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Inside this Issue

- GCU Celebrates 153 Years of Excellence
- Chief Minister Presides the 15th Convocation of GCU
- 2nd and 3rd Sessions of 15th Convocation of GCU
- GCU Signs MOU with CSJ for Research Collaboration
- Old Ravians are Backbone of GCU: Justice Farrukh
- Exhibition to Celebrate GCU Founders Day
- Library Society Wins Quiz Competition
- GCU Organizes Seminar to Debate on Pakistan's Economic Policies
- Old Ravians held Condolence Reference for Nigar Ahmad
- UET, LUMS Win GCU 22nd Bilingual Parliamentary Style Debates
- Punjabi Mushaira & Faiz Poetry Contest held at GCU
- Delegation from French Universities Visits GCU
- GCU Wins National Snow-Hike Championship
- GCU Staff Cricket Tournament
- Gilgit Baltistan Cultural Evening at GCU
- GCU Wins HEC Badminton Championship
- German Expert asked Pakistanis to be Proud of their National Language
- Conference on "Future Prospects of Clean Energy in Pakistan"
- Cultural Evening for Baloch Students at GCU
- Punjabi Play "Anni Mae Da Sufna" Staged at GCU
- GCU Annual Fine Arts Exhibition
- 117th Gymkhana Event at GCU
- GCU Fine Arts Graduating Batch Exhibits Promotional Projects
- Pakistan is an Amazing Country: Japanese Student
- GCU Orators Clinch 255 Oratory Awards in 2016
- Prof. Salam's Services Recalled at the Seminar
- Prof. Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Siddiqi & Prof. Dr. Nusrat Jehan Donate GCU Endowment Fund

GCU Celebrates 153 Years of Excellence

The Government College University Lahore, one of the oldest seats of higher learning in Pakistan, turned 153. The College began with just nine students and three professors now has more than 11,500 students and offering graduate and postgraduate programs in about 40 disciplines. The College was initially affiliated with the Calcutta University, as there was no university in this part of the sub-continent at that time. It was raised to the status of University in 2002 and was renamed as the Government College University, Lahore. From first principal Dr. G.W. Leitner to the incumbent Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, 28 heads have served this great institution.

On the 154th Founders' Day, Prof. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to the long list of illustrious Principals, Professors and students whose hard work and efforts brought this great institution to its present position. He highlighted that GCU had been a citadel of higher learning where ideals of tolerance and coexistence had flourished with commitment. He proudly mentioned that GCU in its 153 years of academic journey produced hundreds of eminent literary figures, politicians, two Nobel Laureates, five prime ministers, jurists, sportsmen, generals in armed forces and scientists. It is pertinent to mention that out of 140 experts who were responsible for putting Pakistan in the list of Nuclear Weapon Countries in 1998, as many as 60 were Old Ravianians and their team leader, Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, who pressed the button for explosions, is also the former student of the Government College, Lahore.

In their messages on GCU's birthday, the alumni paid rich tributes to the efforts of Dr. Leitner, the first principal of Government College, and pledged that they would put in the best of their efforts to maintain wonderful traditions of academic excellence, research, promotion of new ideas and above all, respect for others' belief and views.

Chief Minister Presides the 15th Convocation of GCU

GCU's 15th Convocation was organized in three separate sessions. A total of 1686 students received medals, rolls of honour and degrees in the convocation.

Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister presided over the first session. In his key note address, the Chief Minister said that the federal and provincial higher education commissions would jointly work and pool in their resources for the promotion of higher education in Punjab. He highlighted that the Punjab government would also provide financial support of Rs. 2 billion to GCU for development of its new campus at Kala Shah Kaku. He also donated Rs. 100 Million to GCU Endowment fund and said that Punjab Educational Endowment Fund Trust would rise to Rs 20 billion this year and would be awarding scholarships to the two hundred thousand bright students of the country.

The Vice Chancellor offered cordial and warm welcome to the Chief Minister on behalf of Syndicate and the university staff members. While presenting the Annual Report Prof. Shah said that when he was entrusted with responsibility of streaming Government College University, he took it as a cherished duty and an uphill task all at once. He also said that he witnessed the transition of the great College into a new promising university and the process of transition is still incomplete after 14 years. After assuming charge, he decided to address all the issues one by one and managed to bring back 15 foreign faculty members in addition to recruiting local faculty members for ASSMS. The process of recruitment of staff members against vacant positions in all academic departments was expedited during last one year. The GCU has tremendous potential to further expand its academic and research endeavours provided that its acute space constraints are evened out.

