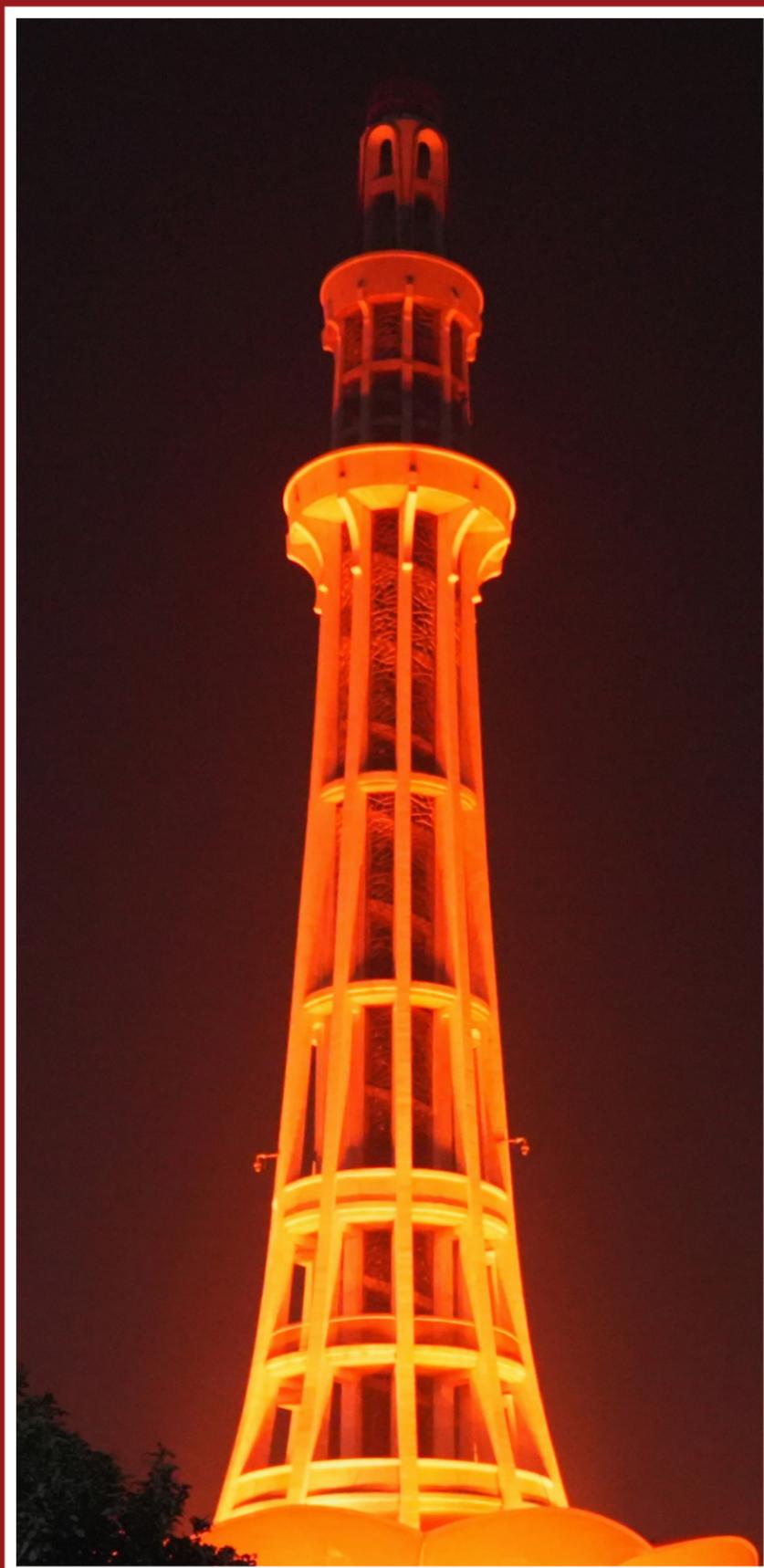
“A rich experience in hospitality, in event organisation and lessons learned. This needs a huge round of applaud.”

-Mbala Mavinga Blaise



“It was very nice and the training was on top for my expectations.”

-Bienvenu Mvingu Kamalandua



UCP x Evercare Hospital On-Campus Medical Center Inauguration



University of Central Punjab in collaboration with Evercare Hospital has inaugurated an on-campus medical center. This new facility will benefit students, staff and faculty members as it eliminates the need to call an ambulance and lose valuable time in emergencies.

Pro-Rector, Dr Hammad Naveed, Director Admin, Amjad Niaz, Dean FOPS, Dr. Mahtab Ahmad Khan, Director Student Affairs, Jawad Pervez Khan, Registrar, Raheel Anjum Bhatti, Manager HR, Rabia Siraj and the HR team represented UCP. From Evercare, the team consisted of Ms. Maliha, Dr. Khawar, Ms. Tania, Medical Officer and the Nursing Assistant.

The ceremony was followed by a meeting among the representatives appreciating both stakeholders for their efforts.

Journal of Engineering & Information Technology accreditation as Y-Category Journal



Higher Education Commission (HEC) has accredited and placed UCP Journal of Engineering & Information Technology in "Y-Category" research journals of Pakistan. Congratulations, Dr. Rizwan Shad, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Dr. Amjad Iqbal, Dean, Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science, Editorial team and Manager Correspondence for this achievement.

Workshops and Seminars

7th Annual International Pharmacy Symposium



Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences brought together pioneering voices in pharmacy and healthcare to tackle critical global health challenges. Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, delivered a keynote on harnessing AI to revolutionize pharmaceutical and medical sciences. His insights on merging technology with pharmacy left everyone eager for the future. Dean, FOPS, Dr. Mahtab Ahmad Khan discussed the role of computational tools in drug discovery, emphasizing that innovation is the key to solving Pakistan's healthcare challenges.

International guest speakers brought a blend of global perspectives, sharing fresh insights into clinical pharmacy practices and advanced photochemistry applications, lighting up the room with knowledge and inspiration. A special highlight was the poster competition, where young researchers presented groundbreaking ideas on nanocarriers, showcasing FOPS's dedication to pioneering research.

