



## Marawapina

# Alumni News

### MARAWAPINA – REACHING OUT TO UOWD GRADUATES

Marawapina is an Aborigine word meaning to reach out the hand, to connect. As a UOWD graduate, we hope you connect to this newsletter and through it, to your fellow graduates.

#### A WELCOME FROM THE 2007 ALUMNI COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

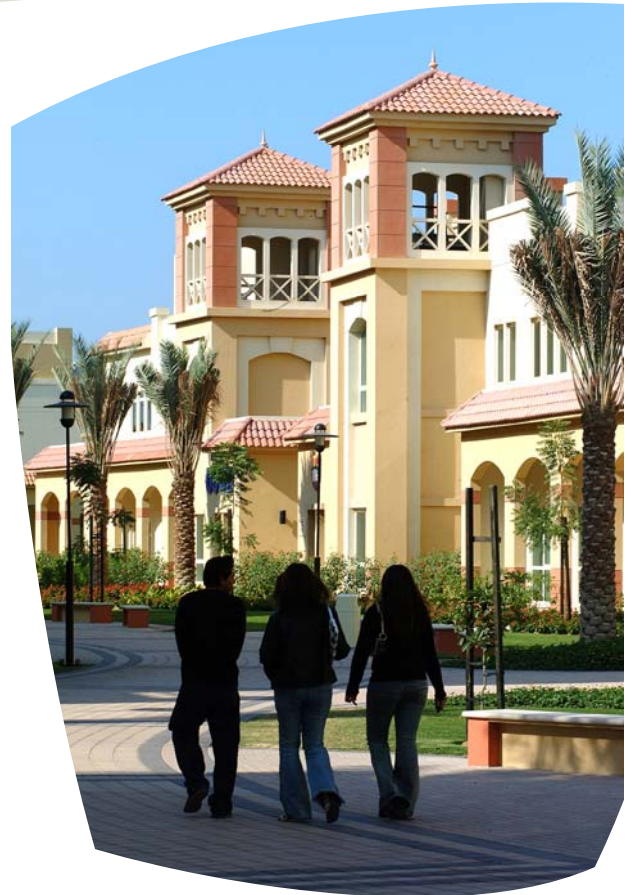
While attending UOWD, I am sure that you have developed a number of relationships with fellow students, the faculty and staff members and are keen to maintain them. The Alumni Association is the key link between alumni – wherever you are in the world - and the University. Its main responsibility is to develop and foster these relationships.

The Alumni Association strives to serve alumni in many ways. These include

nurturing continuing interaction between you and the University; acting as an advocate for alumni interests and developing programs for those seeking personal and professional growth.

Remember, we are here to serve you and represent you, and will assist you in any way that we can.

Massy Azizi Hume  
President  
2007 Alumni Committee



### NEW POSTGRADUATE DEGREES LAUNCHED

UOWD has launched three new masters programs in the fast-growing sectors of Engineering, Finance & Banking and IT. The launch of the new programs follows last year's introduction of Master of Marketing and Master of Strategic Human Resource Management programs.

*Please see page 8 for more details about the new programs.*



## ALUMNI SERVICES CARD

### A Special Note from the Alumni Committee

You are warmly invited to get involved through the Association's various programs and to use our services. To learn more about these programs, please visit the campus. We are just a click away, so please visit us often at [Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae](mailto:Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae)

UOWD is continually striving to improve the services provided to our students and graduates. In March, a wide range of services within UOWD were made available on a membership basis for our alumni through the Alumni Services Card. The Alumni Service card is available to all alumni including new graduates.

#### Benefits of Package

- Library Membership – provides access to specific UOWD databases, providing access to over 10,000 electronic journals; borrowing rights from the main and reference collections; borrowing of DVDs and CDs
- Use of the JWJ Auditorium in Block 15 for your company presentations, meetings, seminars and corporate training events
- Computer Labs – use of computer labs; access to UOWD's password protected internet services including wi-fi services
- Career Services – access to the UOWD career advisors; attend workshops, seminars & career fairs; apply for employment opportunities advertised through UOWD
- Personal Development Services – access to the UOWD Counsellor; attend personal development workshops & seminars
- Health Services – access to the UOWD Medical Centre – a primary care facility with a qualified nurse on duty during office timings and a qualified doctor available two afternoons a week;
- Alumni discounts – avail of the many discounts on offer to UOWD graduates

These benefits continue to be available for as long as you continue to renew your annual Alumni Services Card.

