



# UOS Times

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NEWS DAY  
EDITION





**We invite input and participation from our students to contribute to our news stories, features, and exclusives.**

**Share your creative talents with our publication**

*By our students, for our students.*

*Many thanks to our team,  
writers, and supervisors:*

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# | EDITOR'S *Note:*

**W**e're pleased to present to you the 12th edition of our publication! This edition came around much smoother than our previous edition, despite the looming pressure of final exams and projects. But I believe that this version presents many improvements compared to the last edition (Issue 11), though we still have much to learn and upgrade in terms of our skills in design and writing. I believe we made a few significant changes and tried experimenting with various elements to add to the visual and practical appeal of this issue (and we hope they are to your liking as well!).

I feel it is important to point out that this publication is often a laboratory publication, meaning students come together to experiment on the endless seas of writing, designing, editing, and printing. It also means that, more often than not, there will be flaws and mistakes within the issues that come out. It can be difficult to cultivate a magazine or newspaper that is up to the standard we see in the professional publications we buy at stores or pick up at the

airport, especially since our practical skills are still in the making – rigid and far from being polished; and sometimes our deficiencies can become a bit disheartening, especially if we can't live up to the expectations we place for ourselves and our work. But it's important to remember that that is the point of the process. To find where we lack and then learn, and to want to keep learning and strive to hone our skills to the greatest of our abilities with the resources we have.

Therefore, I'd like to say to the future creators of this publication; don't let the fear of not knowing something - whether it be a skill or otherwise; or the idea of venturing into a new unknown project dissuade you from taking a golden opportunity to learn. Don't shy away from a challenge, even if you might fail. Rather take them head on; throw yourself in the deep end, because you can never improve yourself if you're hindered by the fear of leaving your comfort zone. Improvement happens when you take on challenges and expose yourself to new environments, so do that!

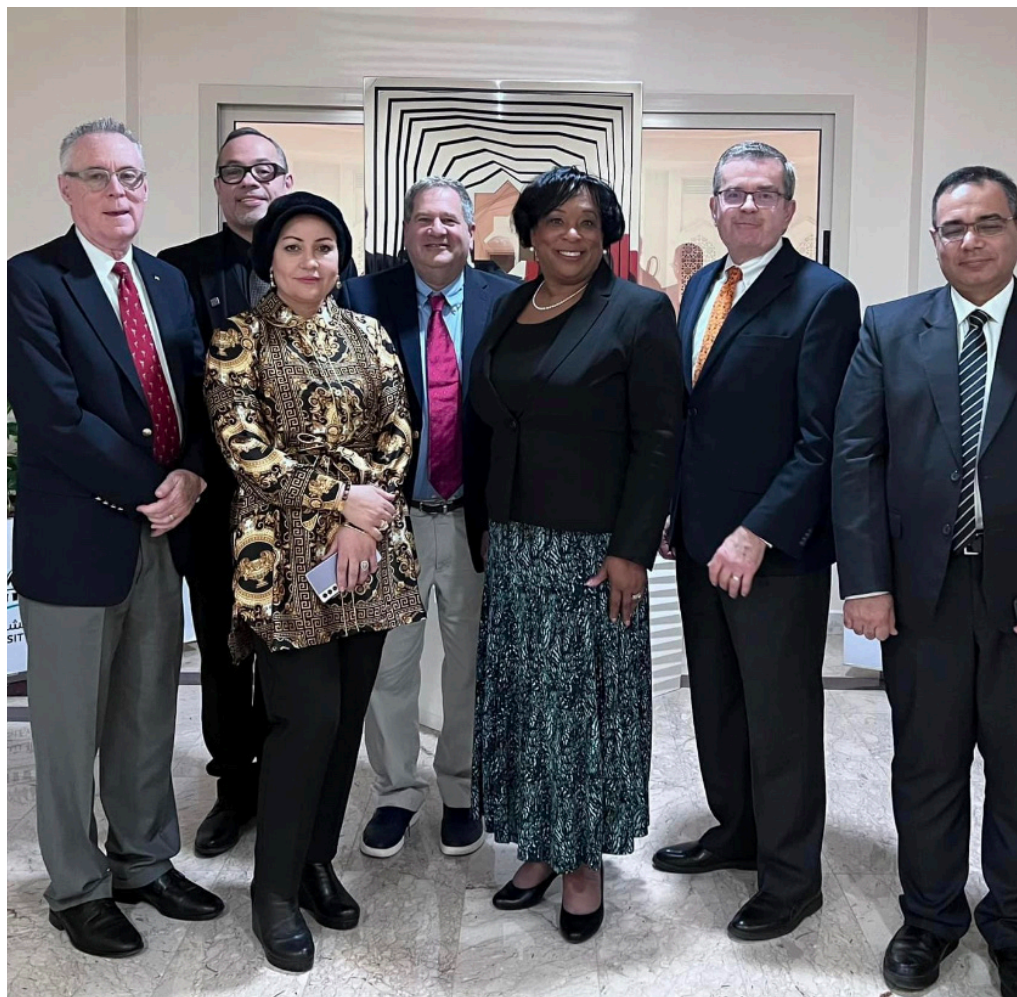
Experiment with this publication; discover what works, what doesn't, and what you can do to improve. And I assure you, our instructors will be more than welcoming of any opportunity for you to learn, so take it!