Later, the Chief Minister and Vice Chancellor presented Gold Medals to high achievers. Syed Raza Ali Gillani and Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin also graced the first session of convocation.

In first session, 216 of 386 MPhil/MS and 32 of 55 PhD degrees were conferred upon the female students.



2nd and 3rd Sessions of 15th Convocation of GCU

Syed Raza Ali Gillani, Punjab Minister for Higher Education presides over the 2nd session of 15th Convocation of GCU. In his convocation address, the Minister said there was an urgent need to revisit the strategy and structure of education in order to address the needs of people; our education system intended to serve. He mentioned that the Punjab government would take all necessary steps to bring at least five educational institutions including GCU in the ranking of world top universities.

The Vice Chancellor on the occasion felt proud announcing the name of Sidra Amin, saying that “GCU has produced hundreds of sportsmen who felt Pakistan proud at the international level, and I am very happy to see that female students of GCU are also excelling in sports, and this was first time that GCU has awarded the roll to honour in cricket to a sportswoman.”

Syed Raza Ali Gillani presented a cheque of Rs 100 million to the Vice Chancellor on behalf of Chief Minister of the Punjab, who had already pledged the grant for the GCU Endowment Fund Trust. Prof. Hassan Amir Shah said, this donation swelled GCU Endowment Fund Trust to Rs. 340 million. He mentioned that these funds would support scholarships to hundreds of deserving students who could not afford their academic expenses.

Rana Mashood Ahmed chaired the 3rd session of 15th convocation and gave away academic medals to the position holders of BA/BSc and MA/MSc students. This year, girls have once again outshined boys in academics and secured 24 of 37 academic medals and rolls of honours.

A total of 608 of BA/BSc (Hons) and 314 graduates of MA/MSc graduates received their degrees, academic medals and co-curricular/sports rolls of honour at 2nd and 3rd sessions of 15th Convocation of GCU.

The total 1686 degrees were awarded at three sessions of convocation including 895 degrees of BA/BSc (Hons) and 319 of MA/MSc, and 36 co-curricular and six sports rolls of honours.



GCU Signs MOU with CSJ for Research Collaboration

The Government College University, Lahore and Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) Lahore signed an accord at the Syndicate Room. The ceremony was organized by the office of Academic Planning and External Links (AP & EL). The MOU envisages indigenous research on the issues of human rights, gender equality, minorities' protection, civil liberties and democracy.

Eminent philosopher and writer Prof. Mirza Athar Baig while laying a stress on indigenous research on social issues at the signing ceremony said "We need to stop following Western parameters and paradigms in almost all disciplines including philosophy. The idea of universality of philosophy is no more in vogue"

Prof Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor and Peter Jacob, the Executive Director of CSJ signed the agreement, and also agreed upon organizing invited lectures, seminars and conferences for raising awareness in the society about issues related to social justice. As per MoU, GCU would also introduce a course titled "Foundation on Human Rights" for its undergraduate programme.

The Vice Chancellor said that GCU has always upheld the human and tolerant values in South Asia, and never been hijacked by the extremism of any sort. Mr. Peter Jacob said that tolerance is the need of hour. He also mentioned that it was virtually impossible without justice and strong democratic institutions.

Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran, Dean faculty of Arts and Social sciences highlighted the increasing religious and sectarian influence in Pakistani society. Dr. Sobia Tahir, Chairperson Department of Philosophy pointed out that the discipline of philosophy is needed to be promoted among youth, as the very ideas of rights, justice, representative government and human freedom have emerged from it, and it's the only discipline which produces visible and pronounced difference in the mindset of students regarding the alternative point of view.

Ms. Fouzia Shahin, Director AP & EL, Mr. Saboor Ahmed Khan, Registrar and Dr. Alwin Murad were also present at the signing ceremony.