Membership Validity - 12 months (01 March through to last day of February of the following year); Renewable every February (5% discount if you renew before your current card expires)

Membership Fee – AED 175 per year (pro-rated by AED 10 per month)

How to Apply: Complete the Alumni Card Application (download from [www.uowdubai.ac.ae/alumni](http://www.uowdubai.ac.ae/alumni)) and bring it to the Student Services Department in Block 5 of Knowledge Village, Office 014 during office timings (8:30 – 5:30, Sun – Thurs). You will also need to bring 2 passport sized photos with you. (Please do not staple photos to your application.)



### UOWD Graduate Rings

UOWD has partnered with Damas to provide you with an impressive and beautiful way to celebrate your time with UOWD and your success as a graduate – the UOWD Graduate Ring.

Designed as a constant tribute to your achievements, the ring marks you as not only a Graduate, but as a Graduate of UOWD.

There are two styles to choose from; the traditional with a synthetic sapphire in UOWD blue (small and large design), and the signet with the UOWD crest. All are available in sterling silver, 14K gold or 18K gold (white or yellow).

Visit the Alumni section of the website for more information on the UOWD Graduate Rings, or contact the Manager Student Services on +971 4 390 0459; email: [Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae](mailto:Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae)



## Talent Management: Winning the Hearts and Minds of Talented People

*The first Alumni Evening of 2007 kicked off on 12 February with a presentation by Dr. Lien Els.*

The UOWD Alumni Committee held its first Alumni Evening of 2007 on 12 February in the James W Langridge Auditorium. Dr. Lien Els, an Associate Professor with UOWD, was the guest speaker and spoke on "Talent Management: Winning the Hearts and Minds of Talented People".

The UOWD alumni, staff and guests heard Dr. Els explain how the dynamic nature of global business, the increase in globalisation of markets and labour forces, and fierce competition is putting an ever-increasing pressure on companies to acquire, develop, motivate and retain key talent. Her research overwhelmingly demonstrates that organisations who invest in talent management outperform other organisations against a range of indices including market value and return to shareholders.

Dr. Els addressed some of the following questions in her presentation:

- What is the meaning and nature of talent management?
- What are the key strategic challenges faced by organisations in their approach to talent management?
- What is the link between talent management and the overall business strategy?
- What critical success factors effects talent management initiatives?

As a professor in Educational Management, Lien has published 18 books and numerous articles. While teaching at the University of South Africa (Unisa) she acquired extensive

experience in designing curricula in management and leadership development. Dr. Els has also established an Academy for Business Development to cater to business and human resource development needs in the public and corporate sectors. She joined UOWD about 1.5 years ago, making an immediate impact with her students.

One of the attendees, Mr. Martin Waldenstrom, General Manager of CashU, commented, "It was a very interesting presentation. It immediately got me thinking about how we manage our people and what we can do to create a better environment to nurture our talents. It has been a long time since I sat and listened to university lecture and it brought back good memories as well as it gave me some reflections when I hear students trying hard to ask good questions only because they want to know more, I realise that that kind of curiosity is often lost once you start



## OUR PROMISE TO YOU



As a dynamic voice of the Alumni, the Alumni Committee pledges to:

- Raise awareness and mutual co operation with the university staff, faculty, communities, industry, current, and prospective members;
- Fortify various educational and recreational fundraising events;
- Encourage and help in providing employment opportunities for UOWD graduates;
- The Committee will conduct its tasks on behalf of other members and UOWD in an honourable and responsible manner.

your career, but it would be so good for any organisation if this curiosity was encouraged and challenged."

Refreshments were served following the presentation, providing an ideal opportunity for alumni to catch up with each other.



