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GCU EFT Awards Scholarships To 348 Deserving Students

The Government College University Lahore Endowment Fund Trust (GCU EFT) awarded scholarships worth Rs 12.29 million to the university's 348 financially challenged students at the Annual Scholarship Distribution and Fundraising Dinner 2016 at the Bukhari Auditorium. Prof Dr Zahir Ahmed Siddiqi, a Distinguished Professor and poet, who recently donated all his life-time savings including worth Rs 140 million land to the trust, was the Chief Guest at the ceremony which was also attended by the GCU EFT's donors.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor appreciated the untiring efforts of the GCU EFT executive committee members, Mr. Iqbal Z. Ahmed, Mian Misbah ur Rehman, Mian Muhammad Ashraf, Mr. Javaid Oberia, Mr. Zia Rizvi and Dr. Khalid Maznoor Butt for the development of the university's fund which now has cash reserves of more than Rs 215 million. He advised the recipients of scholarships that GCU EFT Executive Committee members should be their role models who are successful in their lives and are now paying back to their alma mater by supporting its students who could not afford their academic expenses.

Mr. Iqbal Z. Ahmad, President GCU EFT, announced to construct a 400-bed Girls' Hostel at GCU by the trust from the donations by Old Ravians. However, he said that seed money of Rs 30 million had been allocated from the GCU EFT's profits for the project worth total Rs 200 million. He also announced the first donation of Rs five million for the hostel from his pocket.

Addressing the audience, Prof. Dr. Zahir Siddiqi said "to him, the biggest virtue in the cotemporary world is to support education of financially-challenged students."

Eminent industrialist Mian Misbah-ur-Rahman said the culture and trends of supporting education and deserving students was developing in Pakistan. He said that he would continue his efforts for mobilizing Old Ravians for the development of his alma mater.

Later, inspired by the transparency and credentials of the recipients of the scholarships the Old Ravians including Hamza Tariq Sufi, Mian Asad Bashir, Ahsan Saeed Mian, Prof Dr Safdar Ali Malik, Mian Dawood Afzal, Aqtidar Ahmad, Brig Muhammad Jamal, Rehmat Ullah Oberoi, M Akhtar Nonari, Khawar Masud Butt, Brig (r) Dabeer Razvi, Iqbal Z Ahmad and Tayyab Hussain Rizvi gave away donations of to the trust at the dinner.

President of International Islamic University (IIU) Visits GCU

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Yousif Ahmed Al Draiwesh, the President of International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) visited the Government College University Lahore to explore the areas of collaboration in different disciplines. The delegates of both universities agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding to commence formal collaborations among the universities' departments especially in the areas research and quality enhancement.

Prof. Ahmed Yousif held a detailed meeting with Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, which was also attended by Deans, Director AP&EL Director QEC, Registrar and Chief Librarian.



In-Service Short Term Training of GCU Faculty Members

Speakers at the concluding ceremony of five-day faculty training at the Government College University Lahore (GCU) said In-service teacher training should be mandatory for all those who take up teaching as a profession. Prof. Dr. Nizsmuddin, Chairman, PHEC said "Teaching is not an ordinary job as it is generally considered. It is the most sensitive and specialized field today, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, lamenting that there is serious deficiency in our educational system because there is no compulsory training for teachers at any level.

The five-day training was organized by Quality Enhancement Cell at GCU by funding from PHEC to build the capacity of young teachers in Andragogy and Communication Skills.

Prof. Nizam while addressing the audience revealed that PHEC was going to establish three teachers' training academies in Punjab on the pattern of Civil Services academy where extensive training would be provided to the university and college teachers.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah the Vice Chancellor said Andragogy has become highly advanced, so teachers are needed to be trained to move from conventional to contemporary instructional strategies. He hoped that the participants would endeavour to apply what they had gained from the training. "For a better society, we need to have good teachers, so the training and capacity building of teachers is supposed to be the top priority" the Vice Chancellor appreciated the initiatives of PHEC especially its plans for capacity building of the university teachers and funding for research in Social Sciences. He advised the teachers that, before applying for funding to attend any conference, they must check the credibility and ranking of institution or university organizing it.

