



UDST SKILLS COMPETITION

A CELEBRATION OF SKILLED TRADES & TVET

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Message from the President

Dear students, faculty, and staff,
Welcome to the second issue of our UDST POST.

I hope you had a good Eid break and that you have come back energized for the Spring Term.

This edition reflects numerous developments and events that took place during the Holy Month of Ramadan, a time rooted in faith, history and culture. April is also considered earth month where we celebrate World Health Day and Earth Day, two occasions that remind us of the importance of preserving our planet, advocating for sustainability, and scaling up our efforts to make the world a better place.

In this month's post, we highlight our "Skills Competition", one of the largest co-curricular events of the academic year. It is an opportunity to confirm that learning at the University is all about building experiential and technological competencies required in the world of work.

Furthermore, UDST has celebrated the completion of two training programs in Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things (AI/IoT) and the programming language Python for public school teachers. Noting that the AI/IoT training program is a first in Qatar.

In this edition, we also showcase the creative skills of our community members and raise awareness about autism on the occasion of World Autism Day. This issue covers as well many aspects of the University Life, including Sport and Wellness activities, campus development, and more.

I wish to remind you that the beginning of every semester holds a lot of positivity and good vibes, let's keep this energy going and show everyone what UDST Community is capable of!

Dr. Salem Al-Naemi
President, University of Doha for Science and Technology



UDST hosts its 1st “Skills Competition”

A celebration of skilled trades and TVET

UDST hosted its largest co-curricular event of the academic year, the annual UDST “Skills Competition” supported by Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C. This event offers more than 35 different competitions around campus - in Engineering Technology and Industrial Trades, Information Technology, Health Sciences, Business Management, and Academics - simulating a variety of real-world tasks that students will perform in the workplace once they graduate. Modeled after World Skills International, which is a global initiative to promote the development of skilled trades, UDST “Skills Competition” showcases that learning at the University is all about building experiential and technological competencies required in the world of work.

More than 423 students competed against their peers to test the technical skills they are learning through their studies. Commenting on the event, Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, UDST President said: “The University is committed to advancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Qatar. We empower students with hands-on competencies and applied education, and as a result, we celebrate skilled, talented, and work-ready graduates who can answer the needs of an ever-evolving national and global economy. The “Skills Competition” is a testament to this commitment, and it is a unique and interesting way to demonstrate what our students have learned here at the University. Our aim is to eventually

build a National Skills Competition program and have Qatar become a member of World Skills, and compete at the regional and international level.”

UDST partnered with local schools to offer hundreds of secondary students the chance to witness the competition and try a skill themselves, giving more young people the opportunity to be involved in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Some competitions are completed individually, while others are group competitions where students solve real-life scenarios and participate in business simulations in addition to challenges in the fields of electrical and mechanical engineering, energy and sustainability, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, programming, problem-solving challenges, and health care as well as communication contests and debates.

The “Skills Competition” winners were announced in a special ceremony and were awarded medals and recognition certificates. Through “Skills Competition”, UDST works on engaging its community and the wider audience in experiencing the excitement of STEM and technical activities for themselves, while showcasing its state-of-the-art campus.



UDST celebrates 42 public school teachers who completed advanced technology training programs

University of Doha for Science and Technology in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has celebrated the completion of two training programs in Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things (AI/IoT) and the programming language Python. The AI/IoT program was delivered to 21 teachers and the Python program was delivered to 21 teachers as well.

The ceremony took place at the University in the presence of Mrs. Maha Al-Ruwaily Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President, University of Doha for Science and Technology, and a number of officials from both entities. Completion certificates were handed to the participants who were encouraged to use the skills acquired from both trainings to improve student STEM learning.

The hands-on 28-hour training course consisted of 8 classes provided during the evening time. Teachers enrolled in the Python training program were able to work on variables and primitive data types, control structure, collections, and file processing, while teachers in the AI/IoT training program were able to experiment with automated urban farming technology; home security and different types of remote sensing platforms.