Language is Everywhere: Lessons from 20 Years of Interdisciplinary Research in Oxford and Maryland



Department of English, Faculty of Languages and Literature hosted a colloquium, "Language is Everywhere: Lessons from 20 Years of Interdisciplinary Research in Oxford and Maryland," featuring the inspiring Colin Phillips (Head of Linguistics, Oxford University) as our keynote speaker. It was a privilege to have brilliant minds from NUST, LUMS, AL Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science, UET Lahore, Minhaj University and FAST come together to explore the relevance and future of interdisciplinarity in Pakistan. Special thanks to Zartasha Mustansar (NUST), Abdul Hameed Azeemi (LUMS), Dr. Sana Shams (UET), Dr. Waqasia Naeem (Minhaj University) and Dr. Iram Amjad (FAST)

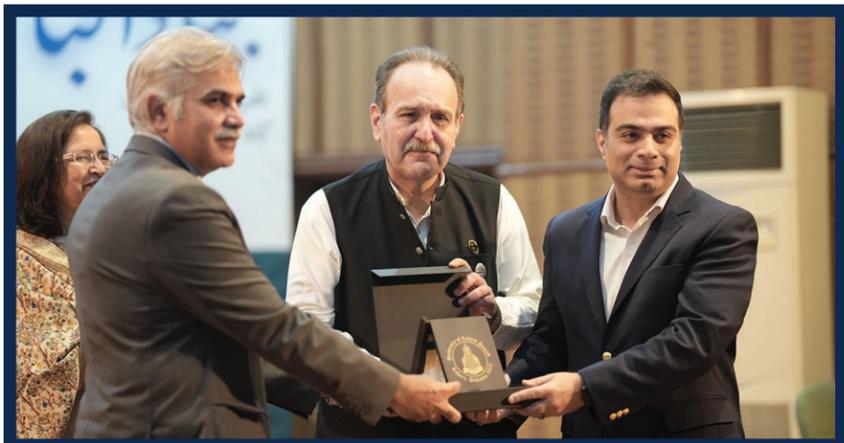
for their valuable contributions. This event marks a milestone in our journey toward building impactful interdisciplinary collaborations and shaping innovative research in Pakistan.

World Fisheries Day



Faculty of Science and Technology held an event on World Fisheries Day on November 28, 2024 highlighting the critical importance of sustainable fisheries and innovative approaches to aquaculture. The event commenced with an awareness walk, followed by formal proceedings addressing the significance of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems in fostering ecological and economic balance between nature and progress. A panel discussion engaging experts in meaningful dialogue bridged the gap between research and industry to foster sustainable fisheries and innovative aquaculture practices.

Iqbal, Ijtehad aur Junoon



The "Iqbal, Ijtehad aur Junoon" poured in thought-provoking insights from Mr. Muneeb Iqbal and Syed Fahad Ali Kazmi; Allama Iqbal's revolutionary ideas came alive in a discussion that left a lasting impact on the audience. Students and faculty alike had the chance to connect with Iqbal's enduring philosophy, which continues to resonate across generations. The event offered an enlightening journey through his legacy, allowing attendees to drink from the "elixir" of his ideology and reflect on the collective work needed to shape a better future for all.

Learning Innovation Centre's Faculty Townhall

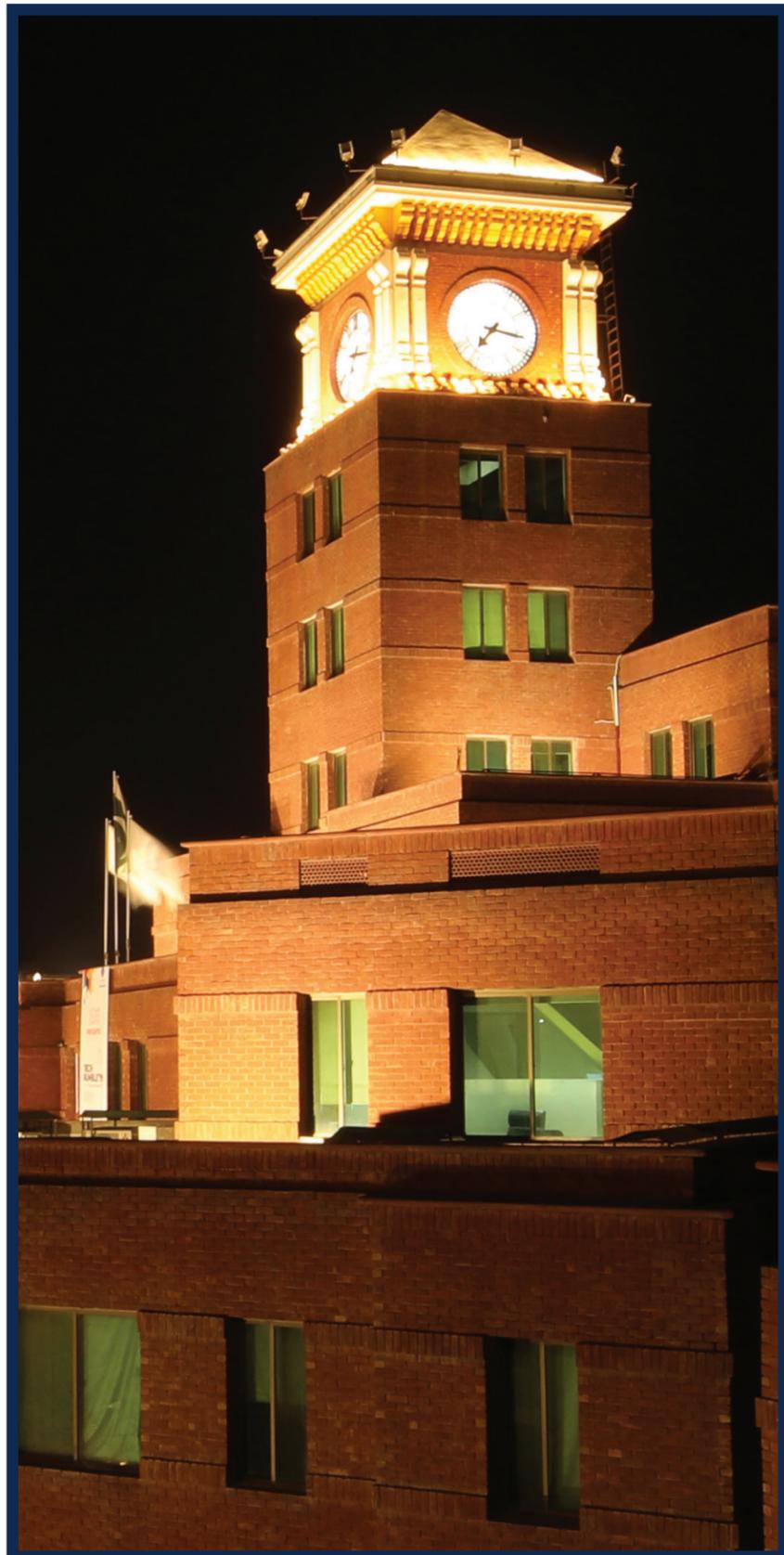


Learning Innovation Centre in collaboration with Human Resource Department held a Town Hall meeting for faculty members to strengthen open communication. This session provided updates, addressed questions and explored ways to enhance collaboration. Faculty members participated actively, sharing valuable insights and suggestions that reinforced our shared goals and commitment to continuous improvement.