*- Chief Editor & Designer,  
Ayah Zalloum*



# The College of Communication Earns Reaccreditation with Flying Colours!

By: Ayah Zalloum



**T**he College of Communication has officially earned its Reaccreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications Committee (ACEJMC) for the next six years.

The Final decision of the official accreditation was announced in late April of this year, which marked the UOS College of Communication as one of the only 2 colleges to be recommended for accreditation by the ACEJMC in the region, and the only Arab university college present in the April screening.

The reaccreditation of the college required a three-step process which began in February of 2022 when the accreditation committee at the college, led by Dr Ahmed Farouk, with a comprehensive self-study of the entire college at the undergrad level, from the teaching to the student activities and advising.

**T**he first step was completed and submitted to the ACEJMC by November 2022. The next step involved the accreditation officials' visit to the College of Communication for a four-day comprehensive check and tour of the college. The board of officials arrived on the 5th of February and inspected everything from the equipment and classrooms to the students and their experiences.

"They interviewed the whole faculty, which doesn't happen normally, usually they select a few, but they interviewed all the faculty," explained Prof. Thouraya, who was part of and present with the accreditation committee during the officials visit.

**!!  
Being  
reaccredited by  
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Emirates."**

- Prof. Thouraya Snoussi

"They asked about everything, even meeting with the students and talking to them about their experiences and any issues they have. Finally, they recommended the reaccreditation for us on the 9th of February, which completed the 1st step".

The second step took place at the ACEJMC'S HQ in Chicago, where the chief of the committee that visited had to objectively present the colleges' case to the council board, which anonymously recommended the colleges' reaccreditation recommendation. The college had complied very well with 7 of the 8 standards observed by the committee, falling short only in terms of equipment and classroom

capacity. But Prof. Thouraya highlighted that the committee was pleasantly surprised with the diversity of the students within the college, a criterion which the college passed with relative ease compared to most other colleges. The reaccreditation of the college has a vital impact on the im-

age and reputation of the college and its recognition internationally. "We have to be visible. That's why if we're reaccredited by the American Organisation, which is the toughest of the accrediting organizations, it means that we are the best, at least here in the Emirates."

Having the reaccreditation by the council also encourages international students to come from abroad, which helps in globalising the college and further enhancing its reputation, which in turn aids in the college's vision "to become one of the top 200 communication colleges worldwide."

## College of Communication Graduates Success

By: Lamis Almohareb



University of Sharjah's Mass Communication College recently held its final week of the semester, which included the much-awaited graduation of final projects. The event was a culmination of months of hard work and dedication by the students, who had been preparing their projects for this momentous occasion.

To ensure the success of the submissions, the faculty and staff of the college had been working tirelessly in the weeks leading up to it, overseeing the preparations and ensuring that everything was in place. The students, too, had been putting in long hours of work, perfecting their projects and making sure that they were ready for

presentation.

One student spoke about the challenges he faced in preparing for the graduation. "It was a really difficult process," he said. "We had to work on our projects while also studying for exams and attending classes. There were many times when I thought I wouldn't be able to make it, but with the support of my friends and family, I was able to push through."

Despite the challenges, the student said that the experience was incredibly rewarding. "Seeing my project come to life was an amazing feeling," he said. "It made all the hard work and long hours worth it. I'm proud of what I was able to achieve, and I'm grateful to my professors and classmates for

their support."

The event itself was a joyous occasion, with students and faculty members coming together to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class. As each student presented their project, there were cheers and applause from the audience, a testament to the hard work and dedication that had gone into every project.

The graduation of final projects in Sharjah University's Mass Communication College was a resounding success, a testament to the dedication and hard work of the students and faculty members involved. The event was a fitting end to a semester that had been filled with challenges, but also with moments of triumph and achievement.



# UOS Hosts Open Day Event For High School Students

By: Bilal Khan

The University of Sharjah organized a two-day open-day event for high school students on the main campus on Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th. The event witnessed the participation of 5000 students from various schools across the Emirates. The event aimed to provide high school seniors with a first-hand experience of the university's beautiful environment and help them make informed decisions about their future studies.

The students began their university tour from the main building of the University of Sharjah, where they had the opportunity to explore more than 15 different colleges, including the medical campus and the university hospital, which is located at one km from the main building of the UOS. The event provided the students with a glimpse of the university's academic programs and facilities, as well as the chance to interact with faculty and enrolled students.

To make the tour more accessible, stu-



dents were provided with bus services to explore further areas of the university. The event was well-received by the participants, who expressed their excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to learn more about the university and its offerings.

"The open day event was a fantastic opportunity for us to see the university's campus and explore the different

academic programs. It was amazing to see the various research centres and labs that the university has to offer," said one of the students from Salman-al-Farsi school.

The University of Sharjah hopes that this event will help high school students make informed decisions about their future studies and encourage them to pursue higher education.

## Made in The College of Computing & Informatics Exhibition

By: Tala Osama



The College of Computing and Informatics ended the semester with their Made in CCI Exhibition, that took place in M11 on Wednesday, the 3rd of May.

The event started at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 1 in the afternoon; and was an opportunity for students, seniors, and others to showcase their hard work on their projects throughout the semester or year.

Senior students working on their projects in both Fall and Spring 22/23 did their best to market their projects and compete for a mon-



etary prize.

The exhibition was also an opportunity for students to win a place in the CCI exhibition project competition and win a prize. The best three projects were each chosen from Computer Science along with IT Multimedia and Computer Engineering.

