



# National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences



Vol: 5 Issue: 1

September 2013

## Convocation at Lahore Campus

## 547 students conferred degrees

Around 547 students were awarded degrees at 33<sup>rd</sup> convocation of FAST-NU Lahore Campus on July 15. One student received PhD in Mathematics, while 107 graduate and 439 undergraduate students also received their degrees. About 17 students were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for their exceptional performance during their academic years.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Provincial Minister for Education, Punjab, was the chief guest on this auspicious occasion. Chancellor FAST-NU Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Rector Dr. Amir Muhammad, Dean Dr. Ayub Alvi, Director Lahore Campus Dr. Arshad Hussain, faculty members and parents were also present in the ceremony.

Dr. Amir Muhammad thanked the chief guest for sparing his precious time to grace the event. He congratulated all the graduates while advising them to enhance University's stature by serving the nation with utmost passion and spirit. He presented an overview of the progress made by the University on academic and research fronts within a short span of time. He particularly mentioned the collaboration between the Punjab Government and the FAST-NU for providing financial support to the talented but underprivileged students to help them realize their potential through the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund.

Rana Mashhood, while congratulating the graduates, urged them to look for new avenues in their professional life for accepting and introducing a change. He commended the progress made by the FAST-NU in various fields of academic excellence. Earlier, Dr. Arshad Hussain welcomed the guests and presented an overview of the academic activities at the campus.



## Convocation at Karachi Campus

## 281 students received degrees

As many as 281 students including two PhD, 45 Master and 234 Bachelor students were conferred upon degrees at 33<sup>rd</sup> convocation of FAST-NU held on August 17 at the Karachi Campus. Engineer Syed Abdul Qadir Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) was the chief guest of the ceremony.

PhD degrees were awarded in Computer Sciences. Bachelor degrees were awarded in three disciplines including Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Business Administration. While, Master degrees were awarded in four disciplines which included Computer Science, Software Project Management, Computer Networks and Management Science. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the position holders. Huzefa Fakhruddin received Gold medal in MS Software Project Management, Madiha in BBA, Lamak Qaizar Yunus in BS Computer



Science and Naveed Ur Rehman received Gold medal in BS Electrical Engineering.

Besides, parents of the graduating students, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, President, Board of Governors, FAST, Mr. Nisar A. Memon, Member BoG, Dr. Abdul Wahab, Member BoG, Dr. Amir Muhammed, Rector, and Dr. Zubair A. Shaikh, Director, Karachi Campus, attended the remarkable ceremony.



Engineer Syed Abdul Qadir Shah congratulated the management and the faculty members for their determination and commitment to impart quality education and promote culture of research among students.

**“ FAST-NU has truly built up its reputation as a unique institution of higher learning and excellence focused on promoting quality ”**

Mr. Wasim Sajjad said, “we believe that empowerment of our youth through advanced education is critical to realize the cherished goal of a tolerant, moderate and progressive Pakistan.” From the beginning, FAST-NU has truly built up its reputation as a unique institution of higher learning and excellence focused on promoting quality education at an

affordable cost. He added, “we are constantly on the look out to hire qualified and competent faculty as a matter of priority.” The faculty development is an integral part of our policy, he said. Dr. Zubair A. Shaikh also congratulated the students, their parents and faculty members.

## Achievement

# FAST-NU Lahore starts cloud computing course

Dr. Bushra Anjum, Assistant Professor, Computer Science at Lahore Campus, has managed to win the Education Coursework grant of US\$ 5,100 from Amazon Web Services (AWS) for providing hands-on training to students in Cloud Computing at Lahore Campus. This was the result of her exceptional contribution in innovative teaching.

Dr. Bushra Anjum, who teaches Software Engineering, developed an idea of teaching 'Cloud Computing' as a new course. This idea developed during a series of guest lectures, which she arranged in Fall-2012 semester, where academicians, researchers and practitioners from the industry were invited to share their experience, wisdom and latest technologies with the students. A lecture on Cloud Computing using AWS by Mr. Abdul Qadeer, Research Manager, Alkhwazimi Institute, UET, was delivered.

The idea of this new course was supported by the Head of Computer Science department. However, the main hurdle was procurement of cloud related computing resources to enable students to get hands-on training during the course. Cloud platforms require payment for per hour usage. Dr. Bushra Anjum approached AWS for the grant, which was approved after proper evaluation and scrutiny. US\$ 5,100 are being utilized to provide required facilities for cloud related practical training to about 40 to 45 students for one year.

The course started successfully in Spring-2013 semester. Dr. Anjum manages AWS student accounts and credits, while active lecturing is handled by Mr. Abdul Qadeer. Forty students have been registered under this program. Dr. Anjum and Mr. Abdul Qadeer have already been contacted by the Punjab University for consultancy on starting a similar course.



## FAST-NU appoints 79 new faculty members

The meetings of Selection Boards of Chiniot-Faisalabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar campuses have selected 79 new faculty members in various disciplines for appointment after thorough scrutiny and defined process and procedure of the University. Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers and Lab Instructors were selected for various departments including Computer Science (CS), Electrical Engineering (EE), FAST School of Management (FSM) and Science and Humanities Department in all five campuses.

Rector Dr. Amir Muhammad, Dean Academics Dr. M. Ayub Alvi, Registrar University and Secretary Selection Board Dr. Muhammad Latif Virk, directors of respective campuses, departmental heads and subject experts attended the meetings. Among 79 faculty members, 21 selected for Islamabad Campus, 15 for Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus, 15 for

Lahore, 10 for Peshawar and 18 were selected for Karachi Campus.