Ms. Iram Sohail, Director QEC briefed the Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor about the workshop and topics, which were "Teaching Perspectives in Higher Education, Andragogy as an Alternative Vision to Traditional Concept of Pedagogy, Curriculum Development and Assessment Techniques, Communication Skills, Strategies for Effective Oral and Presentation Skills, Academic Writing, Micro Teaching etc". She said that the success of an institution is highly dependent on process and product and students' achievement is one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching profession.



65th Anniversary of PAK-China Diplomatic Relations

A seminar was organized by the Centre for Excellence, China Studies Centre at GCU Lahore to commemorate the "65th Anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations." Mr. Yu Boren, the Consul General of China in Lahore, said that CPEC is a long-term and systematic process instead of a project or series of projects only. He said China would work with Pakistan to complete projects under construction and also make long-term plans to ensure that the corridor continues to deliver new achievements in the context of connectivity, industrial cooperation and people-to-people exchange.

The Chairman, PHEC and Vice Chancellor stressed the need for strong academic and research collaboration among the universities of China and Pakistan for technology transfer, which, should be an integral part of CPEC for the real economic benefits. They appreciated the Punjab Government's initiative of sending 500 students to China for higher studies.

Prof. Shah expressed gratitude to Punjab Chief Minister's for choosing GCU, his alma mater, for hosting the concluding ceremony of celebrations in connection with the "65th Anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations". Eminent analyst Prof. Dr. Hassan Askari Rizvi said, Pakistan-China friendship is one of the biggest realities of international relations because it is based on the principle of mutual interests.

Mr. Shamshad Ahmed, former foreign secretary said that most unique feature of this inter-state friendship, between two ideologically different rather opposite countries, is that it has survived several political and economic changes in both the countries. Islamic Republic of Pakistan is founded in the name of religion, while Peoples Republic of China is intensely secular, while their economic and political systems are also different. route for its mega oil imports.

Mr. Abdullah Khan Sumbal, Commissioner Lahore said that the Punjab government's five day grand celebrations in connection

with 65th Anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations had concluded with this prestigious ceremony seminar at GCU. Director CECS said that the Chinese Consulate Lahore was deputing two teachers at GCU for teaching Chinese language and culture to Pakistan Students. He said that the Consulate had already provided books and computer for China Studies Centre.



Launching Ceremony of Books on the Role of Minorities at GCU

Speakers at the launch of books and a video documentary at the Government College University Lahore on the role of minorities have stressed that the contributions of Non-Muslims Pakistanis should also be the part of the textbooks, stating “it would promote tolerance and religious harmony in the society which are the prerequisites for peace and prosperity”. “If we want peace in Pakistan, we must develop tolerance towards the beliefs, faith, race, religion and ideas of other people”.

When, I was sixth in class, I remember proudly studying about my father, Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry, the celebrated Christian fighter pilot, in my textbook, but later, religion took the driving seat in politics, and chapters on Pakistani Non-Muslims were removed from the textbooks, “said Cecil Shane Chaudhry, the Executive Director of the National Commission for Justice and Peace.

“There are hundreds of great and eminent Pakistani Non-Muslims, the unsung heroes, about whom our youth knows nothing,” Shane said while addressing the launching ceremony of books entitled “Leading Lights: the North Stars of Pakistan’s Marginalized Religious Communities” by Ms. Bushra Sultana, and “Beyond the Other: Roots of Religious Syncretism in Pakistan” by Haroon Khalid.

Prof. Shah chaired the launch ceremony of the books published by the Faiz Foundation along with their Urdu translations with an aim to promote religious harmony and peace in the country. A video documentary, “Profiles of Outstanding Pakistanis from Marginalized Communities” was also launched at the ceremony which was attended by a large students and faculty members.