Multiple judges went around listening and checking each project; Digitizing UoS dorms, RIO Game Engine, saving

parking spaces, and AI-run technology that can aid in medicine. That is to mention only a few projects the exhibition showcased. Each project team had the chance to explain and present their project in front of a group of judges, allowing the members to have their spotlight.

At the end of the event, the judges evaluated the projects and chose six winners to be the top three of their de-

partments.

Students agreed that top three or not, being able to showcase their projects and network with other students as well as those working in the computer field was the real reason the exhibition is successful. This was also a great opportunity for those that have newly entered the major to see their future potential.

# The First International Innovation X.0 Forum At UOS

By: Jawdat Alalami

The faculty of the College of Engineering at the University of Sharjah coordinated the First International Innovation X.0 Forum on Thursday, May 4, and was hosted for 6 hours from 10 am-5 pm.

The goal of the forum was to let engineering students build future technologies to speed up the digital transformation and benefit from the opportunities of Industry X.0 for more sustainability and productivity.

The forum kicked off with an incredible opening ceremony, featuring speeches from doctors who emphasized the significance of engineering in shaping the future.

The forum was also an opportunity for senior engineering students to present their design projects. Students presented their projects in front of an audience consisting of students, doctors, and even officials such as Prof Hamid Alnuaimi, the chancellor of the University of Sharjah.

There were 27 projects showcased at the event and 20 speakers that en-

gaged in discussions revolving around Smart Digital Green Technologies and their impact on society.

The event also allowed engineering students to compete on which engineering project was the best, and the winning

nuclear engineering project got the best results amongst the rest.

Some media students attended the forum and conducted interviews with engineering students who shared everything revolving around engineering, along with their experiences and feedback towards the event, and showcasing their projects to the media students.

As the event ended, officials from nearby businesses and organizations contacted the students to discuss prospective partnerships and possibly career prospects in the future.

The First International Innovation X.0 Forum proved to be an excellent venue for students to present their skills, make connections, and possibly pave the road to prosperous careers. The forum continued to become a major event on the academic calendar because of the uni-

versity's dedication to encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, highlighting the value of practical education and its ability to create a better future.

team receives cash of 2,000 DHS.

Four mechanical engineering students, Mohammad A M Zidan, Waleed Raed Mahmoud, Ahmed Zurgham Malik, and Muwaffaq Imran Mohammad, won the competition, as their mechanical



# Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi Inaugurates The Forum of Peoples' Cultures at UOS

By: Firas Bin Afif



**H**is Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi inaugurated the activities of the Peoples Cultures Forum, which is organized by the University of Sharjah on the 30th of April. His Highness toured the corridors of the pavilions participating in the events, after opening the forum which lasted for two days, and included 24 booths from different countries around the world.

During the forum, the students presented an introduction to the local cultures of each country, along with artistic and informational presentations to introduce them and the components of their cultural and civilizational heritage, with the provision of many popular foods and folklore items for those

countries.

The participating countries included: the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Libya, Morocco, So-

malia, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, Japan, Jordan, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Senegal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.

## Global Day UOS: The Melting Pot of Cultures in Sharjah

By: Jawaher Alsuwaidi

**T**he University of Sharjah Global Day, held on the 29th of April, was a massive success, with several thousands of visitors

across the Emirates.

Global Day is an annual event held by the University of Sharjah, focused on mixing cultures, ethnicities, and nationalities. Within the event, several country and group stalls are installed across the campus, each providing a purview into those specific cultures or nationalities tradition. Through the many offerings, such as live performances, music, and food offerings, Global Day at UoS is a marvel to behold.

Several thousands of visitors had flocked to UoS to attend the event,



each adoring their respective countries' traditional attire, from the scent of kunafe to the bouquet of mandi and the aroma of biryanis. On Global Day, they presented a host of cuisines which attracted visitors from around Sharjah. Similarly, the international

day event proved to be an ideal break ground for many of the entrepreneurs within UoS.

These entrepreneurs had set up their miniature stalls, which offered visitors a glimpse and taste into their offerings. These offerings included per-



fume stalls where visitors can make up their perfumes or even coffee stalls where the UoS students are an incredible success, garnering interest and support from fellow students and visitors alike. UoS plays an essential role in spearheading the success of these entrepreneurs on Global Day, where stall owners stated that they could experiment and market-test new products and ideas before

launching their products or offerings to the mass market. With the host of businesses, the critical highlighting feature of Global Day was the traditional performances.

The traditional performance played an important role in exhibiting the cultures' attires and music and using body language to express and depict emotions. With some of the iconic dances, such as the dabke and Indian

dances, visitors often found themselves in awe and mesmerized by these performances.

The commitment and support of the University of Sharjah towards Global Day have ensured visitors, performance, entrepreneurs, and cultures all were able to come together in this festive of cultures, a festival of nationalities, the annual University of Sharjah, Global Day.

# Mechanical Engineering Science Day

By: Moza Alsayegh

**T**he College of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sharjah organised the Mechanical Engineering Science Day in M6 on the 27th of April this year.

This event was among the highly awaited happenings of the year for devotees and scholars of mechanical engineering. The location was arranged with many displays and presentations featuring the most recent advancements in the realm of mechanical technology. Multiple booths exhibited 3D printing, robotics, and automation technologies, with specialists

available to respond to enquiries and exhibit their merchandise. Upon the arrival of the participants, the event coordinators greeted them warmly, having exerted considerable energy to ensure the triumph of this occasion.