UDST takes part in Smart City

Organized by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Smart City Expo Doha 2022 brought together experts from around the globe to share ideas and solutions on how to create a better, more sustainable future for cities and their citizens. UDST participated in this exhibition hosted in Doha's newly rebuilt Msheireb district, renowned as a landmark development for how technology and smart design can transform people's quality of life in the inner city. During the exhibition many people visited UDST's booth and showed interest in the University's applied and experiential learning approach. They were impressed with the many workshops and simulation labs that the University boasts in addition to its high interest in applied research that is aligned with the national research priority areas such as smart technology and sustainability.





UDST community celebrates Garangao

Staff, faculty, students, and their children were invited to celebrate the traditional Garangao night in the courtyard. UDST organized a special evening where participants had the chance to experience traditional food and many cultural activities and engaging games. Garangao is widely celebrated by children across Qatar and the Gulf region. It is usually most enjoyed by children as a celebration of having fasted for half of the Holy Month. They walk around their neighborhoods singing traditional songs that mark the occasion and receive gifts and bags of sweets from their elders.





Keynote Speaker Series



Technology, Business and Art

CNA-Q “Keynote Speaker Series” is an initiative that brings experts into the College to share their experience, and give students the opportunity to delve into the professional world and explore different aspects of their future careers. The series topics are chosen very well and are calculated towards the needs of the students. In this issue, we will cover the sessions that discussed Technology, Business and Art matters.



Dr. Veli Safak

Topic: Digital Assets and Crypto Revolution

Dr. Veli has been an assistant teaching professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar for the last 3 years. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Georgetown University and specializes in quantitative methods and machine learning applications. Commenting on his session, Dr. Safak said: “It was a pleasure to join the community members of University of Doha for Science and Technology to discuss digital assets and cryptocurrencies. Digital assets serve a great purpose by making digital transactions cheaper, faster, and more secure in this digital era. We discussed the use cases for digital assets, the threat posed by private stable coins, and the need for Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and multi-CBDC bridges for a more efficient financial infrastructure and a stronger economy. I am impressed by the student and faculty engagement. There is no doubt that University of Doha for Science and Technology will contribute a great deal to improving the financial infrastructure in Qatar through education and innovation in the years to come.”



Abdelaziz Yousef

Topic: An Insight on the Creative Industry from a Local Perspective

Mr. Abdelaziz is a Qatari artist who creates experimental visual art projects. His portfolio is diverse in terms of technical executions such as: animation, multimedia, traditional artwork on canvas, graphic illustration and sculpting. Following his visit to the University he said: “It was a pleasure to join University of Doha for Science and Technology community members and students to discuss my insights on the local Qatari art scene. There were many topics covered in the talk highlighting my experience with multiple forms of art that I have created, and it was a real pleasure to engage with the students and present such material to them.”



Haider Pasha

Topic: The Future of Cybersecurity - Predictions for 2022 and Beyond

Mr. Haider is a Senior Director and Chief Security Officer for North/ Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa at Palo Alto Networks. Briefing us about his presentation he said: “This session began by identifying the current technology trends organizations are facing in the wake of the Covid pandemic. We focused on the technology shifts that are impacting businesses and the priorities Chief Security Officers are focused on today. We then honed in on nine predictions for the foreseeable future in cybersecurity that organizations and individuals must be aware of as they plan their digital future. Finally, we discussed how Palo Alto Networks helps organizations by describing our strategy and how we support any organization stay operationally resilient against cyber attacks.”

Saving our planet is a collaborative effort

UDST works relentlessly for sustainability and actively engages in green initiatives and fosters a culture of environmental leadership among its staff, faculty and students. The University joined the international movement on the occasion of Earth Hour and switched off the campus lights to conserve energy and raise awareness about climate change and the importance of protecting the environment. UDST has also demonstrated support for environmental protection on Earth Day by reminding the community to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle and ensure a balance between economic growth and environmental protection as stated in the Environment Development Pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030. Furthermore, the University leads many initiatives that create solutions for a green future. UDST also offers a Recyclable Waste Management Program in collaboration with many companies. Special color-coded containers have been placed across the Campus to segregate and manage different kinds of waste. UDST has also an Environmental Club that aims to advocate for a better environment.