FAST-NU has selected ten new PhD faculty members in various departments including Dr. Zia-ul-Qayyum, Professor CS, Dr. Mukhtar Ullah, Associate Professor EE, Dr. Ataul Aziz Ikram, Associate Professor EE, Dr. Naseer Ahmad, Assistant Professor Mathematics, Dr. Muhammad Afzaal, Assistant Professor EE, Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Assistant Professor EE, Dr. Shuja-Ul-Islam, Assistant Professor Management Sciences, Dr. Aarij Mahmood Hussain, Assistant Professor CS, Dr. Hammad Naveed, Assistant Professor CS, and Dr. Haider Mehdi, Assistant Professor EE. The management welcomes all of them on board and hopes they will perform a key role in imparting quality education and enhancing research capabilities of their students.

## Paper published in "Engineering Fracture Mechanics"

Dr. Syed Yasir Alam, Assistant Professor in Department of Civil Engineering, Lahore Campus, has achieved a milestone. His research paper has been published in a renowned journal "Engineering Fracture Mechanics." Dr. Yasir wrote his research paper on "Crack Propagation and Size Effect in Concrete Using a Non-Local Damage Model." Engineering Fracture Mechanics is a famous and reputed engineering journal in the field of engineering research and development. Dr. Yasir, in his paper, has highlighted that size effect is a major issue in concrete structures. Experimental and numerical investigations on the influence of size effect on crack opening, crack length and crack propagation are presented in his paper. An isotropic non-local strain softening damage constitutive law is adopted for the numerical model.

The material characteristic length is calibrated using an optimization algorithm and a post-processing method is chosen to obtain information on cracking. Numerical global and local results are compared with the experimental data and conclusions are drawn on the advantages and limitations of the adopted modeling strategy to reproduce size effect in concrete structures.

This is a moment of great pride for the management, faculty members and students of FAST-NU. We congratulate Dr. Yasir Alam on his achievement.



## Faisalabad campus holds orientation ceremony

FAST-NU Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus organized an orientation ceremony on August 19 to brief the newly enrolled students of Fall-2013 on the culture and academic system of FAST-NU. Campus Director Dr. Aftab Maroof urged the students to try to excel in academic as well as in extracurricular activities so that they could become confident, balanced and active members of the society. The ceremony was attended by parents, faculty, staff and students.

Dr. Aftab said, "we are responsible to sharpen your skills and boost your innate qualities by providing you a conducive environment for learning and personal development." He expressed his commitment to take all possible steps to ensure seamless facilities for the students. Dr. Zia-ul-Qayyum, Head of Computer Science Department and Mr. Ahmad Usman, Head of FAST School of Management also addressed the students.

## Best Teacher Award

Dr. Asif Gondal of FAST-NU Islamabad Campus has received the Higher Education Commission's 'Best University Teachers Award' for the year 2012. The award consists of a certificate and cash prize. The evaluation for the best university teacher was finalized by the awards committee keeping in view the qualification, teaching, research and co-curricular activities of the nominees.

Excellence in academics has been a hallmark of Dr. Asif Gondal. He was also declared amongst the most productive scientists of Pakistan by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. Dr. Gondal is also one of the authors of the OSP teachers and students' manuals.

The management and faculty of FAST-NU congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award. This esteemed award is a testimony to Dr. Gondal's commitment and devotion towards his profession and students.



## FAST-NU holds technology contest

Dr. Javed Abbas Bangash, Director, Directorate of Science and Technology (DOST), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has urged the youth to follow the footprints of the glorious Muslim scientists and mathematicians. He was addressing the opening ceremony of the 4th All Pakistan National University Technology Contest (NUTEC 2013) organized by FAST-NU Peshawar Campus on May 4 to May 5. Dr. Bangash appreciated the initiative of the Campus and NUTEC Team for conducting NUTEC in KPK. He said NUTEC was an opportunity to liaise between academia and industry.

Providing students an opportunity to demonstrate and upgrade their creativity, NUTEC engaged 694 participants representing more than 40 institutes in several technological competitions including software projects exhibition, speed programming competition, on board circuit design, hardware projects exhibition, business plan competition, business case simulation, quiz competitions in computer science, electrical engineering, applied mathematics and business management, short movies, ad making and e-gaming. Musical evening was also the highlight of the event.

A unique idea that distinguished this year's program was of setting up a global village (GV). The GV provided an opportunity to the students to demonstrate both international and local cultures. This highlighted the significance of creating an atmosphere of international harmony. "NUTEC 2013 was termed as a huge success."

The chief guest of the closing ceremony Prof. Dr. M. Rasool Jan, Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar, appreciated the efforts put in by the NUTEC team and encouraged students to continue with these kinds of efforts. Director FAST-NU Peshawar Prof. Dr. Fazli Qayyum thanked the sponsors, judges, NUTEC faculty advisors, organizers, participants, students and visitors. Shields and cash prizes were distributed amongst the winners and runner-ups of different events. Shields were also awarded to the student organizers of the NUTEC team.



## FAST-NU secures third position in HEC ranking

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has placed FAST-NU at third position in the ranking of Pakistani universities of medium scale for year 2013 on the basis of quality and research. The primary purpose behind ranking process was to drive the higher education institutions (HEIs) towards improved quality, research and promote a culture among rankings.

Ranking is one of the measures to scale the excellence and international recognition in promoted a culture of participation in the reflection of Pakistan's higher education criteria for the universities revolve around three quality assurance criteria, teaching quality and 2011-12 provided by HEIs.



result of efforts of the institutions to achieve education, research and innovation. This activity also world university rankings which led to significant development at the international level. Ranking main parameters including implementation status of research. The ranking 2013 was based on the data of year

The management of FAST-NU has expressed its commitment to achieving excellence in quality education and research.

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