The attendees received beverages and were provided with a summary of the schedule for the occasion. The main speakers were famous specialists in mechanical technology, and their presentations were enthusiastically awaited. The Speaker emphasised the significance of females in engineering and the necessity to motivate more females to pursue

professions in the area. Their oration was motivating, and numerous youthful females in the gathering were encouraged to follow professions in mechanical engineering. Following the opening remarks, the participants were able to investigate the displays and presentations. They managed to engage with the specialists and enquire about the most recent innovations and commodities in the domain. One of the most well-liked displays was the automaton exhibit, where visitors could witness a mechanical being in motion and discover its diverse parts and apti-

tudes. One well-liked display was the 3D replication booth, where visitors could witness how 3D replication innovation is transforming the approach, we fabricate commodities. As the day ended, the participants departed with a fresh recognition of mechanical engineering and its ability to influence the globe. The arrangers were content with the triumph of the occasion and anticipated organising additional comparable occasions in the time ahead. The Mechanical Engineering Science Day occasion was a genuine festivity of the mechanical engineering domain, and it displayed the enthu-

siasm and commitment of the specialists and fans that are propelling its advancement. Mechanical Engineering science day is celebrated in different manners across different regions of the world. Some of the most significant achievements in the field across the region are celebrated and discussed. Colleges of mechanical engineering are the first ones to celebrate the day. The UAE has witnessed a lot of growth and developments in the mechanical engineering field, all of which are celebrated and discussed in colleges, institutions, as well as organizations.



# SAASST at UOS Participate in SPACEOPS 2023

*By: Saood Mohammed*

The Sharjah Academy for Astronomy Space Science and Technology (SAASST) of the University of Sharjah (UOS) participated in the 17 edition of the International Conference on Space Operations (SpaceOps 2023). The conference was held at the Dubai World Trade Center from the 6th to the 10th of March under the theme 'Invest in Space to Serve the Earth and Beyond' with the participation of world-class scientists, researchers, engineers, and global leaders in the space industry. The SAASST engineers, Yousuf Faroukh, Mohamed BinAshour, Amel Al-Hammadi, and Abdullah Massoud, successfully presented their five papers during the conference. These papers showcased the engineering

achievements of the CubeSat and the Space Weather laboratories. Muhammad binAshour presented a scientific paper entitled (The absence of laws regulating the spread of space debris and its implications for Space operations). It also highlighted the importance of managing the spread of space debris and its implications for the sustainability of space activities. Abdullah Masoud presented his paper titled 'Seasonal Variation of the Ionic Delay of the GNSS System Observed Over the UAE,' in which he showcased the seasonal variation of the delay in the ionosphere observed in the UAE during the solar-minimum period. For her part, Amal Al-Hammadi presented two research papers titled 'Analysis of the SolSat CubeSat Satellite Mission Design' and 'Establishment of the S-Band



Ground Station'. SAASST also participated in a panel discussion on "Space Operations of the Cubesat/ Nanosat satellite" during the event.

## The Nanotech Revolution: Unlocking Economic Growth & Innovation

*By: Ghaya Alabdooli*

The University of Sharjah hosted a conference on the financial impacts of nanotechnology research, innovation, and commercialization titled 'Economic Impact of Research - Innovation and Commercialization of Nanotechnology' on the 1st of May 2023. The conference hosted several participants that included academics, researchers, and business leaders interested in the most recent developments and trends in nanotechnology. Professor Jackie Yi-Ru Ying was

the main speaker at the seminar, which was sponsored by Professor Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah. Professor Ying is the head of the Nano-BioLab in Singapore and a highly respected authority in nanotechnology. Professor Ying focused on the most recent developments in nanotechnology and how they have the potential to transform several industries, including healthcare, energy, and information technology throughout her talk. To properly use the potential of nanotechnology and spur eco-





conomic growth and job creation in the area, Professor Ying underlined the significance of collaboration between researchers, industry experts, and politicians. She also emphasized how important a role nanotechnology may play in combating issues like illness prevention, renewable energy, and climate change.

The conference was attended by representatives from top universities, research centres, and commercial businesses in the UAE and elsewhere. Participants got the chance to interact with experts and colleagues to explore the most recent developments in nanotechnology research and applications.

"I am thrilled to have been invited to speak at this seminar and to have the opportunity to engage with such a diverse audience," declared Pro-

fessor Ying. "We must cooperate to take advantage of nanotechnology's potential and meet the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead. Nanotechnology has the power to revolutionize many facets of our existence."

**"Nanotechnology has the power to revolutionize many facets of our existence."**

- Prof. Jackie Yi-Ru Ying

The gathering of top researchers and industry players in the field of nanotechnology was praised by attendees. Many expressed their hope that related occasions would take place in the future to further the dialogue and foster cooperation and

innovation in the area.

Professor Hamid Al Naimiy stated, "The University of Sharjah is dedicated to encouraging creativity and research excellence as well as supporting the development of new technologies that may benefit society and spur economic progress in the area. We were privileged to host this conference and to have such esteemed visitors and lecturers on our campus."

The conference emphasized the expanding significance of nanotechnology as a significant engine of innovation and economic development in the UAE and elsewhere. The guests of the program got insightful knowledge about the potential of nanotechnology and a greater comprehension of the necessity of teamwork to realize that potential.

## Launch of The Sharjah Reading Festival 2023

REGIONAL |

By: Alanoud Jaber Eid

**T**he Sharjah Book Authority announced the launch of the fourteenth session of the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival, starting

on May 3, 2023, and its activities will end on May 14, 2023.