Agile Conference Pakistan 2024



Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science hosted a three-day workshop under the banner of Agile Pakistan, in collaboration with Smart IS and Click Chain, focusing on Agile methodologies and best practices for QA and project management professionals. This event brought together industry leaders to explore cutting-edge strategies for driving agility in their respective fields.



Pharmaceutical Industry Insights – Bridging Science and Careers



Faculty of Science and Technology hosted an engaging seminar titled "Pharmaceutical Industry Insights – Bridging Science and Careers" as part of its Innovate, Integrate, Impact series. The panelists included, Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, Dean, FOST, Prof. Dr. Muhammad

Akhyar Farrukh and General Manager, Quality Operations & Regulatory Affairs, Remington Pharmaceutical Industries, Dr. Ahmad Junaid Rasheed. They shed light on the evolving landscape of pharmaceuticals, highlighting critical industry trends, real-world applications of Science and Technology programs, and exciting entrepreneurial ventures that are reshaping the sector.

Students gained valuable insights into career pathways, industry expectations and the potential for collaborative research between academic institutions and the pharmaceutical industry. Topics such as cutting-edge innovations, global pharmaceutical trends and the importance of industry-academia partnerships for advancing scientific knowledge, and practical solutions were at the forefront of the discussion.

Developing Effective Problem Statements and Research Problems



Faculty of Languages and Literature hosted an interactive workshop titled "Developing Effective Problem Statements and Research Problems" Director English Language Centre Dr. Habib Qazi, shared expert techniques to empower researchers, guiding them to unlock their research potential and shape their ideas into meaningful inquiries.

Chinese Language and Culture Workshop



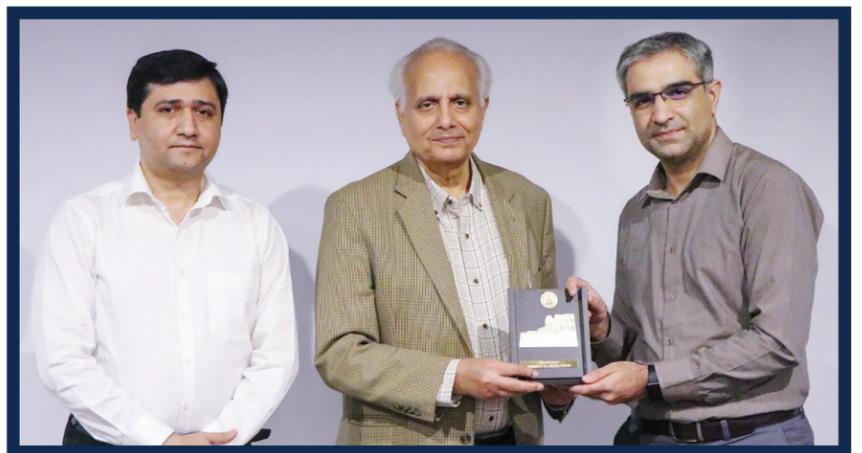
UCP International Office organized a two-day Chinese Language and Culture Workshop in collaboration with Tang International. This workshop led by Mr. Sahir Mushtaq, Team Lead of Foreign Languages, thoroughly addressed students' questions and offered guidance on the exciting upcoming Chinese Cultural Camp, which UCP will organize. The camp aims to provide students with an opportunity to experience Chinese culture firsthand through a visit to China. The workshop concluded with students thanking the organizers for their efforts in delivering such an engaging and informative session. Many students expressed that it had boosted their confidence and enhanced their motivation to pursue their Chinese language studies at UCP.

Smog Awareness Session



Human Resource Department in collaboration with a delegation from Evercare Hospital hosted a session on Smog and its prevention. A walk in A-Courtyard was held to raise awareness about the severe smog crisis affecting the region. The air quality index has dangerously exceeded WHO guidelines, causing a rise in respiratory diseases and flu-related coughing. Most educational institutions have been closed, and a "green lockdown" is being observed. The excessive number of cars on the road and high emissions have worsened the situation, particularly for children and the elderly, whose immune systems are weaker. WHO considers an air quality index above 300 to be dangerous, but in Pakistan, it has been exceeding 1000, making it difficult for people to breathe. The walk served as a reminder of the urgent need for stricter enforcement of safety measures and for immediate action to protect public health during these hazardous conditions.

Theatre Beyond Borders



Faculty of Media and Mass Communication hosted a 2-day international guest lecture titled "Theatre Beyond Borders" on November 13 & 14, 2024. The event featured distinguished speakers, Mr. Kewal Dhaliwal (Director, Manch Rangmanch Theatre Group, India), and Mr. Sohail Waraich (General Secretary, Ajoka Theatre, Lahore) on day 1, and Dr. Martion and Mr. Hendra Nasution from the Laxamana Cultural Community, Indonesia, and Mr. Shahid Nadeem, Executive Director of Ajoka Theatre, Lahore. Pro-Rector of UCP, Dr. Hammad Naveed and Dean, FMCC, Dr. Fawad Baig, expressed their appreciation to the guests and presented them with souvenirs as a token of gratitude.

Digital Pakistan Cyber Security Hackathon Regional Round



Digital Pakistan Cyber Security Hackathon brought together tech enthusiasts, cybersecurity experts, and innovative minds to tackle complex challenges. This year, University of Central Punjab proudly hosted one of the regional challenges, organizing a highly successful two-day event that drew participation from across the nation.

41 teams engaged in the high-stakes CTF and Bug Bounty challenges, including UCP's own Cyber Security Society team. The event featured Red and Blue Teaming competitions, where participants demonstrated exceptional strategic insight and technical expertise. Under time-sensitive scenarios, teams collaborated to analyze intricate security threats and design robust defense strategies, embodying the resilience and skill essential in cybersecurity.

ASM-Funded Research Proposal Competition



Faculty of Science and Technology hosted the final ceremony of the ASM-funded Research Proposal Competition, showcasing innovative projects from researchers across Pakistan. Supported by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), the event highlighted the creativity of young scientists. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Dean of FOST, praised their work and stressed the importance of research. Cash prizes were awarded to the top researchers: Burhan Haider, Maryum Hamayoun and Hira Akram (1st), Eeman Ali and Muhammad Faizan (2nd), and Fatima Asim (3rd).