Old Ravians are Backbone of GCU: Justice Farrukh

Lahore High Court judge and Old Ravian Mr. Justice Muhammad Farrukh Irfan Khan emphasized that Old Ravians are the backbone of GCU and would continue to play their positive role for the progress and development of their alma mater. He said that GCU Endowment Fund, developed by its alumni is role model for other educational institutions. "Wherever I go to attend the Syndicate meetings as a representative of the Honourable Chief Justice, they ask me about this fund and how they established it," he mentioned this at the Oath taking ceremony of newly-elected executive committee of Old Ravians Union (ORU).

Prof. Shah said that ORU had traditionally played a very positive role as far as the College, now University, is concerned. "Whenever the institution was facing any issue, the old Ravians were always ready to come for the rescue.

Kazi Afaq Hossain, the former federal secretary and newly elected President of ORU said that this position of President, Old Ravians Union is the greatest honour of his life. He appreciated the services of Dr. Khalid Butt, Honorary Secretary ORU and said "he is the driving force behind all the activities of the union."

Mr. Kamran Lashari, the outgoing president, said that GCU has great traditions and values which must be upheld. He congratulated the new executive committee and said "the union is in better hands and would play an active role to integrate the Old Ravians."





Exhibition to Celebrate GCU Founders Day

The Government College University Lahore (GCU), celebrated its 154th Founders' Day by unveiling the handmade pencil portraits of some of the luminaries who had studied at the oldest seat of higher learning in Pakistan since its foundation on Jan 01, 1864.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor inaugurated the exhibition held at Minhas Art Gallery, said that “we owe a deep debt of gratitude to a long list of illustrious luminaries of GCU who strived relentlessly to bring this great institution to its present position of eminence.”

The pencil portraits of 29 luminaries from different fields of life including literature, art, music and science, were put on display that remained open to Old Ravians and art-lovers for the entire month of January 2017. The portraits were pencil sketched by the Incharge Department of Fine Arts Mr Erfan Ullah Babar in a period of six months.

Mr. Erfan said that GCU is a witness to three centuries and has nurtured many generations of talented young boys and girls. He also mentioned that he had plans to compile a book of pencil sketches portraits of almost all eminent Old Ravians from 1864 to 2016.

Library Society Wins Quiz Competition

The Library Society at Government College University Lahore won the university's Annual Inter-departmental and Inter-society Quiz Competition 2017. 30 teams from different departments and societies of the university took part in the quiz contest organized by Ravians Quiz Society on the topic: “Life and works of the Poet of East Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah”.

Justice (r) Ghazi appreciated the efforts of GCU-RQS and addressed the students to focus on the positive utilization of their abilities and resources. Dr Nasima Rehman, Advisor RQS said that quiz was a mind sport and helped expand students' knowledge. She said that RQS held quiz contests on different topics throughout the year to encourage students to look beyond their textual knowledge and establish a relationship between theory and application of the learnt concepts.

GCU Organizes Seminar to Debate on Pakistan's Economic Policies

Speakers at the seminar at Government College University Lahore laid stress on the government to focus on rural poverty and public service and said that comprehensive growth policy is essential for the country's economic growth and national security.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor chaired the one-day seminar organized by the department of Economics to debate on Pakistan's economic policies in the light of Shahid Ahmad's latest book “RENTIER CAPITALISM”.

While giving an overview of the book, , Shahid Ahmad, a banker and former editor of United Nation's Asia Pacific Development Journal, said that the success of East and South-East Asia had not been accidental; rather it had been driven by action to reduce rural poverty. He pointed out that Pakistan had never confronted the problem of rural poverty since 1950s, nor invested in public services. He emphasized that the government must need to focus on education and health services and develop infrastructure.

On the video link, Dr. Ijaz Nabi, a world renowned economist, said Pakistan needs an economic model which ensures inclusive growth which is essential for its national security. He said, Malaysia was in ethic confrontation which forced their ruling elite to adopt the policy of inclusive growth for their survival; especially the provision of equal opportunities of higher education.



Old Ravians held Condolence Reference for Nigar Ahmad

A condolence reference was held at the Government College University Lahore for Nigar Ahmad, a secular and development economist and the cradle high as a pioneer of women's movement in Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor chaired the reference organised by the Old Ravians' Union (ORU) to pay tribute to Nigar Ahmad's life long struggle for the empowerment of women. Nigar came to forefront with her activism in 80's and helped form the Women's Action Forum (WAF) in Lahore in 1982. She is also known for founding "the Aurat Foundation" in Lahore in 1985. At the reference, Prof Shah said that Nigar Ahmad not only gave a new vision of empowerment to women but also took practical initiatives for bringing the invisible (women) in the economy to the level where they are not only seen but are recognised and counted. Nigar studied for four years at Government College Lahore, which she joined as an undergraduate student and left after completing her Masters in Economics. Actively embroiled in college life, she was a member of the GC Dramatics Club and later editor of The Ravi.

