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As part of the University’s keen interest in staying closer to its alumni, this annual edition of your bulletin Sohar University’s Alumni Bulletin comes to celebrate you and express our pride and appreciation to you for being a key factor of this University’s success.

The University’s message was not to be delivered and its vision was not to be realized without your communication. It is you who sought the knowledge from here, gained expertise from its professors and benefitted from its various activities. Sohar University is fully ready to provide you with the latest means of knowledge and learning to help you with your educational and professional career, helping you secure your goals and all you wish for.

The University has recently launched its new brand identity as one step forward towards more development and success. It has also advanced in the QS rating for Arabic Universities, jumping 50 ranks within the past two years. The Times Higher Education rating also ranked it as the best quality-in-research higher education institution in the Sultanate of Oman.

Therefore, we invite all of our alumni to join us and become part of Sohar University’s Alumni Association, which is designed for you as a communication platform between you and Sohar University to continue the journey of achieving.

Wishing you all the best in your professional and life careers.

Dr. Hamdan bin Sulaiman Al-Fazari
Vice Chancellor
The alumni annual reunion was held March 2023 under the theme: Pioneers of change and future market skills. The event was attended by Mohammed Sulaiman Al Kindi – Governor of North Al Batinah, Dr. Hamdan Sulaiman Al Fazari – The Vice Chancellor of Sohar University as well as the executive committee and faculties deans.

Dr. Hamdan Al Fazari, the Vice Chancellor, kicked-off the event with a welcoming speech to the audience, where he stressed on the University’s care for its students, aiming to extend this healthy relationship between the student and educational institution. He also confirmed that such a day is a great opportunity to network, discuss knowledge and profession and bring back the memories connected to classrooms.

The Vice-Chancellor also announced the launch of Alumni Association, seeking to keep and strengthen this bond between the University and its graduates.

Dr. Amer Awadh Al Rawas discussed the future of job market, emphasizing on the fourth industrial revolution besides other important factors, like the sharing economy, future success factors and others.

Al Rawas expertise is witnessed by many of those who got their lives changed thanks to him. He is also the Founder and Chairman of Concordia Group, and a well-known, multiple-awards winner with great experience in the field of transition.

Zainab Al Balushi, Sr.Alumni Relations Specialist said, “The University works really hard to keep the connections with its alumni. This gathering is to celebrate and express pride and appreciation to them because they are a main pillar of this University’s success.”
The University announced the launch of the alumni association to strengthen the communications between the University and its graduates. It also aims to support the graduates in different fields as well as recognizing their positive impact in building the communities.

The association will hold various activities and events that support the graduates, enhances their institutional sense of belonging as well as allowing them to take part in all important activities and events in the University, confirming they will always remain part of it.

Note: Registration is open to all alumni from all majors and batches.

We look forward to the great success and contribution of the association in serve of the University and community.
A trip to Qatar was organized by the University to a number of its alumni, where they attended one of the first-round matches of the world cup. This is another creative initiative conducted by the alumni office to expand its communications with the alumni.

The alumni had a great time exploring such a unique experience alongside with its side-activities, and learning in-close the huge efforts made to realize this global event.

Yousuf Al Balushi, a University alumnus, said about the trip:

“I was really excited for being in such a global event. It is a dream for many to attend the world cup games, I thank my University for their care and this initiative, which is truly appreciated. It was an amazing experience that I won’t forget my whole life.”

Hazza Al Essai, a University alumnus, expressed his opinion about this experience:

“Thanks to Sohar University for their great care and follow-up with the alumni. They always make sure to count us as part of any local and global exciting events and gatherings.”
Majed delivers technical and personality development workshops for engineering students.

On post-University life, Majed says, "engineering feels different at this stage. Graduates have to adapt with the current fast-paced advancing world of engineering. Students must have some basic skills to become good engineers because engineering is very dynamic. The reality can differ from the theory by far. Always try to expand your engineering knowledge and keep leaning about all updates related directly or indirectly to your major.

Engineers must old the right skills in geometrics, where they are required to be fast and accurate in results. Analytical and logical data presentation skills are also required, besides drawing charts, be it on paper or through software.

Speaking to public and communication skills are also essential for you to succeed as an engineer. Graduates must be able to solve engineering problems and suggest logical solutions, engineering innovations and collaborate with his colleagues. The latter is vital to reach a desired success in all engineering projects. You have to perfect in these skills to secure your place in the field of engineering."
Many graduates are seeking appropriate job opportunities amidst the fierce job market in Oman, yet they might seem too difficult to secure. Therefore, individual marketing on social media platform is one great option to create a source of income for the graduates.

This short article highlights Mohammed Al Shehhi journey in the world of individual marketing on social media platforms, and how he could make it another source of income.

"I started the individual marketing journey in December 2019. I kept posting content on entrepreneurship because I studies business administration. Six months later, I signed a one-year contract to promote a business project at one of the biggest shopping malls in Oman. The pay was so humble. I then moved to present shows, tv programmes and giving free consultancy sessions for Omani and Gulf-countries entrepreneurs", Mohammed said.

He added, “today, after spending all this time and gaining experience at individual marketing and building relationships with other influencers who benefitted from social media as a source of income, I am certain that you can also pave your way in this, making your own source of income from social media, without waiting for an employment opportunity that you don’t know when to get.”

Al Shehhi gave valuable advice for all graduates interested in generating income from social media individual marketing:

• Do not neglect your University studies because you will need every bit of learning there. Try to learn as much as you can.

• Make sure to gain expert in your field during the first 6 months of social media, and make sure to be patient during this time.