Navigating the Middle Mile



Faculty of Management Sciences hosted an insightful session with Sigma Distributors Pvt. Ltd., where CEO Mr. Ahmad Salman shared valuable strategies on "Navigating the Middle Mile." Students gained practical knowledge about optimizing logistics and supply chain management. The session covered how effective supply chain management can reduce waste, increase customer value, and help businesses stay competitive. It provided students with real-world insights, preparing them for successful careers in the supply chain field.

Integrating AI for Innovative Research Writing Practices



The Faculty of Media and Mass Communication (FMMC) hosted an international guest lecture titled, "Integrating AI for Innovative Research Writing Practices" on November 22, 2024. The keynote speaker was Prof. Jason Gainous, a renowned American academic and Professor of Mass Communication at the University of Sharjah. Prof. Gainous has previously served as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education at the University of Louisville, USA, and Duke Kunshan University, China. FMMC has consistently been at the forefront of addressing relevant and in-demand topics. In today's world, AI has become a significant tool for enhancing research writing. However, it is crucial to use it in a way that complements genuine human input and refines research findings. This lecture provided valuable insights into effectively leveraging AI to improve research writing practices.

The event was highly beneficial, facilitating a meaningful exchange of knowledge between FMMC and a leading academic from another university. At the conclusion, Dr. Fawad Baig, Dean of FMMC, expressed his gratitude to Prof. Gainous and presented him with a souvenir as a token of appreciation. This event reflects FMMC's dedication to bringing the latest advancements to its community and maximizing their potential.

OBE Paradigm: Assessments, Results, and Portal Usage



Department of Computer Science organized a Training Workshop: OBE Paradigm – Assessments, Results, and Portal Usage on November 20, 2024. The session aimed to introduce both CS and non-CS faculty to the OBE (Outcome-Based Education) system and its integration with the UCP Portal. Led by Muhammad Mustafa Hassan, the workshop focused on helping participants align their courses with the OBE paradigm and effectively use the portal's OBE-related tools.

OBE is a student-centered approach that promotes collaboration between teachers and students, fostering an interactive learning environment. It includes hands-on activities and real-world experiences, allowing students to gain a deeper understanding of core concepts and subjects. This workshop highlights FOIT and CS's commitment to enhancing education through technology, making learning more accessible, and preparing students for the rapidly advancing tech world.

MS Excel for Professionals: Enhancing Skills in Formatting, Formulas, and Data Protection



Learning Innovation Centre (LIC) organized a comprehensive training session, MS Excel for Professionals: Formatting, Formulas, and Data Protection, for the faculty and staff of UCP. The training took place from November 20-22, 2024. The session was conducted by Mr. Gulfam Ahmad, Senior Manager Analytics, who shared his expertise in advanced Excel functionalities. Participants actively engaged in the training and gained valuable insights into optimizing their data management skills. The training was met with enthusiastic participation, leaving attendees well-equipped with practical knowledge to enhance their professional workflows.

2nd International Conference on Emerging Horizons in Science & Technology (ICEHST-2024)



Faculty of Science and Technology organized the 2nd International Conference on Emerging Horizons in Science & Technology (ICEHST-2024) on November 21-22, 2024. Around 400 participants attended, including 11 international speakers and 28 national experts, who came together to explore solutions for global challenges in science and technology.

Day 1 included three technical sessions. Technical Session A with 12 speakers focused on Biotechnology, Zoology, and Microbiology. Technical Session B featured eight presentations and two speakers, alongside competition for the best presentation among MS and PhD scholars. It covered Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Food Sciences. Technical Session C focused on Mathematics and Physics. It featured 40 researchers including an international speaker from. A poster competition where students presented research on various scientific topics was held to promote innovation and knowledge-sharing.

Day 2, Technical Session A continued discussions on Biotechnology, Zoology, and Microbiology and featured insightful presentations. Technical Session B covered Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Food Sciences. It included five invited speakers and eight presentations, with around 60 participants. MS and PhD scholars competed for the Best Presentation award. Technical Session C on Mathematics and Physics brought together nearly 40 scholars for collaborative discussions and presentations. Awards were given for best poster and oral presentations, and the event concluded with a group photo, marking the success of ICEHST-2024.

Faculty Meetings

3rd Relevance Assessment Committee (RAC) Meeting of FOST



Faculty of Science and Technology held its 3rd Relevance Assessment Committee (RAC) meeting on November 14, 2024, chaired by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh. The RAC assessed the research domains of PhD students inducted in Fall 2024 to ensure alignment with their supervisors' expertise, in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023. The committee reviewed faculty qualifications, research contributions, and teaching experience to uphold rigorous academic standards and foster relevant research pathways.

The committee's goal was to evaluate the researchers' understanding of the importance of their work from various perspectives and to ensure they possess a deep understanding of their topics. This ensures that their research is up-to-date and not falling behind, enabling them to plan effectively for addressing research challenges. The committee also assessed the pedagogical approaches being used and the effectiveness of classroom strategies to deliver content. This will help ensure that the intellectual environment meets the required standards.

Faculty of Languages and Literature's Board of Faculty and Board of Studies Meetings



FLL's Board of Studies and Board of Faculty have approved two new programs.

- **MS AI and English Education**

- **PhD English Literature**

In today's technology-driven era, incorporating AI into education is crucial. Technology not only supports and enhances human efforts but also helps refine them for greater impact and efficiency. By blending traditional knowledge with modern tools, we aim to provide a learning experience that is both relevant and forward-thinking. External experts, including Dr. Amra Raza from BNU, Dr. Arshad Ali Khan from UMT, Dr. Khurshid Alam from PU, and Dr. Sqaib Mehmood from UoL, shared valuable insights and contributions throughout this process.

University Events

Faculty of Science and Technology's Orientation for New Postgraduates



Faculty of Science and Technology arranged an interactive orientation for students enrolled in various programs, ranging from MS, M.Phil. and PhD. The session aimed to empower new students by introducing them to academic resources, research opportunities, and an environment conducive to their successful academic progression. Prof. Dr. Akhyar Farrukh, Dean, FOST, emphasized the importance of maintaining high academic standards in research while ensuring academic integrity. He also highlighted FOST's achievements and initiatives designed to enhance students' academic journeys through seminars, workshops, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

In addition to Prof. Farrukh's address, the Heads of Departments (HODs) from seven different FOST departments gave a thorough overview of ongoing activities. They showcased the rich academic experiences and skill-building opportunities that the faculty offers to students. The session concluded with the recognition of outstanding student achievements. The top performers from each

MS and M.Phil. program were acknowledged for their exceptional commitment to academic excellence. The awardees were:



Speaker of the Year 2024



UCP Debating Society hosted "Speaker of the Year" Inter-Departmental Declamation Competition, on November 11, 2024. The event showcased 45 talented students competing in three language categories:

- English
- Urdu
- Punjabi

The competition aimed to promote healthy debate, critical thinking and public speaking across various academic departments. Haroon Rafique and Rehan Tariq graced the event as guests of honour.