Neelam Hussain, an eminent writer and Nigar's friend, said that at her core, Nigar was a person of strong passions and great loyalties for places and people. Samina Rahman, assistant editor Ravi, remembered the hard work put in by Nigar to minute detail at each stage of the editorial process of "The Ravi". Mehnaz Rafi, a politician, said Nigar was clear in her own mind about what she was doing, and this not only enabled her to enjoy life on her own terms, it also expanded the boundaries for others to come. Besides her son, Ahmad and her daughter-in-law Kate, Nigar's friends and close associates Samina Khan, Saima Jaisam and Irfan Mufti also addressed the condolence reference.

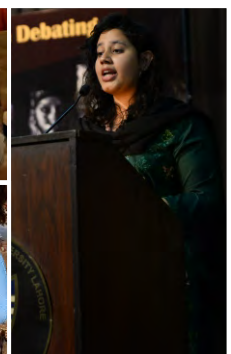


UET, LUMS Win GCU 22nd Bilingual Parliamentary Style Debates

The University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) won the 22nd GCU Parliamentary Style Debates 2017 organised by the Debating Society of Government College University Lahore. The four-day bilingual tournament, held at the university's Bukhari Auditorium, from March 24 to 27 was the largest debates tournaments in the country. 180 speakers from 61 educational institutions contested for the coveted trophies at the debates contest. The GCU orators did not participate in the contest as per tradition.

In the Urdu category, the UET Lahore beat Kinnaird College Lahore in the finals and lifted the prestigious team trophy. The LUMS was declared the Best English Team of the competition and awarded the prestigious "Prof Khalid Aftab Trophy". At the individual level, Hafiz Usman Tanveer from LUMS secured the "Syed Muhammad Ali Abbass Shield" for Best English Speaker. In under-19 English debates, the team trophy was lifted by the Beaconhouse Defence, Lahore.

Raza Aftab Gillani, President GCUDS said the GCU Parliamentary Style Debate was firstly held in 1995 and continued without any interval, adding "no other competition in the country boast such a record." Dr. Ammar Ali Jan, an eminent debater, social activist and a graduate of University of Cambridge, was chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony.



Punjabi Mushaira & Faiz Poetry Contest held at GCU

A Punjabi Mushaira and Faiz Ahmad Faiz Poetry Competition were held at the Government College University Lahore in connection with the World Poetry Day. Noted Punjabi poets from all over Pakistan presented their poetry at the Mushaira, while students from various universities participated in poetry contest. The Punjabi Mushaira was inaugurated with the traditional lighting of the candle by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah. About 28 eminent Punjabi poets including Dr. Sughra Sadaf, Younas Aqir, Murli Chohan, Asim Pehtayar and Habib Ullah recited best of their poetry at the Mushaira held under the auspices of the University's Punjabi Majlis.

The Vice Chancellor revealed that GCU will establish department of Punjabi very soon. We will start admissions to the new BA (Hons) Punjabi this year. Prof. Shah advised the students to also study Punjabi literature for their spiritual elevation and shared that the world's best Sufi literature was available in Punjabi.



Delegation from French Universities Visits GCU



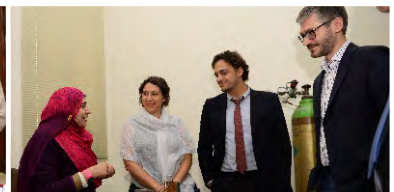
A delegation of senior professors from French universities visited Government College University Lahore to explore the opportunities for joint degree programmes, research collaborations and students' cultural exchange. The visit was organized by the Higher Education Commission Pakistan, to strengthen the academic and research collaboration of GCU with the French universities.



The delegation led by Prof. Dr. Sabine Vermillard, Director of International Development, Ecole Centrale de Nantes met Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor and senior faculty members. The delegates visited the research facilities at the university's Centre for Advanced Studies in Physics, Natural History Museum and Institute of Industrial and Biotechnology.