Hamdan Al-Shamrani launches “Malazi Al Akhir”

UDST student in the Bachelor of Applied Business Administration in Banking and Financial Technology program Hamdan Al-Shamrani, has launched his book “Malazi Al Akhir” (My Last Resort). The book is a collection of thoughts and feelings that the writer has transcribed into words that touch the soul. Commenting on his book Al-Shamrani said: “I have always dreamt of writing a book and finally the dream came true. The journey was not easy, but it warms my heart when people show interest in the book and tell me that what they read expresses their inner thoughts.” The author took part in the last edition of the Doha International Book Fair, and his book will be soon available in all of the bookstores in Qatar. Hamdan shared a message with his readers enticing them to follow their dreams no matter the challenges they may be faced with. He concluded by saying: “Do not let anyone discourage you, nothing is impossible to achieve if you put your mind to it.”





Sport and Wellness Male Swim Challenge

The two-month swim challenge was concluded on 3rd of April by announcing the top winners as per below:



Staff: David Jones - 64 Km , Stacey Yap-Singh - 120 Km and Nelson Sheppard - 120 Km



Student: Tamim Afaneh - 42 Km



Student: Aaron Zachariah - 42 Km

The competition allowed participants to go at their own pace and complete their swimming laps at UDST Male Pool throughout the two-month challenge. The main aim was to cover a distance of 120 Km which equals a two-way swim from Doha to Ras Laffan.



Pi Day at UDST

Math students led by Foundation Program math instructor Youmna Moussa shared their mathematical knowledge on Einstein's birthday and Pi Day. Students had demonstration stations set up on Tessellations theory, Fibonacci numbers, Pi and the Golden Ratio where they explained the mathematical concepts using the world around us, from honeycomb hexagons, flowers, the human body, musical instruments, architecture, the eye of a hurricane, to a meandering river. They also infused a little math humor into their mini-lessons. Founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw, a physicist at the San Francisco Exploratorium, Pi Day has been observed in many ways, including eating pie, throwing pies and discussing the significance of the number π . UNESCO's 40th General Conference designated Pi Day (14th of March) as the International Day of Mathematics in November 2019.





Abdelrahman Ali Hijji The Hidden Gem

Most of us have encountered Abdelrahman in the library where he works as a Librarian Assistant. He has always demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to his work, and what you don't know about him makes him even more fascinating just like a hidden gem. He is a very talented artist who creates beautiful lifelike figurines with great dedication to every facet of his craft.

Passion at a young age

Abdelrahman's interest in art started at a very young age. He used to spend hours surrounded by his clay and colors to create magnificent hand-made statuettes. As time passed by, he joined the Youth Creative Art Center to hone his artistic skills. He got introduced to many techniques at the center and started painting as well.

Art Exhibition

At the age of 17, Abdelrahman had all his artistic work presented in an official exhibition at the Youth Creative Art Center. The exhibition revealed his unique talent and was covered by local and regional media. The artist is inspired by many animation characters and he bases any work he produces on a draft drawing.

A Message to all young artists

Abdelrahman encourages all young artists to pursue their dreams and develop their talents. It takes perseverance and effort to reach a high artistic level but the end result is worth it.







UDST inaugurates the first educational Banking and FinTech Trading Room in the region

UDST has inaugurated on its premises an educational Banking and FinTech Trading Room, which is considered a first in the region. This new addition to the University's state-of-the-art educational facilities is meant to facilitate applied and experiential learning for students enrolled in the College of Business Management programs.

The event was attended by Mr. Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida, CEO, Qatar Financial Centre; Mr. Adel Al-Malki, GM Group Retail Banking, QNB; Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, UDST's President and a number of officials from the banking and finance sectors in Qatar including high-level representatives from Qatar Financial Centre, KPMG, Ernst & Young, Qatar Stock Exchange, Al Jazeera Media Network and London Stock Exchange Group.

Commenting on the event Dr. Salem Al-Naemi said: "We aim to develop our students' skills and competencies in a real-world setup, to graduate well-equipped talents capable of integrating into the workplace from day one. Our Banking and FinTech Trading Room will serve all our business management students and in particular, those enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Business Administration in Banking and Financial Technology program and the Bachelor of Applied Business Administration in Applied Accounting program. This room is a testament to the University's innovative approach to education. We wish to thank all the dignitaries that were present today at the opening and we look forward to initiating long-term collaboration with their respective institutions. We have many plans for the future of our Banking and FinTech Trading Room and the main highlight would be a collaborative research platform."