Cecil Shane Chaudhry reminisced that the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam, had unequivocally declared a policy of equality, freedom and security for all communities living in Pakistan, irrespective of their religion, caste, colour and creed. This policy needs to be re-implemented for the prosperity and peace in Pakistan. Talking about the role of minority community in different fields of life in Pakistan, Prof. Shah said that “we should not only learn to accept the minorities, but also celebrate them.” He said minorities are as Pakistanis as they are. He lauded the Punjab government’s initiative to establish a counter narrative against the extremist ideas prevailing in our society. He also remembered the life and contributions of eminent poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz, saying that it is matter great pride for them that he was an alumnus of Government College Lahore.

The speakers also appreciated the effort of Faiz Foundation and the authors for apprising the youth of great contributions of Non-Muslim Pakistanis. Saira Qureshi from Faiz Foundation also addressed the book launch and highlighted the foundation’s efforts for promotion of peace in the country.



UN Wall Unveiled at GCU

The Government College University Lahore set up “United Nations Wall” on the campus to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of United Nations Pakistan. Vittorio Cammarota, the Director of United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), and Ms. Stefanie Burri, the Head of Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, unveiled the wall painted by a group of students from Department of Fine Arts. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor, Iram Sohail, Director QEC,



Erfan Ullah Babar, Incharge department of Fine Arts and a large number of faculty and staff members attended the inauguration of the UN Wall which aims at spreading peace, education and awareness.

The Vice Chancellor highly appreciated the messages on the wall, saying that no nation could progress without education and peace. The students decorated the wall with flying Doves, a universal symbol of peace, white and blue the home colours of UN, and a pencil a symbol for education.

Vittorio Cammarota stressed that the universities in Pakistan should hold workshops to raise awareness among students about the objectives of the United Nations. He said that UN would provide internship opportunities to students of GCU in its 21 different organisations. Stefanie Burri emphasized on the importance of Social Sciences called upon the Vice Chancellor to establish the Department of Anthropology at GCU, for which, she said that UN would provide every possible support.

Later, Vittorio Cammarota and Prof. Shah gave away certificates to Chairperson Erfan Ullah Babar, Ms. Amna Anwaar focal person from Department of Fine Arts and students including Memona Akram, Fatima Tuz Zohra, Ansa Khan, Frahan Ali, Muhammad Baseer, Muhammad Talha, Muhammad Umer Khan, Wijdan Akram, Narmeen Jacob and Hafiza Irfah Farooq for designing and painting the UN Wall.

South Korean Students Complete Urdu Course from GCU

A group of students from South Korea, completed Urdu Language and Literature course from the Government College University Lahore. They shared their views at the farewell organized by the Department of Urdu. “They have become fond of Pakistani culture and people who are totally different from their perception abroad.” “Dupatta” is the most beautiful part of the female's cultural dress, while “Biryani” is the most awesome food here”. The Vice Chancellor gave certificates to the group of five foreign students namely Kim You Jin, Hangeul, Ryu, Song Eun Hee, Lee Haeun and Jung Yo Han.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Shah said that it's really encouraging that the foreign students are now coming to Pakistani universities for studies and they provided every possible support and facility to Koreans students.

Talking to the Vice Chancellor, the Korean students said that their six-month stay at GCU was the most memorable and cherished period of their life and they are happy to be Ravians now.



Talk by Zachary Harkenrider

The Quaid-e-Azam Political Science Society organized a talk by Zachary Harkenrider, Counsel General of US in Lahore. The Counsel General said any government in Pakistan understand and value it's relationship with the United States of America and vice versa. The Counsel General briefed the students about the complete electoral process for the Presidential election and also elaborated upon election and voting trends since 1789.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor said there is a great interest among the university students about the American Presidential elections. The talk by Counsel General gave them an insight about the entire electoral process and latest trends.

The Counsel General also visited the library and Iqbal Hostel. He also promised to provide support to GCU in various academic and research ventures.



Girls Clean Sweep Flower, Painting Competitions

The female students once again proved that they have better aesthetics than boys by clean sweeping all distinctions at the Inter-Universities Flower and Painting Competitions 2016 organized by the GCU Horticulture Society on the theme of "Three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle".