• Give all the support and share all the knowledge you know from the beginning.

• Six months after, start offering your services with certain rates. Do not overprice your services but make it affordable.

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His job did not kill his music passion, yet he improved it, making it a part of his life.

Al Yaaqoubi musical talent grown up with him since childhood. He started playing oud since grade five, and continued to pave his path until he became one of the most famous young musicians in Oman.

About the oud, Al Yaaquubi says, “it is the stringed instrument which taught me a lot about music. It lets me play music from all cultures.”

He insists that excelling in music requires both talent and skill, “music is a talent in the first place, but you have to refine it by practice and continuous effort.”

His advice for the youth music community is to, "take care of your talent, foster it, live it and listen a lot to accumulate the musical potential. Always dedicate time to practice and make it part of your life."

Al Yaaqoubi was strongly influenced by eastern and Arabic music in his early career. He also taught others how to play oud and practice on the Omani music.

About his music ambitions, he says, “I wish to establish my own music band. It’s never easy, but I’m sure it will happen one day.”

Akram Al Yaaqoubi is an example of the Omani youth who work but continue to pursue their passions. His actions can tell that dreams are possible with practice, perseverance and learning from the experts’ advice.
Alumnus, Akram Al Yaqoubi
Faculty of Language Studies
Flight Scheduling Control Officer
Oman Air
An Alumnus’ Publications

Book: Analyzing the Leadership Character in Imam Salim Rashid Al Kharusi
This analytical book discusses the news and history of Imam Rashid Salim Al Kharusi (D: 1338 H/1920 AD). It looks into the leadership character in the Imam, concluding that he had 21 traits and behaviours divided into two sections: the first section had 10 personal traits that made the Imam capable of leading the Imamate. The second section had 11 leadership behaviours applied by the Imam Salim during his Imamate. The language flow of the study is easy to understand, besides it was a combination of prose and poetry.

Book: Leadership Lessons from Imam Mohammed Al Khalili’s Biography
This publication is an analytical study to the news and biography of Imam Mohammed Abdullah Al Khalili (D: 1373 H/ 1954 AD). The book studied the leadership characteristics in the Imam, concluding to 55 leadership traits presented in a light and enjoyable style combining between prose and poetry.
Sohar University has added a new program to its list of programs which is the Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science, starting from the new academic year 2023/2024.

The program offers an advanced scientific curriculum that keeps pace with practical and technological development, and is an opportunity for students to advance academically and scientifically in fields related to computer science. The program also helps students to acquire modern skills that keep pace with the modern technology.

The program targets academics and employees who have a master’s degree in computer science or its equivalent, according to the admission requirements for the program.
Unveiling Sohar University’s New Brand Identity

Sohar University is proud to announce the unveiling of its new brand identity, marking a significant milestone on its journey towards excellence in higher education. This exciting development reflects the University’s commitment to evolution, growth, and continued dedication to its mission.

The new brand identity of Sohar University encapsulates the vibrancy of its academic community and its progressive orientation. Building upon the foundational concept of “knowledge is light” from the previous identity, the university has seamlessly integrated these principles into its renewed image. This transformation encompasses a contemporary logo, a dynamic color palette, and visually striking elements that are both modern and rooted in tradition. This revitalized identity complements Sohar University’s new strategic plan, which centers on the core pillars of Academic Excellence, Student Experience, Research and Innovation, Community and Industry Engagement, Global Recognition, and Institutional Effectiveness.

Dr. Hamdan Al Fazari, Vice Chancellor of Sohar University, expressed his excitement about this rebranding initiative, saying, “Sohar University is now further poised to play a positive role in advancing Oman’s national aspirations and to meet the needs of the global labor market. Through its new identity, the university will raise its status both nationally & internationally.”

Ms. Abir Al Jabri, Leader of the branding project “Leading this project was the perfect opportunity to make a significant impact on Sohar University’s engagement with stakeholders, ultimately enhancing our local and global visibility and reputation.”

Sohar University consistently strives for excellence in academic, research, and community engagement, and this rebranding initiative is a testament to its determination to evolve and excel in the ever-changing landscape of higher education.
Sohar University Moves Forward in QS Arab Rankings

Sohar University has risen 20 points into the 101–110 category in the QS Arab University Rankings. Last year, the University rose 30 places. The continued improvement is testament to the fact that, among others, the University has improved significantly in the strength, citations and quality of research papers underscoring its excellent scientific contribution for national and global reach. The University did particularly well in number of citations per faculty – now ranked 17th in the region. We thank everyone who has contributed to achieving this statue. Thank you to the researchers and students who have significantly contributed to research and teaching excellence, especially in the realm of Research-Teaching-Nexus.

The improvement in ranking demonstrate the great global profile and stature that the university has attained. This means students who graduate from Sohar University will be highly regarded in society.
Sohar University
Top University in Oman in terms of Research Quality

A distinguished achievement for Sohar University has been reported in the Times Higher Education Ranking of Arab Universities. The university has been ranked as the best higher education institution in the Sultanate of Oman in the quality of its research; has been ranked third among Omani higher education institutions overall and has been placed in the category 121-140 among Arab universities. Sohar University’s ranking as the best higher education institution in the Sultanate of Oman in research quality, with a score of 88.9, is indicative of the quality of the university’s research output. Sohar University has been included in the Times Higher Education ranking of Arab universities for the first time this year, and thus this in itself is an important achievement for the university. In spirit and in team work, Sohar University continues to achieve excellence, growth and development to brighten its future at every level.
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