Mr. Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida added: "We encourage students to acquire the financial skill set needed for the

future. There is a big number of job vacancies created by Qatar Financial Centre and there are many openings in the financial market waiting for skilled and talented people the likes of UDST graduates. We look forward to hosting interns at our premises and collaborating on many new programs."

The state-of-the-art Banking and FinTech Trading Room brings innovative financial intelligence to UDST and provides a more engaging experience for students and faculty. The room enables students to hone new employment skills and further understand data-empowered decisions while undertaking accounting, finance, and financial modeling in an advanced setup. It provides real-time data sets and facilitates joint research projects with major entities from the finance, banking and business sectors.

During the opening, Ahmed Hafez, Business Director, Data & Analytics, London Stock Exchange Group said: "I would like to thank University of Doha for Science and Technology for their trusted partnership with the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) in powering this lab with data and analytics, bringing the next generation of financial intelligence to academic institutions and providing a more interactive learning experience for all students and faculty alike. This exciting opportunity will maximize applied learning for the students of the University with the richness of LSEG real-world market data, a powerful mix of news and unrivaled content coverage with cutting-edge web technology that is fast, light and intuitive. I also have to commend the exceptional vision of the University's leadership in bringing this visionary idea to life. It does not only need a lot of effort but also a lot of investment in the future. I can mention here that this is the first trading lab of its kind in any academic institution in the region and we take pride in partnering and supporting it."



Autism is not a Disability



World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated every year on April 2, to raise awareness about people with autism and the necessity to help improve their quality of life so they can become an integral part of society. The clearest definition is that autism – clinically referred to as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – is a different way of thinking, a neurological developmental difference that changes the way you relate to the environment and people around you. The experience of living with autism varies greatly from person to person and in this article, we share with you many famous people who proved that autism is not a disability.



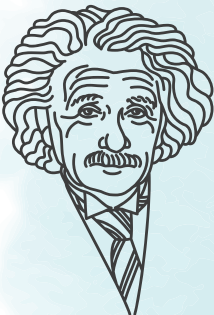
1. Sir Isaac Newton - Mathematician, Astronomer, & Physicist

Newton discovered the laws of gravity and motion and invented calculus. He is one example of a possible autism disorder. This historical figure attempted to isolate himself from others as much as possible. He did not enjoy social interactions and was thought to be awkward in conversations with others.



4. Bill Gates - Co-founder of the Microsoft Corporation

Gates is an American business magnate, software developer, investor, author, and philanthropist. Bill Gates is thought to have autism because he displays a rocking motion, a monotoned speech pattern, and avoids eye contact with others.



2. Albert Einstein - Scientist & Mathematician

Einstein is best known for developing the theory of relativity. As a child, he experienced severe speech delays and later echolalia. He was incredibly technical which led many experts to conclude that he appeared somewhere on the autism spectrum.



5. Nikola Tesla - Inventor

Tesla is best known for his contributions to the design of the modern alternating current electricity supply system. It is believed that Tesla had many phobias and that he was very sensitive to light and sound. He also preferred to be alone and is thought to have been obsessed with the number three.



3. Anthony Hopkins - Actor

He is an award-winning actor and was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome as a child. Some of his traits of ASD include obsessive thinking, difficulty maintaining friendships, and looking at people from a unique perspective.



6. Elon Musk - Entrepreneur

Elon Musk is one of the world's richest people, he co-founded the electronic payment firm PayPal and founded the spacecraft company SpaceX. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of the electric-car maker Tesla. Musk announced that he was on the autism spectrum while hosting the show, "Saturday Night Live," in May 2021. More specifically, he stated that he was "the first person with Asperger's" to host the show.

While a diagnosis of autism can lead to a number of challenges in a person's life, and for those around them, people with autism can also achieve great things, for themselves, their community and our world.

References: *The Spectrum; Behavioral Innovations.*



udst.edu.qa

Phone: +974 4495 2222

Email: info@udst.edu.qa

P.O. Box: 24449, Doha - Qatar