Participants were awarded with cash prizes, certificates and souvenirs. This competition not only highlighted the exceptional debating talent within UCP but also reinforced the university's commitment to promoting a culture of articulate expression and academic excellence.

Celebrating World Diabetes Day at UCP



Human Resource Department in collaboration with the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, hosted an impactful session on "World Diabetes Day 2024," featuring keynote insights from esteemed experts Prof. Dr. Rizwan Zafar and Dr. Mehtab A. Khan. The session aimed to put well-being at the heart of diabetes care. Diabetic patients face challenges in daily activities both at home and outdoors. Apart from medication, what helps these patients is becoming resilient, responsible, and organized to maintain better physical and mental health. Patients with diabetes should not have to face additional mental health challenges due to their condition.

The session aimed to spread awareness about the measures that can help control diabetes and bridge the gap between medication and mental health. People with diabetes have the right to a good life, and this discussion focused on raising awareness, prevention strategies, and healthcare advancements in line with our commitment to community wellness and the SDGs.

UCP Urdu Mushaira 2024



University of Central Punjab organized an Urdu Mushaira on November 1, 2024 to create an evening that celebrated the beauty of expression and how language has the power to spark emotions. The evening was lit up by poets such as Wajid Ameer, Hameeda Shaheen, Azhar Faragh, Ali Zaryoun, Umair Najmi, Ammar Iqbal, Ahmed Saeed, GM Shah, Zia Mazkoo, Sohaib Mugheera, Zaib-un-Nisa Wasiq, Mah-e-Noor, Kafeel Rana, and Ahmed Abdullah, who shared their mesmerizing verses.



Each poet brought their unique style, and the atmosphere was filled with a rich exchange of poetic expressions that resonated deeply with the audience. The emotions stirred by their words lingered in the air long after the event had ended. The audience, composed of staff, students, and faculty members, left the event with a deeper appreciation for language, its power to evoke emotion, and the beauty of poetic expression.



8th Model United Nations



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



The conference 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 Qawwali Night, a celebration of South Asian culture.

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. It highlighted the potential of young minds to shape a future rooted in mutual respect, understanding and collaboration.

Radio Hour with Pro-Rector



Radio Hour with Dr. Hammad Naveed was an insightful session. His focus on fostering an environment where students can thrive and unlock their potential highlighted the importance of education in tackling challenges and driving innovation. He emphasized the value of building an academic community and keeping alumni connected. UCP's student-oriented approach aims to improve students in all aspects, preparing them for success in a dynamic world. The session was enriching, offering clarity on UCP's vision and inspiring students to think critically about their future roles.

Fireside Chat with Pro-Rector



The Fireside Chat 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.

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.



Gilgit Baltistan's 74th Independence Day



Mosaic Cultural & Heritage Society celebrated Gilgit-Baltistan's 74th Independence Day on November 11, 2024, with a tribute to its rich culture and heritage. The event featured traditional attire, musical performances, quizzes, debates, sword and group dances, dress displays, GB-inspired cuisine, and a captivating photography exhibition. Guest speakers from various universities shared valuable insights on Gilgit-Baltistan's cultural diversity and strategic importance. UCP students showcased their talent and knowledge through active participation, while the Mosaic Society's meticulous planning ensured the event was both seamless and memorable, reaffirming UCP's role as a centre for cultural exchange and intellectual engagement.

MOUs

FLL x Kyongdong University Global, South Korea MOU



Faculty of Languages and Literature has signed an MOU with Kyongdong University Global, Republic of South Korea. The agreement was officially signed by Mr. Muhammad Yaqoob, Provost and Prof. Dr. John Lee, President, Kyongdong University Global. This partnership opens up a wide array of opportunities, ranging from student and faculty exchange programs to collaborative research initiatives and scholarship offerings, all aimed at enhancing the academic growth of students. Collaborative research and networking between scholars at both universities are expected to yield significant advantages.



FLL x Center for Culture and Development / Gandhara Resource Center Pakistan MOU



Faculty of Languages & Literature has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Center for Culture and Development (C2D) / Gandhara Resource Center Pakistan on November 27, 2024. It marks a significant milestone in advancing interdisciplinary partnerships and fostering mutual growth. This strategic partnership will foster cooperation in cultural research, educational development, and interdisciplinary projects. Students will benefit immensely from this partnership through exposure to enriched learning experiences, access to unique research opportunities and participation in joint programs to broaden their academic and cultural horizons. These initiatives will prepare them to become culturally aware, socially responsible, and professionally adept members of the workforce, capable of making impactful societal contributions.

Partnerships

University of Central Punjab Partners with University at Albany on Air Pollution Monitoring Project



University of Central Punjab (UCP) has collaborated with the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University at Albany to extend a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) originally signed in 2022. This MoU, titled "Air Pollution Monitoring of PM2.5 in Lahore to Investigate the Causes of Smog and Its Health Impacts," addresses one of the most pressing concerns for the residents of Lahore.

The MoU has now been extended for the years 2024-2025, in response to the high air quality index of Lahore. UCP's esteemed faculty member Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh has teamed up with Dr. Haider A. Khwaja from the University at Albany for this initiative. Previous samples indicated an

alarming increase in smog levels, exceeding the limits set by the WHO. These findings underscored the need for ongoing investigation into the causes and disastrous effects of air pollution on the residents of Lahore.

The new phase aims to continue sample collection to further explore the causes of air pollution and potential preventive measures. An added advantage is that the project is funded by the University at Albany, which will open avenues for international research partnerships and provide data-driven solutions to reduce health impacts and improve the well-being of Lahore's residents.

Recruitment Drives

Career Services Office's Recruitment drive by Abacus Outsourcing



Career Services Office in collaboration with Abacus Outsourcing, successfully conducted a recruitment drive for FoMS, FoLL and FMMC students on November 7, 2024. The team from Abacus Outsourcing conducted a brief info session followed by on-the-spot interviews. The event was a valuable experience for both the company and our students, with several students being shortlisted for the next stage of the recruitment process.