Students from Lahore College for Women University and University of Education took part in the dry flower and painting competitions to raise awareness among students about the physiological impact of overall physical environment on human beings. All the positions in Fresh Flower (centre), dry flower, T-shirt painting, poster painting and fresh flower (corner) contests were secured by the female participants from different universities. Mr. Ajmal Raheem, President GCU Botany Alumni Association, the Chief Guest at the prize distribution, said it seems that females have better aesthetic sense. However, the Advisor Prof. Dr. Zaheer-ud-Din credited meager participation of boys to this 'great achievement' of female students.

The Vice Chancellor said that educational institutions including universities should equally focus on healthy co-curricular activities such as the one organized by Horticulture Society. These activities promote inter-university networking and coordination. There are ample opportunities of resource sharing and exchange of innovative ideas. Later, the Vice Chancellor gave away certificates and shields to Iram Iqbal, Ayesha Ghulam Nabi, Wajeeha, Iqra Iqbal, Maryam Abid, Fizza Shahzad and Darakshan for securing distinctions in various categories of flower and painting competitions.



Thalassemia Patients Spent Day at GCU

Children suffering from Thalassemia spent a memorable day at the Government College University Lahore by visiting library, classes and academic departments. They also led an on-campus awareness walk along with the Vice Chancellor, faculty members and students to highlight the importance of blood donation and prenatal diagnosis of the disease.

A group of physically-challenged students also participated in the walk which was organized by GCU Blood Donors Society and Fatimid Foundation in connection with the upcoming World Thalassemia Day.

GCU holds Disability Awareness Seminar and Walk

Disability is just a perception; and Waqas Ahmed, who according to his doctors has a neuro-disability level of more than 79 percent is a living example, and an inspiration for all the physically-challenged people across the globe. Waqas, whose life moves on with a push of a button of his special wheel-chair, donated wheel-chairs and white canes to the Centre for Special Students (CSS) of his alma mater, the Government College University Lahore.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor hosted a special ceremony in the honour of his lion-hearted alumnus who has been facing multiple neurological disorders since his childhood. But, the brave soul never fell in the valley of despair. Rather, after studying six years at GCU, he in 2008 decided to establish an NGO, 'pace2life' for helping the other financially and physically-challenged and now more than 400 Old Ravians and Ravians were voluntarily working with him at his NGO, carrying out different welfare activities from Balakot to Jhang.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shah said that about 150 physically-challenged, mostly visually impaired, are currently studying at GCU, which has strong tradition that it does not refuse admission to any physically-challenged student. Rather, the university has modified its facilities for their free movement. He said Waqas Ahmed is not only a role model for physically-challenged people, rather he is an inspiration for all of us.

Addressing the ceremony, Waqas said that he had established 'pace2life' because he did not want others to face the problems, which he had confronted in his life. He takes pride in the fact that he had never ceased to struggle despite lacking physical normalcy. Dr. Khalid Jamil Akhtar, a scholar and medical professional, said Waqas is a miracle as many people having neuro-disability level of more than 50 percent could not even move out of their rooms, but, Waqas is surprisingly not only moves and travels, rather works independently. He advised Waqas to start working on motivating the physically-challenged people that how to become independent in their lives while facing different physical challenges.

The ceremony was followed by a walk lead by the Vice Chancellor which was aimed at awareness about the rights and special abilities of physically-challenged people.



GCU Graduates to get Exemption from ACCA Papers

The graduates of Government College University Lahore are likely to get exemption from some ACCA papers, besides getting opportunities for financial incentives for the ACCA qualification. The GCU Lahore and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Pakistan signed MoU whose main features include providing a route for GCU graduates of BCOM (Hons) and BSc in Business, Accounting and Finance programme to acquire ACCA qualification.

The accord was signed by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah Vice Chancellor and Sajjeed Aslam at the Syndicate Room. GCU Director Research Prof Dr Ikram-ul-Haq, Director Academic Planning and External Links Fouzia Shaheen, Director Quality Enhancement Cell Iram Sohail, Economics Department Chairperson Uzair Ahson and Deans Prof. Dr. Raiz Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Islam Ullah Khan and Prof. Dr. Shahid Iqbal also attended the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Sajjeed Aslam, who is also an Old Ravian, said that they would review the courses being taught at GCU, adding that in an ideal case, maximum exemption



from nine ACCA papers could be granted in line with ACCA's global accreditation policy.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Shah said that the ACCA and GCU share common and strong interests in advancement of the finance profession in Pakistan and offering the opportunity to the students to pursue globally relevant qualifications in order to enhance their future career prospects and ultimately to maintain and develop the profession and the economy.