The French academics showed interest in providing doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships to GCU faculty members. They were keen on initiating joint research projects through the PERIDOT program which is fully funded by HEC and French government. Ms. Fouzia Shahin briefed the delegation about the history, traditions, infrastructure, research output and international linkages of the University. She mentioned that GCU had 109 active linkages with national and international universities and research institutes.



GCU Wins National Snow-Hike Championship

The Government College University Lahore Rovers' Club won the National Snow-Hike Championship 2017, hosted by the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association, in Galyat. The four-day event invited the teams from all the provinces of Pakistan including Punjab Boy Scouts Association, Ismaili District Boy Scouts Association, PIA Boy Scouts Association, Sindh Boy Scouts Association, Baluchistan Boy Scouts Association, and Gilgit Baltistan Boy Scouts Association. The GCU Rovers' Club's team comprising Hafiz Javaid Iqbal, Iftikhar Ahmed, Muhammad Talha Saeed and Hafiz Kahlid won the championship along with Punjab Boy Scouts Association.

It is pertinent to mention, that this is the third time in a row the GCU students won the Best Hiker Award at the National Snow-Hike Championship. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the GCU Rovers Club on its excellent performance in the championship.

GCU Staff Cricket Tournament

The 4th Inter-Departmental Staff Cricket Tournament 2017 began at the university's Oval Ground. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor inaugurated the tournament by playing a couple of straight drives, while the Registrar Saboor Ahmed Khan and Director Facilities Yousaf Bashir also participated in the inaugural match.

Prof. Shah said that sports must be promoted among the people of all age groups because it keeps them physically and mentally fit and active besides enhancing their personal abilities i.e. self-confidence, tolerance and decision power. He emphasized that unique aspect of this GCU cricket tournament is that it eliminated discrimination among officers and officials which improved coordination and interaction among the staff members of different departments.



Gilgit Baltistan Cultural Evening at GCU

From Shina Mili Nagma to the traditional Shepherd and Talwar dances, the Government College University Lahore brought the culture and music of Gilgit Baltistan to Lahore. Eminent artists of the region including Ustad Jabir Khan Jabir and Ustad Mir Afzal performed at the "Gilgit Baltistan Cultural and Musical Evening" organised by the university's Center of Excellence China Studies (CECS) and Gilgit Arts and Cultural Council at GCU. The cultural evening, began with the Hunza Hareep, a traditional music performance by Ustad Fida Hussain and his musicians, was also marked by a stunning Sitar and dance performances besides a traditional Burshiski song presented by Talib Hussain Talib.

The Vice Chancellor while addressing the audience said that GCU has always strived to integrate academic excellence with social and cultural activities, promoting diversity, tolerance and co-existence. He mentioned, in the light of regional developments like China Pakistan Economic Corridor, it has become imperative to highlight and promote a rich culture of Gilgit Baltistan hidden behind those lofty mountains of northern areas. Prof. Shah indicated terrorists wanted to spread fear but they have failed to deter Pakistan from its journey of enlightenment and development.

Dr. Khalid Butt, Director CECS GCU said that Gilgit Baltistan is also known as 'bam'e jahan' which translates to "the rooftop of the world" and shared that the region is the host to so many languages including Shina, Brushiski, Khuwaar and Balti. Shina was lingua franca of Gilgit-Baltistan and this language without written script and alphabets has survived the onslaughts of globalization and capitalism. A large number of other artists from Gilgit Baltistan including Numberdar Hussain Ali, Imtiaz Hussain Shehkey and Imtiaz Ahmad also performed at the music evening.



GCU Wins HEC Badminton Championship

The Government College University Lahore won the All Pakistan Inter-University Badminton Championship 2017 held under the auspices of HEC, Pakistan. As many as 14 universities participated in the final rounds of the championship held at Hamdard University Karachi. The team GCU was comprised of Raja Hassnain, Ammad Ahsan Shiekh, Khalil-ur-Rehman, Fazal Rehman, Abu Zar Rasheed and Fareed Ahmad Sajad. GCU beat University of Central Punjab by 3-0 in finals. Earlier, the GCU team also beat Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad in the Semi-Final in a close contest by 3-2.

The Vice Chancellor, Sports Board Chairman and Director Sports congratulated the winning team on their excellent performance. The Championship was won by GCU team for the second consecutive year.