The initiative was organized under the slogan "Shaping Minds" at the Sharjah Expo Centre under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi; and the patronage of his wife, Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Bint Mohammed Al Qasimi.

This initiative targets children of all ages to urge them to continue reading and to reveal to them the advantages of books in their various variations. Ghaith Al Hosani, the spokesman for the Events Department, says, "The Sharjah

Children's Reading Festival is one of the main pillars that we target children with and urge them to develop their intellectual and mental images to open new horizons in excellence



and creativity".

This festival is characterized by many unique activities and motivating competitions for children, as Ghaith said, "We set out in this particular version of the vision of the

United Arab Emirates, considering this year as the year of sustainability. We created an initiative and called it Stars of Science; a group of children participated in it with sustainable inventions that they created to display here at the fair for the rest of the visitors."

141 Arab and foreign publishing houses are participating in this festival. Saber Atallah, Director of Edutec Publishing and Distribution House, talks about his participation in this festival.

"We are a company specializing in children's books and we are keen to participate in this exhibi-

tion every year. We have a wide variety of books on everything related to the interests of children of different Ages such as books on climate, environment, purposeful behaviours, and other entertainment books.

Saber also added, "We are always keen to choose the best books for children, and we also choose the best writers who can convey information to the child simply and enjoyably." There are many publishing houses, and that is why the competition becomes strong among them. "We try to provide the best modern technologies, such as audiobooks, so that children can enjoy reading them, and they will also



# Sharjah Animation Conference Inspires Nostalgia & Showcases Industry Giants

By: Zainah Al Shanan

The Sharjah Animation Conference (SAC) invited animation professionals from around the world during its three-day event at Expo Center Sharjah, starting on May 3, 2023. Organized by the Sharjah Book Authority, the conference aimed to honour the artistry and innovation within the animation industry. The opening day kicked off with a panel discussion titled "Discovering the Future of Kids Entertainment: The Story of Spacetoon." The panel delved into the channel's journey and offered valuable insights into the future of children's entertainment. Spacetoon held a special place in the hearts of attendees, as it is the beloved channel that shaped the childhood of many adults in the country. Renowned artists added their expertise and experiences to SAC, including Mamoru Yokota, known for his work on popular anime series such as "Naruto Shippuden," "One Piece," and "Death Note." Yokota's stage presence captivated the audience as he shared valuable insights into the animation industry. Pascal Charrue, CEO of Fortiche Production, and creator of the ac-

claimed animation series "Arcane," also took the stage. Charrue fascinated the audience as he revealed the creative choices behind bringing the unique world of "Arcane" to life. Based on the characters of the popular game "League of Legends," the series has amassed a dedicated following, making Charrue's insights highly anticipated. Mario Brioschi, DFX supervisor at MPC, shed light on the significance of compositing and lighting in creating an immersive viewing experience. Brioschi's behind-the-scenes insights from his work on the highly anticipated TV series "House of the Dragon" captivated the audience, showcasing the importance of his expertise. Each day of the conference concluded with the enchanting melodies of the Florence Pop Orchestra, performing musical pieces from beloved animated series and films. Their nostalgic tunes provided the perfect ending to a conference dedicated to the animation and audiovisual industry. Throughout the conference, attendees enjoyed screenings of timeless animated movies like "Coco" and "My Neighbor Totoro," reliving cherished moments and acknowledging their enduring

help them read and learn difficult terms," Saber says.

A group of accredited entities and important persons, including cultural institutions, associations, producers of educational media, public libraries, as well as media outlets, and book fairs from around the world, participate in the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival.



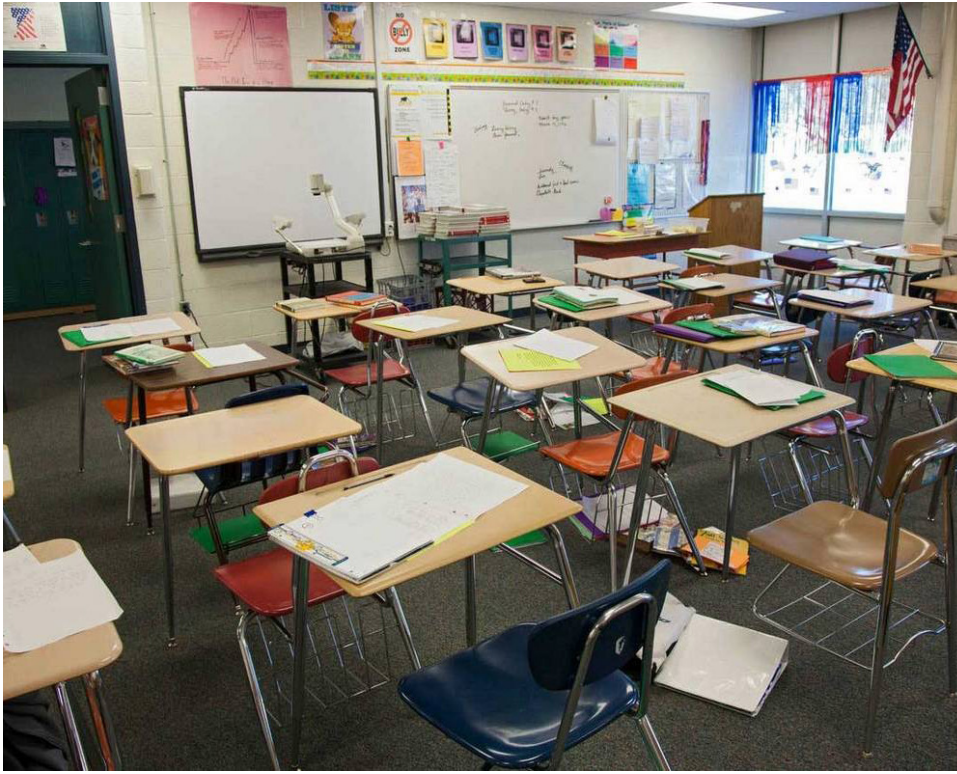
impact on the industry.