The highlight of the MoU included conducting joint research with GCU students and faculty members, and inviting GCU to contribute articles or case studies which can be published in ACCA magazines and international journals. The two organizations will also undertake joint seminars, conferences and research projects.

Launching Ceremony of Pran Nevile's Books at GCU

Pran Nevile, an eminent Indian writer and author of "Lahore – a sentimental journey" said in Punjabi, "Lahore / Lahore ay;" the beauty, magic and charm of this great historical city would never die. "Need-based developmental changes are not unnecessarily needed to be resisted or criticized, because they can't change Lahore. This City is not merely its roads, buildings and bazars, it is its atmosphere, ambience, moods of joy and sorrow, madness and sadness, fun and excitement and above all its people who constitute its soul," said the 94-year old writer while addressing at the launch of the latest editions of his books "Carefree days" and "Lahore – a sentimental journey" at the Government College University Lahore.

Mr. Kamran Lashari Chairman, Lahore Arts Council chaired the books' unveiling ceremony which was also addressed by noted playwright Madeeha Gauhar, Dr. Ejaz Anwar, Shahid Mahmood Nadeem, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed and Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor, GCU Lahore.

Feryal Gauhar read some Excerpts from the books of Pran Nevile, saying that Nevile's reminiscences no doubt took the reader into the heart of 1930s Lahore which was a hub of arts and literary activities. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed said Pran Nevile is an ambassador of Lahore in Delhi. His work is influenced by his three life experiences; his earlier education at a school of Arya Samaj Movement, attraction towards fairer sex, and third is his stay at the Government College Lahore where he experienced cosmopolitan society where students coexisted, unfettered by considerations of religion, region and caste. Kamran Lashari said Nevile's work is helpful in restoration of Old Lahore, saying that "while we move on, we must have some connection with our history."

Prof. Shah, the Vice Chancellor said Pran Nevile was born in Lahore in 1922 and studied for six years at the Government College Lahore, adding that to the best of his knowledge, Pran Nevile was the oldest living Old Ravian. "We hope six years later, his alma mater would be launching his new publication at the occasion of his centenary birthday."

The speakers also highlighted the distinguished career of the author in Indian Foreign Service and United Nations after which he became a freelance writer and had written extensively on Indian Art and Culture. Dr. Ejaz Anwar presented a "Takhti", a to Pran Nevile which he had repeatedly mentioned in his book.



Dr. Amelia on a "Spiritual Journey" to Pakistan

The stunning Sitar performance by eminent American Ethnomusicologist and teaching artist Dr Amie (Amelia) Maciszewski put the audience into trance at a concert organized by the United States Consulate and Quaid-e-Azam Political Science Society at the Government College University Lahore. Dr Amelia, who believes that music has no boundaries, began her Sitar performance "Puriya Dhanashree Raga", which she says, is "Raga" of evening.

Dr. Amelia, PhD in Ethnomusicology from University of Texas, USA, came to Pakistan after 40 years, and due to her deep interest in Sufism, she called this visit a 'spiritual journey'. She has a strong desire to visit the shrines of Hazrat Fariduddin GanjShakar, Hazrat Shah Hussain and other Sufi saints in Punjab. The ethnomusicologist, who has published many research papers on South Asian music culture, said that Sufism forms crux of her beliefs.

At the concert, she also played "peace", which is her own light composition and had a folk ambience. She also sang the word peace in different languages of the world.

Dr. Amelia, who has served as teaching artist on the faculties of top universities of the world, said that it's very disheartening to know that there is admiration and following for music performers in Pakistan but there is not much respect and appreciation for music teachers in the society. She said that music must be taught in schools because it develops critical thinking in children and makes them smarter. She hoped that in a short three week visit to Pakistan, she could get time to hold music workshops in



schools, colleges and universities.