German Expert asked Pakistanis to be Proud of their National Language

English is not a superior language at all; it is unfortunate that people who speak their national language in Pakistan suffer from inferiority complex. Dr Christina Oesterheld, a German expert on modern South Asian languages and literatures, while addressing a dialogue on Urdu language at the Government College University Lahore, said “In Germany, the medium of education in schools is totally German and we are proud of that, so people of Pakistan should also take pride in their national language, Urdu, which, has very rich history and literature”.

The German teacher, who did her PhD in Urdu literature from the Heidelberg University, Germany, shared with the GCU students and faculty members her work on Qurratulain Hyder's novels: “Mere Bhi Sanamkhane, Aag ka Darya and Akhir-i-Shab ke Hamsafar”. She also admired the beautiful historical architecture, music and cuisines of Pakistan. She also briefed the students about the scholarship opportunities for research in Urdu literature in Germany.

Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran, Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid Dean Faculty of Languages also addressed the audience and paid tribute to the literary work and translations done by Dr. Oesterheld.



Conference on “Future Prospects of Clean Energy in Pakistan”

The one day conference was organised by the Department of Electrical Engineering where eminent industrialists and energy experts presented their views about the challenges faced by Pakistan and other under-developing countries in going green for their energy requirements.

In his opening remarks, Engr. Almas Haider, the former member Engineering Development Board and NTDC, said energy security should be Pakistan's priority instead of just clean energy. He highlighted that “We should prefer generating energy from our available resources whether its coal, wind or solar instead of relying on imports”.

The Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) stated that Pakistan is moving in opposite direction from the world in energy sector, where smart grids were getting popular with energy source on the rooftop of every house and building, causing no line-losses of billions of rupees and transportation cost. “Use the energy you want, and send the excess to the national grid via smart meters”.

The Vice Chancellor said GCU had been seriously deliberating on going solar, and would soon initiate a pilot project in this regard. He said that GCU Electrical Engineering program is relatively new, but their first few batches of graduates had done very well in the market.

Dr. Nouman Zafar, Associate Professor of LUMS, laid a stress on using advanced technologies for real time load management and controlling power theft. Dr. Junaid Zafar, In charge Electrical Engineering Department at GCU emphasized on the investment in mega-scale solar energy generation projects which could help mitigate these supply related problems and counterbalance the country's growing dependence on imported oil.



Cultural Evening for Baloch Students at GCU

A cultural evening was held at the Government College University Lahore in the honour of 193 students from different colleges and universities of Baluchistan visiting the provincial capital under the “Youth Mobilization Campaign” of the Government of Punjab. GCU students enthralled the Baloch students with traditional music and cultural dance performances. They also visited the atomic and laser research facilities, natural history museum, Naqoosh Centre, sports complex and Allama Iqbal's room at GCU.

Addressing the Baloch students, the Vice Chancellor said, “We must be proud of our cultural diversity, and should adopt a pluralistic approach, accept, respect and appreciate each other's culture, faith and languages,”. He stated that GCU is a mini-Pakistan where students from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds study together and also learn from each other. He pointed out that a large number of students from Baluchistan are studying at GCU and are provided extensive support and scholarships. The event was marked by the melodious performances organized by Nazir Ahmed Music Society (NAMS).

Punjabi Play “Anni Mae Da Sufna” Staged at GCU

The Ajoka theatre staged its Punjabi play ANNI MAEE DA SUFNA (dream of a blind woman) at the Bukhari Auditorium, Government College University Lahore in collaboration with the GCU DC. The play, written by Old Ravian Shahid Mehmood Nadeem, explored the human dimension of partition underscoring the anguish of those who kept the fond memories of their past alive. It highlighted the partition of the Subcontinent left behind it a long trail of conflicting narratives marked with blood, tears and/or faded smiles. The play was also punctuated with apt verses of Punjabi Sufi poets which emphasized the great humanizing agent i.e. love. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor also watched the play and appreciated the hard work of young artists.



GCU Annual Fine Arts Exhibition

A diverse range of artwork and creations by the fine arts students of GCU Lahore were displayed at Salam Hall during Annual Fine Arts Exhibition 2017. Noted artist and Old Ravian Dr. Ajaz Anwar inaugurated the exhibition which included drawing, paintings, designing, ceramics, photography, sketching and calligraphy.