The resounding success of the inaugural Sharjah Animation Conference marked a significant milestone for the animation community. As the curtains closed on this remarkable conference, organizers and participants eagerly anticipate future editions of SAC, envisioning even greater discoveries and advancements in the vibrant world of animation.



# UAE's New Schools' Rating Systems

By: Emadeldin Ali



The UAE educational authorities have introduced a new rating system for their schools. It was reported by the Arabian business news website, that schools in Abu Dhabi will be ranked based on the national identity program, which was created by the Abu Dhabi Department of education and Knowledge (ADEK) and is called the national identity mark.

This school rating will be evaluated separately from the yearly Irtiq'a program, which measures the quality of the education. The national identity mark program aims to increase Emirati students understanding of UAE's traditions, customs, and values.

It will be evaluated in three categories. Firstly culture: including history and heritage. secondly values: including respect, compassion, and global understanding. Finally, citizenship: including belonging, volunteering, and conservation. The national identity program is implemented and evaluated to ensure that Emirati students are learning about UAE's culture and heritage.

## UAE Sends Food & Medical Supplies to Sudan

By: Abdulaziz Abughabin



copy kits, and other essential medical supplies were on board the two planes that landed at Port Sudan Airport. The supplies will be utilized to treat injuries and perform emergency surgery in Sudan. The third plane, carrying 15 tons of food, landed in Chad to help the thousands of Sudanese refugees who have fled their homes because of the mounting disaster.

The UAE's leadership has ordered the aid effort, according to Sultan Al Shamsi, assistant minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation for international development affairs.

Since the beginning of the fighting between competing military factions in Sudan, the UAE has provided more

than 240 tons of medical and food supplies. They have also helped evacuate 744 foreign nationals, including diplomats and their families, and have flown dozens more to safety.

On Sunday, 178 passengers from seven different countries flew in from Sudan to the United Arab Emirates.

The government of the United Arab Emirates has stated that it will continue to place a premium on the safe evacuation of the sick, children, the old, and women, and will give shelter and assistance to the evacuees until they can be returned home safely.

Experts believe that if the crisis continues to grow, 2.5 million people would go hungry and 1 million may flee their homes as a result.

Since violence broke out in Sudan on April 15, Saudi Arabia has also worked with the United States and its allies to establish a ceasefire.

On Monday, 8th of May, the United Arab Emirates dispatched three assistance planes to deliver 115 tons of food and medicine to Sudan and neighbouring Chad. Antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, wound bandages, surgical tape, endos-



# Online Communication: Where Is It Getting Humanity To?

By: Zaina Qwaisy

*Communication is what builds entities, shapes personalities, and expresses brilliance. So why lock yourself in the darkness of online communication, while you can enjoy the spark of its real essence?*



We all agree that the invention of the internet made our lives easier, faster, and funnier, and saved a lot of time and effort that would have been wasted otherwise. But the most important thing that the internet did is that it contributed to the invention of something more beneficial, which is the SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM. Of course, we all know how the different social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Instagram altered our lives, particularly our means of communication, making it faster, easier,

and even more effective. But have you ever wondered about what would happen if we relied too heavily on social media platforms to communicate with others around us?!

Many of you believe that using social media platforms to communicate with others, and doing this over and over till it becomes your only way of communication is not a big deal, what is the issue in doing that? But you might be amazed to know that doing this, can lower your communication skills and your self-confidence over time.

According to a survey that was conducted for over 500 participants from a large western city, 30-40% of the participants reported that using social media as their main way of communication made them forget some basic social skills making it awkward and not comfy to communicate with people face to face. Imagine that 30-40% of 500 people reported suffering from this issue, so what if this survey was conducted for more than 500 people, how many of us will turn out to be lacking real communication skills, and be afraid of communicating with people in person?

Even without surveys, we can notice from many real-life experiences and situations that when we are relying on social media to communicate with others, we are hiding behind a wall away from the real essence of real-life communication, we are relying on short versions of the messages such as “kk”, “IGA,” “ASAP,” etc., and on stickers and emojis to express our feelings and thoughts. Whenever you are thankful, immediately replace the real appreciation words with a lovely sticker. Whenever it is someone’s birthday, do not wish their best dreams to come true, only send them a celebratory emoji. To what extent are we getting by replacing our precious languages with those abbreviations, stickers, and emojis?

After a while of extensive reliance on those new ways of expressing ourselves, after a while of using nothing but our amazing collections of abbreviations and stickers, we will of course experience some losses of our real communication skills. So whenever we are put in real-life situations where we are required to use real words to communicate with someone in person, we that

we have forgotten or lost all our communication skills, to the extent that we cannot even say a couple of meaningful sentences, or at least respond appropriately to what is being said. We find ourselves too shy and lacking the self-confidence that enables us to talk with others or at least express our thoughts, ideas, or our inquiries sometimes. We only have good stickers, good emojis, and good abbreviations and shortcuts for our messages.