Prof. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor, Incharge Nazir Ahmed Music Society Mr. Tariq Farhani, Chairperson Department of Political Science, faculty members and students attended the concert and described Amie's classical sitar performances as "stunning" and "amazing." Talking to the American artist, the Vice Chancellor said that there is a strong tradition of music and other performing arts at GCU, adding that they also grant admission to students in different disciplines by virtue of their acting and music skills. The artist was also briefed about the 152 year history of GCU and eminent Pakistan singers who studied here.

"Pakistan is not as it is Perceived in Different Countries of the World" Peter Upton

Peter Upton, the Country Director of British Council Pakistan, said that Pakistan is not as it is perceived in different countries of the world. "And those of us' the foreigners who have worked and lived here know that there is a very different story – a good new story about Pakistan". The outgoing Country Director was addressing a farewell ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Education, Punjab at the Government College University Lahore to pay tribute to his services for promotion of education in Pakistan. A number of Vice Chancellors, academicians, secretaries of various provincial departments, officials of British Council and members of Punjab Assembly graced the occasion with their presence. Peter Upton said that his family had been very scared when he was deputed in Pakistan, but the last four years were one the best periods of his life in which he had travelled all across the country and met the highly inspiring Pakistanis. He said, "I am leaving Pakistan but this wonderful country and its people would never go away from my heart". Peter Upton said that reason behind British Council's success in Pakistan was that they believed in Pakistanis and their creative and innovation skills. He expressed special gratitude to Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif for his support to the British Council.

Addressing the ceremony, Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan Provincial Minister for Schools Education said the government would ensure 95 percent enrollment in schools this year. He said he preferred ministry of schools over higher education and sports because the Chief Minister was very much concerned about enrollment of children and quality of education in the government schools. He paid tribute to Peter Upton and his team for their sincere efforts and hard work for uplift of education in Punjab.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor said that their bond with universities in the United Kingdom through the British Council were historic and long lasting, adding that lately they had organized the First International Conference on Modern and Contemporary Language, Literature and Culture in collaboration with the British Council. He also highlighted that GCU and British Council had a strong cultural affinity.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin Chairman PHEC also highlighted the services of Peter Upton and Rana Mashood in higher education sector in Pakistan. He also appreciated the strong linkages of universities with the British Council, and hoped these relationships would prosper further.

The ceremony was followed by musical program in which students from GCU Nazir Ahmed Music Society also performed. The music especially poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Faiz Ahmed Faiz were highly enjoyed and appreciated by the foreign guests.

Workshop on Algal Collection and Biofuel Production

Speakers at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop on "Algal Collection and Biofuel Production" at the Government College University Lahore laid stress on research on algae plants for developing biofuel, food, shelter and medicines to meet the expanding demands of human society. "Algae are the future as oil and all other natural resources are drying up. About 120 researchers from different universities across the country participated in the two-day workshop which was organised by the Department of Botany in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission and Pakistan Science Foundation.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor hoped that the workshop provided platform to experts to think and develop new ideas for ecological distribution, commercial use and biofuel production from algae. He appreciated the presence of two former heads of Department of Botany Prof. Masud ul Hassan and Prof. Dr. Zaheer-ud-din Khan at the workshop for training

the young generation on these classical subjects.

In her inaugural address, Chairperson, Department of Botany said that the workshop was spread over six technical sessions including one on prospects of biofuel production in Pakistan.

Eminent Botanist Dr. Abdul Hayee Memon introduced Algae as the important part of the aquatic environment as photosynthetic organisms. He specially emphasized on the dissemination of modern techniques of algal culturing to the young researchers. Dr. Ehsan Elahi said astronauts could carry algae with them as a food to the space because of its high protein contents. A single capsule of Spirulina can fulfil all the nutrition requirements in the body.

Faculty of Engineering and Technology Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Science and Technology Prof. Dr. Islam Ullah Khan and Director Research Prof. Dr. Ikram Ul Haq also attended the inaugural session of the workshop.