Dr. Ajaz Anwar praised the efforts and mentioned “This support to the artist community by GCU undoubtedly leads to the promotion of art in the country,”. President GCU Fine Arts Society, Hamza Bin Faisal expressed his gratitude which talking to the media, as he had won the top prize in Still Life Competition at the exhibition. Zubair Kohkar and Arooj Irfan, students of Fine Arts also secured positions in different competitions which were part of the two-day exhibition.

Erfan Ullah Babar, Incharge GCU Fine Arts Department mentioned that about 520 artworks by the 53 intermediate and BFA (Hons) students were part of the event. He added, the courses in fine arts gave students opportunities to develop creative skills and technical knowledge which were essential to become a professional artist.

Speaking at the occasion, the Vice Chancellor said that GCU students possessed high creativity potential and would enrich the nation's art scene. He mentioned that arts play pivotal role in promoting peace and understanding each other, as it is a common language that goes beyond all the cultural and social divides.



117th Gymkhana Event at GCU

The three-day 117th annual of sports of the GC University Lahore concluded with a colourful ceremony at the Oval Ground marked by the Gymkhana events including Girls Chatti Race, Cricket Ball Throw, Pillow Fighting, Staff Children Race, Wheel Barrow Race, Musical Chair and Old Ravians Handicap Race. About 7,000 students, teachers, staff members and Old Ravians participated this year in more than 70 different competitions of GCU annual sports gala. “The general decline in sports owes its origin to the fact that our negligence and over-population have taken away sports fields from our society in general and

educational institutions in particular,” said former Olympian and Old Ravian Col (r) Saeed Ahmad Khan at the closing ceremony. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor said that GCU sports events stood out as the most colorful and exciting events in life of Lahore. “Our athletes play for the glory of sports and of their alma mater, and never used any unfair means to achieve vain glory which is short-lived and fruitless,”. Prof. Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq, Chairman GCU Sports Board stated that GCU achievements in the world of sports are not less impressive than the fields of academics. He highlighted that GCU had produced hundreds of international sportsmen who represented Pakistan with pride in Olympics, SAF Games and other international sports events. Mr. Khadim Ali Khan, Director Sports congratulated the winning teams, saying that promotion of sports ultimately curbed the inclination of youth towards negative activities and deterred them from getting swept off their feet by retrogressive forces. He revealed that this year, GCU stood second in the general trophy at the Lahore Board, and fourth in the HEC games among 181 universities.



GCU Fine Arts Graduating Batch Exhibits Promotional Projects

The outgoing batch of Government College University Lahore Fine Arts Department exhibited advertisement campaigns on social issues and prominent brands as their final projects. Prof Dr Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor inaugurated the exhibition at the Salam Hall. Representatives from various organizations were invited to see the digital artwork of these students, and offer them work, internships and jobs. As many as 21 final year students of Bachelor in Fine Arts (Hons.) displayed their projects which comprised print advertisement material, including billboards, posters, press and electronic media advertisements, calendars, pamphlets and social media pages for promotion of their brands and raising awareness about social issues.

Ms. Amna Anwaar, faculty member from department of Fine Arts said this is the second outgoing batch of Bachelor in Fine Arts programme, and there is not a single student in the previous batch who did not get a job offer from a reputed company before the final examinations. She indicated that some of their female students were earning handsome amounts while staying at home through online jobs and projects.



Pakistan is an Amazing Country: Japanese Student

Pakistan is an amazing country; media doesn't portray it all, said Yukiko Ban, a Japanese student studying at Political Science Department at the Government College University Lahore. Pakistan is as beautiful as its peoples are; very loving, caring, peaceful and friendly. Talking to media she said when asked by a journalist, “Are you Japanese”, she cheered “I am a proud Ravian.”

The Vice Chancellor appreciated the participation of foreign students and faculty members in annual sports. He said the real beauty of their annual sports lied in the collective participation of students, faculty members and staff from all the academic departments of the university. Above all, this year a large number of physically-challenged students are also participating in the sports, he said. Later, Shahzad Farooq, a visually-impaired student from Urdu Department, won the White Cane Race.