You might also believe that relying too heavily on social media to communicate with people does not have any effect on your moral values. As you know moral values are personal traits that we are born with and cannot really be changed or affected easily. But you might be surprised to know that it can affect some of your moral values or traits.

According to a recent survey, a quarter of the respondents reported that certain values like patience, respect and tolerance are lost when communicating online. According to another survey, surprisingly 50-70% of the participants reported that they received



more aggressive replies from people while communicating online, contrary to the calm replies they received from the same people while communicating face to face.

What we can conclude from these two surveys is that people lose some of their moral traits when excessively communicating online. That includes mainly the three traits of patience, respect, and decency. People tend to be less patient while communicating online because they are always used to the fast replies in an hour or two, and if someone delayed them for more than that, they become too angry, and mad, and burn like a flame! They do not get the idea that others do have real lives, commitments, or maybe bad days, and are not always willing or free to text or engage with them, which makes them -eventually- less patient and less understanding.

Communicating online also prevents

us from knowing the tone of the communicator, and whether for example, he is happy or mad. Calm or angry? So, if someone wrote us a sensitive message without emojis for example, we immediately claim that he is talking to me aggressively, "he is mad at me, he is being rude and cold, he is trying to make a problem." And it turns out that the person is not even angry or "trying to make a problem", he just forgot that emoji or that sticker. Misunderstandings and irritations would not have occurred if that was an in-person communication where the tone of the communicator is known.

Also, communicating online prevents us from interpreting people's facial expressions, body language, or non-verbal cues. We cannot know whether they are okay or not, even if we asked them how they are doing, there is always a possibility that they are not telling us the truth. We cannot know whether they are happy or sad

We cannot know if they are interested in and enjoying the conversation or bored and hoping it to come to an end, and so many other things that we cannot know or interpret. The contrary to in-person communication where all these things are visible for us to know and notice.

I hope we set ourselves free from these imaginary fake online communication settings that we are locking ourselves in to the extent that we are losing the meaning of how two human beings are communicating with each other in person. Let's go beyond our phone screens, meet people, communicate with them in person in real-life environments, and use real languages and real expressions. Eventually, remember not to rely too heavily on social media as your only way to communicate with people, and always seek the real face-to-face communication essence.

## The Magic of Storytelling Lives on Through 66-Year-Old 'Hakawati'

By: Shamma Mohamed Alkhateri

**H**ashem Kaddoura, a 66-year-old

Emirati man dressed in traditional Emirati kandura, has become an icon at the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival (SCRF) for his storytelling prowess. Despite the widespread use of technology

and artificial intelligence among children, Kaddoura has captured their attention with his captivating storytelling about space and sustainability. He has become the unofficial 'hakawati' (storyteller) at the festival, which aims to promote children's literature and education.

Kaddoura's love for storytelling began when he was young, as he sat around



his grandparents waiting for them to tell stories of their times. The joy of listening to these tales inspired him to become a storyteller himself. He has been telling stories for over two decades, and his expertise lies in connecting with children who are still receptive to good stories.

"I am loving it because it involves connecting with children who, I feel, are

still receptive to good stories. I am amazed that some things haven't changed and it's just like how we sat around our grandparents when we were small, waiting for them to tell stories of their times. Only the setting has changed," he said.

Being a 'hakawati' is just one of the many hats he has

worn in his lifetime, but it is among his favourites. He has worked in various fields, including as an air traffic controller, a tour guide, and a commercial pilot. However, he always found solace in storytelling, which he sees as a way to preserve Emirati cultural heritage and promote education among children.

The SCRF, which began in 2009, has

become one of the most popular children's reading festivals in the region. This year, the festival brought together 141 Arab and international publishers and hosted as many as 1,732 events featuring 457 authors, artists, illustrators, and experts from 66 countries. The theme for this year's festival was 'Train your Brain', with a focus on promoting cognitive development among children.

The festival allowed kids and families to pick up the latest titles in children's literature from 93 Arab and 48 foreign publishers. Among the top participating countries in this edition were the UK, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the US, Australia, India,

Pakistan, Algeria, and Iraq. The UAE topped the list of participating countries, with 77 publishers, followed by Lebanon with 12 publishers.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the SCRF was able to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for children to learn and grow through reading and storytelling. The festival's organizers took several measures to ensure the safety of attendees, including setting up sanitization stations, requiring masks to be always worn, and limiting the number of people allowed in each event.

Kaddoura's storytelling skills have become a highlight of the festival, with children eagerly gathering around him

to listen to his tales. He beats gadgets and LED screens in capturing the attention of his young audience, proving that the magic of storytelling is alive and well in the age of technology.

"That's the magic of storytelling, and I am glad I can keep it alive in some way in this day and age," said Kaddoura, who's spending his time at the SCRF. Through his storytelling, Kaddoura hopes to inspire a love for reading and learning among children and preserve Emirati cultural heritage. He is a testament to the fact that storytelling is a timeless art that can capture the hearts and minds of people of all ages, even in the face of modern technology.

## King Charles III's Coronation: a Debate on The Will of The Crown or The People

*By: Roudha Hussain Lootah*

**M**ay 6th, 2023 marked a historic day, not only for the United Kingdom but the whole world. Twenty million people watched the coronation ceremony as His Highness King Charles III finally took the crown after his mother Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8th, 2022. After 70 years, King Charles III waited the longest as heir to the throne in history. After seven decades since the last coronation on June 2nd, 1953, there is a world of difference in the ceremony, how it was perceived and the mindset of viewers.