ORU Confers "Lifetime Achievement Award" upon Bano Qudsia

The Government College University Lahore Old Ravians Union at its annual reunion conferred "Lifetime Achievement Award" upon the legendary Urdu and Punjabi writer Bano Qudsia, veteran playwright, actor Prof. Shoaib Hashmi and Eminent Historian and teacher Prof. Dr. Farhat Mahmood.

Bano Qudsia and Prof. Dr. Farhat Mahmood received their award from Honourable Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, an Old Ravian and senior judge of Supreme Court of Pakistan, who was Chief Guest at the reunion dinner attended by eminent Old Ravians, politicians, bureaucrats, journalists, lawyers and businessmen from all over Pakistan. Shoaib Hashmi could not attend the ceremony due to his ailment, therefore noted playwright Asghar Nadeem Syed received the award on his behalf.

Justice Saqib Nisar said he believes that the confidence is a key to what he has achieved in his life, and this sheer confidence was inculcated in him by the Government College Lahore, where he had not only studied but also spent most cherished moments of his life. Justice Nisar also shared that his father, Mian Nisar, was also famous Old Ravian and leading member of the college cricket team.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Kamran Lashari President ORU said that old is certainly gold; older is your relation, the deeper would be the mark and linkage with the college. He called upon Old Ravians to play active role in development of their alma mater.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah the Vice Chancellor said that GCU's alumni are its real strength, stating they had donated Rs. 220 million to the university Endowment Fund Trust for supporting the financially-challenged students of their alma mater.

Expressing gratitude to ORU on receiving the award, Bano Qudsia said GC has nurtured the holistic self of the Ravians more than the typical business of teaching.

Later, eminent singer and Old Ravian Shafqat Amanat Ali Khan mesmerized the audience with his wonderful performance.



GCU Pays Tribute to Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam

Speakers at a seminar at the Government College University Lahore said that the inspiring story of Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam must be told to every child in the third world countries. "It is a story of a Pakistani village boy who starts his life from a remote area of Jhang and becomes the towering personality in the world of Physics".

The seminar was jointly organized by the GCU's Jones Physics Society, Salam Chair and the Pakistan Physical Society to pay tribute to the Pakistan's only Nobel Laureate in the field of science for his contribution.

In his keynote address, Prof. Dr. G. Murtaza, the Salam Professor at GCU, said the story of a village boy from Jhang inspires all the young people with the idea that, wherever they may come from in the world, they too can make careers in science or indeed in any other profession at present dominated by the rich countries. He said that Prof. Salam's achievements were not confined to the Nobel Prize. At the age of 33, he became Fellow of the Royal Society London. At the age of 38, Salam became the Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Trieste, Italy in 1964, which he had created himself after

a great struggle and against resistance to provide opportunities to the scientists from the third world in order to conduct research and to study new developments in Physics and Mathematics. He said that the Centre remains to this day a monument to Salam's determination, for his contributions towards peace and promotion of International Science Collaboration. Prof. Salam got the Atoms for Peace Medal and Award. He became fellow and member of more than 30 academies/societies of the world and was awarded DSc Honoris Causa by more than 40 universities of the world. There is a long list of his achievements, honours and awards.

Prof. G Murtaza, who has been a student of Prof. Salam at the Imperial College London, also touched on the humble upbringing, strong character and virtues of the great scientist.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor said it is remarkable how the Italians have owned Prof. Salam and honoured him. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Italy has preserved all his documents, awards, shields, souvenirs and his personal collection of books including his Chair and Hukka etc. in a separate room called Salam Room in the library of the centre. He said it was matter of pride for GCU that Prof. Salam had studied and taught here.

Dr Faisal Akram from Centre for High Energy Physics, Punjab University paid tribute to Prof Salam by telling the participants about his electro-weak theory and its modern implications. He said the scientific work of Salam is one of the great achievements of the 20th century and is regarded an important step towards ultimate unity of all forces in nature. Prof Salam believed that "science is as important for the development of a country as the army is for its defense".



Why there is no Pakistani Literary Theory?