CSO x Gourmet Pakistan On-campus Recruitment Drive



Career Services Office in collaboration with Faculty of Management Sciences successfully hosted an on-campus recruitment drive by Gourmet Pakistan, for final-year students and fresh graduates. This interactive session featured in-person interviews and showcased Gourmet's Management Trainee Officer

(MTO) program. Students were briefed on four main functional areas: Retail Operations, Supply Chain, Human Resources, and Audit. Those selected will undergo comprehensive training in these functions, positioning them as future leaders within the organization.

Industry Visits

Faculty of Languages and Literature's Industry visit to Indus Hospital



Faculty of Languages and Literature (FLL) organized an insightful industry visit to Indus Hospital, Jubilee Town, Lahore. The faculty members had the opportunity to gain firsthand exposure to the hospital's advanced operations, patient care systems, and community outreach initiatives. The visit aimed to explore potential collaborations, discuss student placement opportunities, and establish partnerships that could enhance the academic experience at FLL-UCP. A key focus was on the importance of effective communication skills and accurate documentation in healthcare, reinforcing FLL's commitment to integrating linguistic expertise into industry practices.

Faculty of Language and Literature's Industry Visit to Punjab Institute of Language, Art & Culture (PILAC)



Faculty of Languages and Literature organized an industry visit for students to the Punjab Institute of Language, Arts, and Culture (PILAC) in Lahore. The delegation was provided with an insightful overview of the institute and the various opportunities available for students to explore their potential. Students toured the building including the exhibition hall and library. The importance of our regional language, Punjabi, was emphasized, and efforts to break the barriers to learning this language were discussed. Our

students were also given the opportunity to visit the radio station, where some of them showcased their Punjabi language skills. The tour concluded with exchange of souvenirs—UCP presented PILAC with mementos as a token of appreciation for their support, while PILAC gifted a Punjabi calendar as a souvenir.

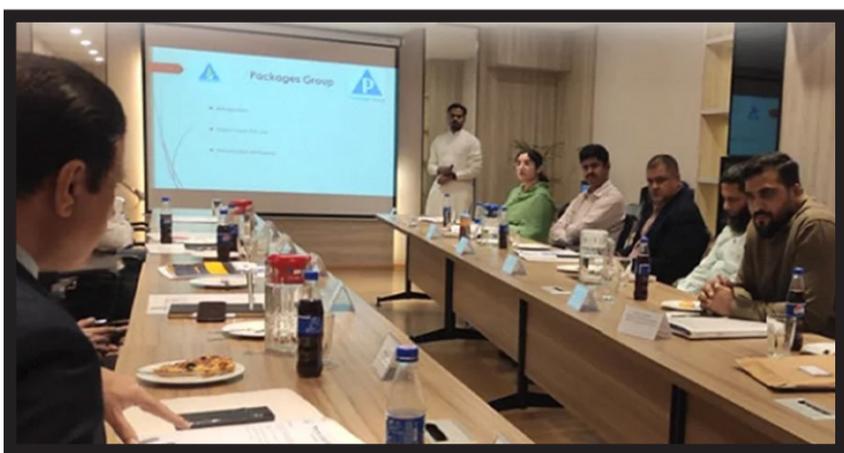
BBA Students Visit Haleeb Food Ltd. for Practical Insights



BBA students from various courses, including Operations Management, Supply Chain Management, Transportation & Distribution Planning, and Retail Supply Chain Management, had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by visiting Haleeb Food Ltd.'s production facility. This visit allowed students to gain insights beyond theory and observe how processes are actually carried out in practice, rather than just studying them on paper.

During the visit, students learned about product processing, warehouse inventory operations, and gained a deeper understanding of the quality control measures in place to ensure high standards. They also had the chance to see how Haleeb remains a preferred choice for consumers by efficiently managing its processes. Additionally, students became familiar with eco-friendly practices implemented at the facility.

Internship Opportunities for Final Year Students by the Department of Civil Engineering, FOE



Final year students of UCP had the unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience and apply their knowledge in the industry. The internships were organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering (FOE), and provided students with exposure to some of the best departments and construction industries, including the Punjab Irrigation Department, WAPDA Pakistan, Packages Group, Banu Mukhtar, and NESPAK. These internships helped polish the skills of aspiring engineers, allowing them to build practical expertise, gain valuable industry insights, and apply their academic knowledge in real-world settings.

Upon successfully completing the internship program, the students of the Civil Engineering Department

presented their experiences to executives from these organizations and the industry (IAB-CED members). All members highly appreciated the students' presentations, which reflected the significant benefits they gained from the experience.

Faculty Achievements

FOHSS' Faculty Member's participation in International Symposium on Islamic Public Values (IPV) on Islamic Public Policy and Governance



Mr. Sanwal Hussain Kharl, Faculty member at Department of Political Science & IR – FHSS attended the International Symposium on Islamic Public Values (IPV) on Islamic Public Policy and Governance at the College of Public Policy, HBKU (Hamad Bin Khalifa University) Qatar, in collaboration with the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP), England. Eminent scholars from around the world gathered to discuss the role of Islamic values in public policy and governance, exploring their future implications in shaping global governance frameworks.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt's China Visit



Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, represented the University of Central Punjab at the International Conference at Three Gorges University, Yichang, China. UCP was the only Pakistani university at the event, which included a keynote address and the signing of the 'Three Gorges Initiative 2024.' The conference brought together 26 global institutions, fostering academic exchange and collaboration. This visit served as a bridge for transferring academic excellence to UCP students, promoting cross-cultural learning and growth. The event emphasized the importance of overcoming language barriers and embracing diverse cultures for broader academic and professional opportunities.

Dr. Waseem Hassan participated in the NBEAC accreditation visit to SZABIST Larkana



Dr. Waseem Hassan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, joined the NBEAC Peer Review Team for the accreditation visit to SZABIST Larkana Campus. The visit assessed SZABIST's adherence to NBEAC's quality standards for business schools. Over three days, the business school was evaluated, ensuring students were prepared for industry roles. After the review, the team visited local historical sites. This process supported the continued quality of business education in Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Athar Siddiqui Delivered Keynote Address at MDSRIC 2024



Dr. Muhammad Athar Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, delivered a keynote at the 9th MDSRIC 2024 on Disruptive HR and the Digital Economy at the University of Wah. The conference brought together scholars from Türkiye, Pakistan, and beyond. Dr. Athar highlighted the role of digitalization in HR, improving processes like hiring and training. He also discussed global market trends, future skills, and the importance of educational institutions in preparing the workforce for future challenges.