A fundamental point of debate was whether there should be a coronation ceremony in the first place or not. Those opposing the ceremony had varying reasons, from a political ideology that prefers a fully democratic electoral system rather than a monarchy, to not being able to justify such a high cost coming from taxpayers' pockets.

The coronation ceremony is undoubtedly an ancient tradition that goes back hundreds of years. But the

priority of today's people drastically shifted and do not necessarily see the value of the government spending millions of pounds for something that does not have any benefit to the people. Taxpayers were therefore enraged at the £50 million and £100 million price point of the ceremony.

A YouGov poll this month revealed that 64% of UK citizens don't care very much or care at all about the event, and only 9% of the respondents cared.

about keeping the tradition of the ceremony alive. I understand the frustration of the people because, with the current constitution, Charles III is bound to be king whether a coronation ceremony was conducted or not. Looking from a



broader perspective, the uncertainty of the global economy and political stability is a much more important issue to consider, and the money could have been spent more wisely for the sake of the UK's economy and the welfare of its citizens.

The critical sentiment was clear during the ceremony as hundreds of anti-monarchies rallied and caused chaos by shouting, "You are not my king," which led to 65 people getting arrested.



This led to a further uproar by people demanding their right to freedom of speech. Constitutional monarchies need to balance their royal traditions and democratic obligations. Admittedly, the ceremony was beautifully executed, and I enjoyed having experienced such a monumental event during my lifetime. However, I do not agree that the people should pay the exuberant cost, especially in times of high inflation, neighbouring conflict in Europe and

the uncertain economic conditions of the world in general. I think that King Charles III, a billionaire, could have afforded to do the same ceremony using his own money, while taxes collected should have been used for improving public services and the overall quality of life of the people in the UK. This would have been a great first impression of the King, both in terms of traditional glamour and showing his care for the people.



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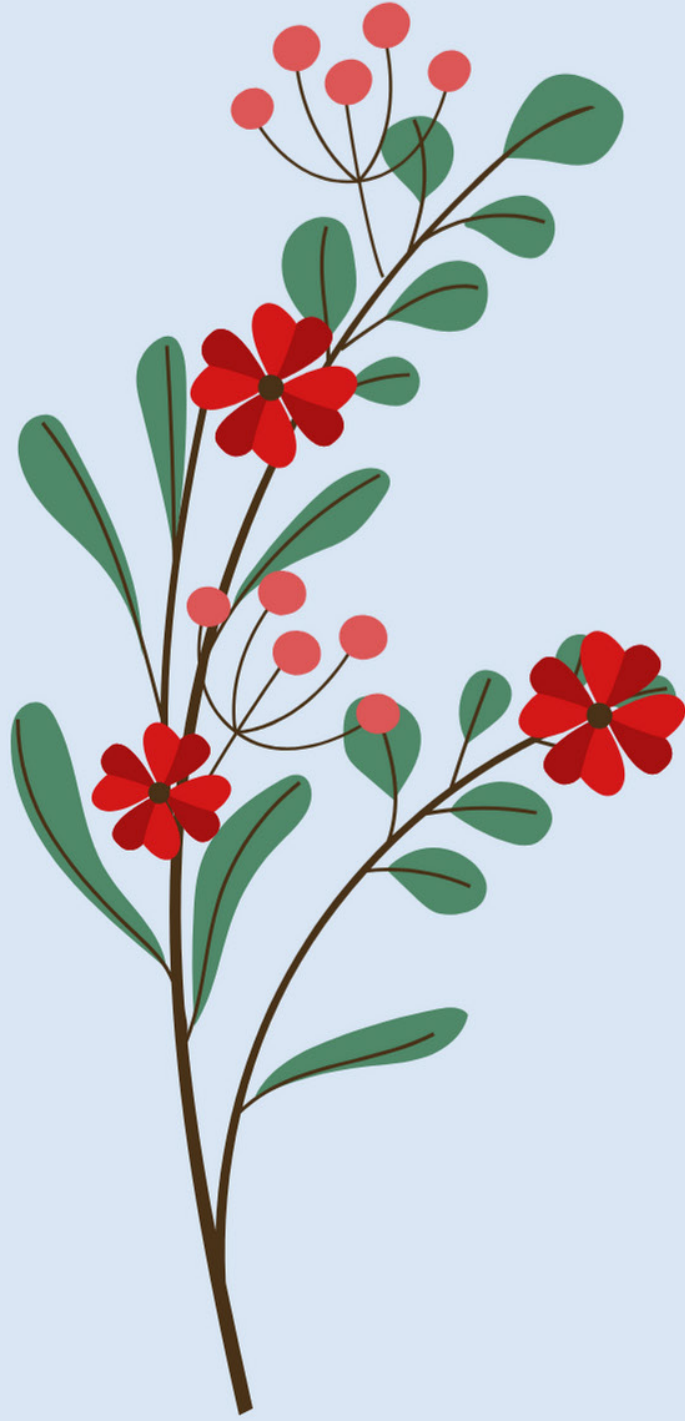
**ENTERTAINERS**

**RIDDLES:**

- I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?
- What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?
- A girl has as many brothers as sisters, but each brother has only half as many brothers as sisters. How many brothers and sisters are there in the family?

*Answers: 1. A map - 2. The letter 'R' - 3. Four sisters and three brothers.*

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