Speakers at a seminar on the "Interdisciplinary Role of Philosophy in the Academic Space of University" strongly objected to the euro-centric configuration of knowledge in the developing countries and supported the idea of situating philosophy in the context of its indigenous operation. The one-day national seminar, spread over four technical sessions, was organized by the Department of Philosophy with the funding by Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) at the Bukhari Auditorium.

In her opening speech, Dr. Sobia Tahir said that academic seminar was designed to explore the basic question: What type of conceptual and paradigmatic unity interdisciplinary or trans-disciplinarily can bring about when operating in the multidisciplinary world of human knowledge. And what role can Philosophy, the most elusive of all disciplines: historically once having all the disciplines in its ambit, and then becoming bankrupt of all the disciplines—can play in this enterprise?.



In his key note address, eminent philosopher and novelist Prof. Mirza Ather Baig said that every culture had its own particular requirements, so it could not be fitted easily into a developmental sequence derived from Western experience of tradition-modernity-postmodernity. He said that the queries naturally and enthusiastically hence rather crudely erupting from the young minds is that why there is no Pakistani Literary theory? What has happened to our minds that we generally fail not only to theorize about matters physical, chemical, biological, social and psychological but even to conceptualize the first rung in the ladder leading to the schematization of human experience as valid knowledge? Prof Baig said that actually we never feel the urge or drive to indulge in such a cerebro-cognitive exercise. For us it is more than enough to gobble the appropriate disciplinary texts and then re-text them at appropriate moments on demand. What is needed is a phenomenological analysis of the life-world of disciplines both in the dominant and dominated sites of knowledge and learning. Such an acute self-awareness of the complexities of our relationship with disciplinary knowledge would be the first step to unfold the real dynamics of the much touted, but very vaguely understood paradigm of "Indigenization".

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah the Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin, Chairman PHEC, for his all out support and funding for this academic activity. He also said that modern research had grown complex and interdisciplinary, rather multi and trans-disciplinary; subjects of social sciences such as geography were playing key role in inventions and innovations in the fields of natural sciences such as Physics and Biology.

Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran, Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and noted philosophers Prof. Dr. Abdul Hafeez Fazil, Dr. Ali Raza Tahir, Hassan Farooqi and Muhammad Afzal Khan also addressed the seminar. Mr. Shahzeb Khan from University of the Punjab, explicated upon the imperial connection of the disciplines of Philosophy and English Literature and advocated decolonizing the academic space of making these disciplines engaged with the context of our society.

Summer Cultural Exchange Camp 2016 at Burapha University, Thailand

In June, 2016 GCU students Aneeba Rashid (MPhil-Botany) and Ms Samia Zaheer (PhD Chemistry) were selected for Summer Cultural Exchange Camp 2016 at Burapha University, Thailand among over 500 applicants represented by more than 50 universities in Asia. Academic Planning and External Links office coordinated with Burapha University, Thailand for the selection of the students. This 10 Day Summer Camp focused on Thai culture, traditions, language, teaching methodology, food, sports & entertainment. This opportunity offered GCU students cross-cultural experience with local Thai participants and other international participants from other countries. Prof. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the students on their visit to Burapha University under Cultural Exchange Programme.



Thai Delegation Visits GCU for Potential Collaboration Opportunities

A four member delegation comprising Dr. Ritthikorn Siriprasertchok, Vice President Global Relations, Office of the President, Burapha University, Thailand, Mr. Phonchai Chai, Director, Mr. Salman R. Khan, Chief Coordinator, and Mr. Jirut Tuandilok, Program Manager visited GCU Lahore on 22nd April, 2016. Prof. I.U. Khan, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology chaired the meeting and Dean, Faculty of Languages, Islamic & Oriental Learning, Dean, faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Registrar, Director, Management Studies Registrar, In-Charge, Department of Electrical Engineering and Director Academic Planning & External Links also attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to explore areas of common interest for establishing academic and research collaboration and cultural exchange between the two institutions. Both the universities decided to cooperate with each other in the areas of exchange of research materials, publications and information; development and operation of joint academic programmes; semester exchange programmes; organization of joint research programmes; cultural & academic exchange of students and staff.