Dr. Muhammad Naveed's 10,000 Citations Milestone



Dr. Muhammad Naveed, Associate Professor and Head of the Biotechnology Department, Faculty of Science and Technology has surpassed 10,000

citations, a testament to his impactful research and unwavering dedication to academic excellence. It reflects Dr. Naveed's significant contributions to the field of biotechnology and highlights his commitment to advancing knowledge and innovation. His work continues to inspire students, colleagues, and the broader scientific community.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt's Henan University, China Visit



Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt met with Pakistani students and learned about their experiences at the university, discussing how beneficial their time there has been in terms of acquiring knowledge and becoming skilled professionals for a global future. He had an insightful exchange of ideas with Ms. Li Herong, Prof. Dr. Li Xianglin (Dean, International School for Chinese Language and Culture), and Dr. Zhai Qiumin (Vice Dean). An MOU was signed between UCP and Henan University, reinforcing the commitment to bridging cultural and academic gaps for the free exchange of knowledge. As a gesture of goodwill, mementos were exchanged. Dr. Butt also presented UCP's vision and achievements, highlighting how the university is student-centered and open to collaborations to develop globally competitive professionals.

Student Achievements

UCP students secured top honors at All Pakistan Music Conference



University of Central Punjab students achieved remarkable success at the All-Pakistan Music Conference, securing top honors in three out of four categories. Congratulations to: Hassan Hashmi for winning the Gold Medal in Semi-Classical Singing. Meekail Riaz for earning the Silver Medal in Instrumental Category. Nazar Abbas for achieving the Bronze Medal in Classical Singing Category.

This accomplishment reflects the dedication and talent of our students, who have represented UCP with distinction on a national stage.

Takhleeq Business Incubation Team's Participation in Training at NIC Islamabad



Five startups from the Faculty of Sciences and Technology at UCP, supported by Takhleeq have been chosen for the NutriBiz 2024 SME Innovation Challenge. This important challenge, organized by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, and the World Food Programme (WFP), aims to find and support new ideas that help solve food security problems in Pakistan. As part of the program, our selected startups recently took part in workshops at NIC Islamabad, organized by Fruits of Sustainability. These workshops provided them with useful advice on how to grow their businesses, enter the market, and build sustainable practices that can create lasting change.

Takhleeq is dedicated to solving some of Pakistan's biggest challenges, such as climate change, water and food security, and poverty. With climate change and resource shortages threatening food systems around the world, it's more important than ever to develop local, innovative solutions that can help secure food and protect against future risks. This program will help our startups improve their business models and take their products to market, making a positive impact on Pakistan's food ecosystem and creating a more sustainable future.

Pro-Rector hosted hi-tea for All Pakistan Music Conference High Achievers



University of Central Punjab honored its high achiever artists for winning medals at the All-Pakistan Music Conference in Classical, Semi-Classical, and Instrumental categories. In recognition of their achievements, Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, hosted a special hi-tea, for them along with the patron of Music Society and Dean Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt. Dr. Hammad reaffirmed UCP's commitment to supporting its artists, noting that these students already have been awarded special scholarships and fee waivers. This reflects UCP's dedication to fostering artistic excellence and encouraging students to excel in diverse fields.

Alumni Relations Office's Initiatives

FOIT&CS Alumni Feedback Forum



Alumni Relations Office organized the FOIT&CS Alumni Feedback Forum bringing together distinguished alumni and the graduates from the Class of 2023 to exchange inspiring ideas. Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed was the event chair. Dean FOIT&CS, Dr. Amjad Iqbal opened the event with a heartfelt welcome, the forum served as a valuable platform where alumni shared their insights on market trends, employment challenges and meaningful suggestions for future progress.

The event concluded with a warm vote of thanks from the Pro-Rector and heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the alumni, who took pride in returning to their alma mater to contribute to the UCP community's ongoing journey of excellence and innovation.

FOMS Feedback Forum



Alumni Relations Office organized FOMS Feedback Forum on November 28, 2024. 40+ recently graduated alumni from diverse fields, including HR, supply chain management in multinational corporations, IT firms, business ownership, research, operations, etc were in attendance. 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.



Community Service

Breast Cancer Awareness Drive 2024



UCP's dedicated female volunteers reached over 3,000 families in Lahore to promote breast cancer awareness, empowering young women with knowledge. Through informative sessions at girls' schools and colleges, they covered vital topics like breast cancer prevention, early detection, and self-checkup techniques. With handouts full of important information and collaborations with local educational institutions, this campaign was a part of a broader mission for a healthier Pakistan where breast cancer rates are among the highest globally.

Blood Donation Camp with Aleem Dar Foundation



Volunteers in Service Department in collaboration with the Aleem Dar Foundation organized a Blood Donation Camp to support children suffering from thalassemia. Students enthusiastically participated, and over 120 bottles of blood were collected, demonstrating their dedication to community service. Pro-Rector, Mr. Hammad Naveed, Provost Mr. Muhammad Yaqoob, deans, and directors of various faculties and departments extended their full support and appreciated the efforts of the Aleem Dar Foundation for this important cause.

VIS Department's Closing Ceremony for Tree Plantation Drive 2024



Volunteers in Service Department in collaboration with Alkhidmat Foundation, successfully organized the closing activity of 2024 for Tree Plantation Drive. Hafiz Naeem Ur Rehman (President, Jamat-e-Islami) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. VIS Department and Alkhidmat Foundation have planted around 1 million trees in Lahore. Chief Guest, Hafiz Naeem Ur Rehman distributed souvenirs among partner organizations who contributed in this great initiative.

Smiles Express with Sundas Foundation



Volunteer in Service (VIS) department, in collaboration with Sundas Foundation, organized the "Smiles Express" activity for thalassemic children, the young warriors. The transfusion hall was transformed into a vibrant, joyful space, filled with love and laughter. Gifts, candies, and a drawing competition brought out the children's creativity, with prizes for their efforts. The event included games, filling the children's faces with smiles. This experience brought joy to both the children and volunteers, fostering a sense of positivity and inclusivity. It highlighted the importance of health and sharing joy with others.

Creating Educational Awareness Among Street Children



Faculty of Languages and Literature organized a two-phase campaign to support education for underprivileged children. In the first phase, students distributed educational supplies to children near the university, spreading hope and encouragement. The second phase involved collaboration with the Door of Awareness organization, where students provided kits containing storybooks, stationery, paints, and other learning materials to children in their schools.