GCU Orators Clinch 255 Oratory Awards in 2016

The Government College University Lahore orators once again stamped their seal of competence as they clinched 255 oratory awards in international and national competitions during the year 2016. According to GCU Debating Society (GCU DS) Annual Report 2016 submitted to the Vice Chancellor, 255 laurels include 50 coveted team trophies, 11 runners-up trophies, one third-position trophy, 84 best speaker awards, 56 second-position awards, 49 third-position and four consolation prizes, won at various declamation, parliamentary, recitation and poetry competitions.

The Vice Chancellor said, "Our orators have shown their mettle time and again in English, Urdu, Punjabi, Saraiki and Pashto languages, and their consistent achievements in national competitions are source of great pride for their alma mater." "There was hardly a day in 2016 when we didn't hear about the achievements of our students in debates, drama, quiz or sports." Prof Hassan Shah congratulated and commended the GCUDS advisors and young speakers for their active participation and dedication.

The high achievers in parliamentary debates and declamations include Abdur Raheem Virk, Usama Khan, Abdullah Zafar, Kafael Rana, Hamza Abbas, Raza Gillani, Zain ul Hassan, Usama Zoraiz, Saad Khan, Arslan Doultana, Awais Malik, Ali Zar, Rana Qamar Iqbal, Zohaib Alam, Hassan Qadeer Butt, Sana Mansoor, Bilal Ahmad, Talha Khalid, Talha Seemab, Hafiz Zia, Shahkaar Ali Bukhari, Mohiba Ahmad, Haris Ali Virk, Mukaram Ghafoor, Shahrukh Mirza, Fahad Sokhta, Shehrbano, Sharjeel, Joveriah Batool, Rabia Javed, Sarmad Bukhari, Irfan Mehdi and Kinza Tariq.

Prof. Salam's Services Recalled at the Seminar

Speakers at the Salam Day celebrations at Government College University Lahore said that Pakistan missed several great opportunities to benefit from Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam who worked with commitment and determination, scientific change in the third world countries. Prof. G. Murtaza, the Salam Chair professor said "We missed a rare historical opportunity to establish International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Pakistan (ICTP), but this is not the only one. In fact Pakistan's story is the story of missed opportunities,"

The ceremony was jointly organized by the university's Jones Physics Society, Salam Chair and the Pakistan Physical Society to celebrate the 91st birthday of the Pakistan's Nobel Laureate in the field of science.

In his keynote address, Prof. G. Murtaza, Professor Salam Chair, urged that the inspiring and fascinating story of Abdus Salam, a Pakistani village boy who started his life from a remote area of Jhang and became the towering personality in the world of Physics, must be told to every child in the third world countries. "This 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 highlighted 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.

He was the first Pakistani and the first from the Muslim world to achieve this distinction. At the age of 38, Salam became the Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Trieste, Italy in 1964. Prof. Salam 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. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor and also an eminent Physicist said that it is remarkable how the Italian have owned Prof Salam and honored him. He proudly told the students that GCU had the honour of housing the original Nobel Prize Certificate of Dr. Abdus Salam. Prof. Dr. Katepalli R. Sreenivasan, the Director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy presented the original Nobel Prize of Dr. Abdus Salam to his alma mater, the Government College Lahore. Dr Ghulam Murtaza, who was also taught by Dr. Salam himself at the Imperial College London. Prof. Shah also touched on the humble upbringing, strong character and virtues of the great scientist.

Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam received the Nobel Prize from King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden on Dec. 10, 1979.



Prof. Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Siddiqi & Prof. Dr. Nusrat Jehan Donate GCU Endowment Fund

Prof. Dr. Nusrat Jehan, the former Chairperson, Department of Zoology, GC University (GCU) Lahore donated rupees one million to the University's Endowment Fund Trust (GCU-EFT) for the scholarships of the financially challenged orphan students. Prof. Nusrat Jehan handed over the donation cheque to the Vice Chancellor at his office.

The Trust would initiate a perpetual golden scholarship from the donation which is given to an orphan student every year on merit and fully covers his/her university fee and hostel dues.

It is pertinent to mention that a few months ago, an 82-year-old eminent poet and distinguished professor of Persian language, Prof. Dr. Zaheer Ahmed Siddique, had set a highly inspiring precedence of generosity, by donating his approximately Rs 140 million land and Rs. 5 million lifetime cash savings to the GCU-EFT for the scholarships of financially-challenged students.