Sports Achievements

UCP students won 6 bronze medals in National Open Swimming Championship 2024



Higher Education Commission (HEC's) 9-member swimming team participated in the National Open Swimming Championship 2024 from November 1-3, 2024, at the Punjab International Swimming Complex. University of Central Punjab's 6 students, including the team captain HEC (Ayan Asif) and Team Coach HEC (M Nouman Azeem, AD Sports UCP) participated as well. Sameer Asif, BS Sports Sciences won 3 Bronze Medals in 400m Individual Medley, 100m Butterfly and 4*100m Freestyle Relay. Ayan Asif, BBA won 2 Bronze Medals in 1500m Freestyle and 4*100m Freestyle Relay. Adeel Razzaq, BBA won a Bronze Medal in 4*100m Freestyle Relay.

UCP student wins 2 silver and 3 bronze medals at Combaxx 17th Korean Ambassador Cadet and Senior National Taekwondo Championship 2024



Congratulations, Wajeeh ul Hassan, BS Electrical Engineering student for winning 2 silver medals and 3 bronze medals for HEC in the Combaxx 17th Korean Ambassador Cadet and Senior National Taekwondo Championship 2024, held in Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad.

UCP student representing California Golden Eagles in United States Cricket Premiere League



University of Central Punjab's Sports Sciences student, Malik Asad Rafique, is representing California Golden Eagles in the United States Premiere League (Cricket)

UCP Clinches All Pakistan Inter University Swimming Championship 2024-25



University of Central Punjab clinched the All Pakistan Inter University Swimming Championship 2024-25, organized under the umbrella of the Prime Minister's University Sports Olympiad. This event was held at the Pakistan Sports Complex in Islamabad, hosted by Agriculture University Faisalabad.

UCP students showcased their athletic competence and capabilities by sweeping 18 out of 19 gold medals. Ayan Asif and Sameer Asif emerged as standout performers, setting new records. Sameer Asif won 7 gold medals and set one new record, proving to be a shining athlete and providing a perfect exhibition of fitness and sportsmanship. Dr. Mukhtar, Chairman of HEC, graced the closing ceremony and acknowledged the remarkable efforts of the swimmers.

University of Central Punjab wins Prime Minister's University Sports Olympiad 2024



UCP dominated in Athletics with 13 gold, 8 silver, and 8 bronze medals, setting a new record and earning the Title of Best Athlete. The wrestling team secured 8 out of 10 gold medals, clinching the championship title. In volleyball, UCP emerged as Inter University Volleyball Champions after defeating Poonch University, Rawlakot, in the final. In table tennis, Obaid Shah claimed the singles title, while Obaid and Usama Nawaz triumphed in the doubles event. The swimming team made history with 18 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals, setting 2 new records and earning the Title of Best Swimmer.

Rana Mashud, Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program, and Dr. Mukhtar, Chairman of HEC, attended the event as special guests. They handed out medals and trophies to the winners. UCP's outstanding performance shows its strong dedication to sports excellence and its ability to lead in competitions.

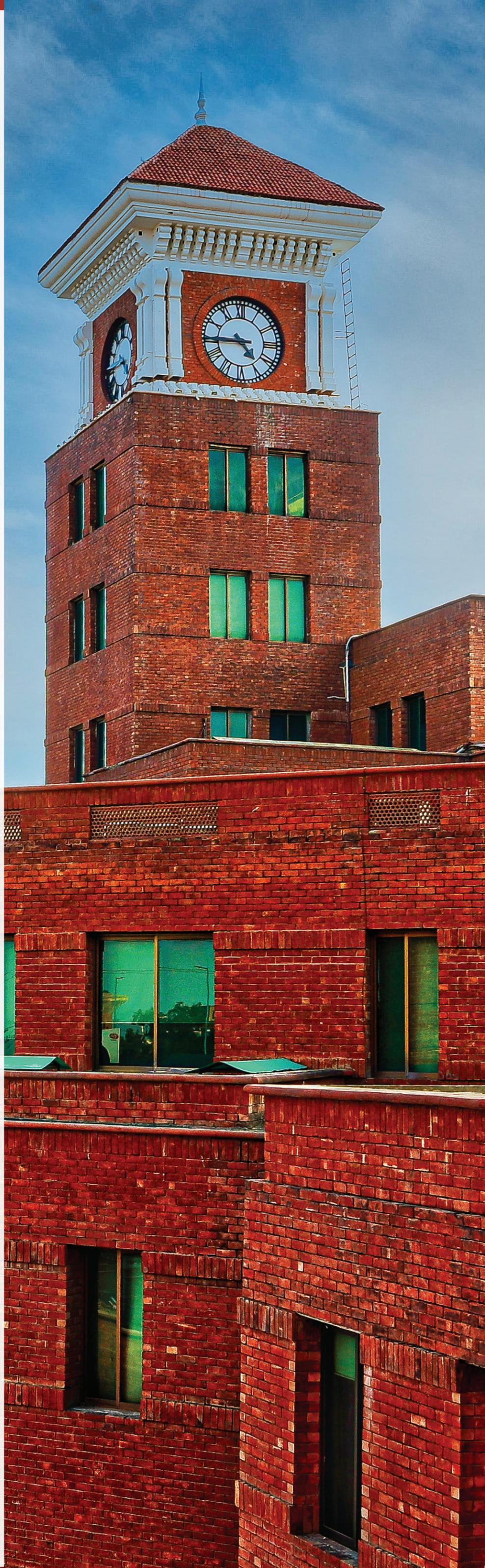
Upcoming Events

Alumni Association Elections 2024

The poster for the Alumni Association Elections 2024 features a central illustration of a brick clock tower. The text 'ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS 2024' is prominently displayed in the center. Surrounding this central text are various terms related to alumni support and networking, including 'ALMA MATER', 'SUPPORT', 'CONNECT', 'LINKAGES', 'SERVICES', and 'ALUMNI NETWORKING'. The University of Central Punjab (UCP) logo is visible in the top left corner, and the Alumni Relations Office logo is in the top right corner. The bottom of the poster shows a row of people's feet, suggesting a group of alumni.

2nd International Conference on New Trends in Civil Engineering

The poster for the 2nd International Conference on New Trends in Civil Engineering features a white background with a blue and red color scheme. At the top, logos for the University of Central Punjab (UCP), NESPAK (National Engineering Services Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited), Packages Group, and Union Developers are displayed. The main title '2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW TRENDS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING' is written in large, bold letters. Below the title, the dates 'DECEMBER 9 & 10, 2024' and 'PROGRAM SCHEDULE' are listed. At the bottom, logos for sponsors and partners including NESCOM, ALTEFAQ, IZHAR, PCC, NIMIR, hverse, and NTCE (New Trends in Civil Engineering) are shown. The background of the poster features a silhouette of a person wearing a hard hat, looking towards a city skyline.





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