*The second of the Alumni Evenings saw over 60 graduates enjoying an informative seminar on quality standards.*

Mr. Ali Rohani presented a lively and informative seminar on ISO 9001:2000. Over 60 attendees including students from MQM classes and alumni in the quality industry listened attentively as Ali spoke about successful strategies for implementing ISO 9001:2000 as well as the common pitfalls in the process.

Ali Rohani is an Internationally Registered Lead Assessor with Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA). He is also Lead Tutor for Quality, Environment and Health & Safety management systems.

His main areas of expertise include Assessment of Management Systems based on ISO standard requirements (ISO 9001, ISO 14000 and OHSAS 18000). Plus he is an expert in Business Risk Management. Ali is a member of the American Society for Quality and the

Institute of Risk management – UK. He is also a Training Partner with Dubai Quality Group and is currently undertaking UOWD's Master of Quality Management postgraduate degree.

The topic of ISO quality system is vast, but Ali encapsulated the most elemental components for the guests, with a lively and engaging delivery that kept everyone entertained.

Sumayah, one of UOWD's new graduates, said of the presentation, "This was the best one yet!"



## ISO 9001:2000 Successful Strategies and Common Pitfalls



## Upcoming Events

Listed below are just some of the upcoming events that may be of interest to UOWD graduates – most of which are offered free of charge.

Check the on-line calendar of event for more details at [www.uowdubai.ac.ae/calendar](http://www.uowdubai.ac.ae/calendar)

27 March	CME Seminar Leadership and Culture	6:00 – 8:00 pm	JWL Auditorium, Block 15
28 March	Information Presentation on new PG programs	6:30 – 8:00 pm	JWL Auditorium, Block 15
12 April	Student Services Blood Donors Drive	10:00-2:00 pm	Block 15, room TBA
16 April	Alumni Evening – topic to be confirmed	7:00 - 8:30 pm	JWL Auditorium, Block 15
24 April	CME Seminar Performance Management	6:00 – 8:00 pm	JWL Auditorium, Block 15
13 May	MDP Workshop (Week 1) Managing Yourself	6:00 – 9:00 pm	UOWD
14 May	HR Networking Evening for HR professionals	6:00 – 8:00 pm	UOWD
20 May	MDP Workshop (Week 2) Managing Others	6:00 – 9:00 pm	UOWD
27 May	MDP Workshop (Week 3) Putting it All Together	6:00 – 9:00 pm	UOWD

### Do you know someone who would make a great guest speaker at one of the Alumni Evenings?

We're on the lookout for informative, engaging speakers from a wide range of companies and industries. If you know someone from your company or from outside your company, please let us know. This is an ideal opportunity for your company to make itself known to a large group of achievers. Contact the Manager Student Services for more information on +971 4 390 0459 or [Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae](mailto:Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae).

## Graduation 2006 & Graduate Gala Dinner

The University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) celebrated the graduation of a record number of 608 graduates at two colourful ceremonies in the presence of hundreds of proud parents, faculty members and guests at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

Mr. Michael Codd A.C., Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, conferred degrees on the 220 undergraduates at the morning ceremony and 388 postgraduates at the evening ceremony, in the presence of HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Executive Council, who was the Guest of Honour at the morning ceremony.

In his address, Professor Nick van der Walt, Chief Executive Officer of the University of Wollongong in Dubai, stressed that the job of a university today was to help students fulfil their dreams and aspirations by providing them with the thinking skills they will need as humanity faces some of the most fundamental challenges in its history.

"While in the traditional sense it was sufficient to ensure that the highest standards of research informed teaching were introduced into the classroom, today the university must engage with industry and be seen by industry leaders to have staff who are valued for their contribution to the future economic success of the country. In essence, to serve the student body and society effectively, academic leaders must be at home in both the classroom and the boardroom".

Miss Nishat Khatib, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours, proposed the Vote of Thanks at the undergraduate ceremony and fondly recalled the happy moments she enjoyed at the university. "At UOWD, leaning was fun, and fun was learning. The mix of cultures, the international experience of our professors and the learning on demand transformed us into able, willing and independent individuals, ready to face the future," she said in her speech.

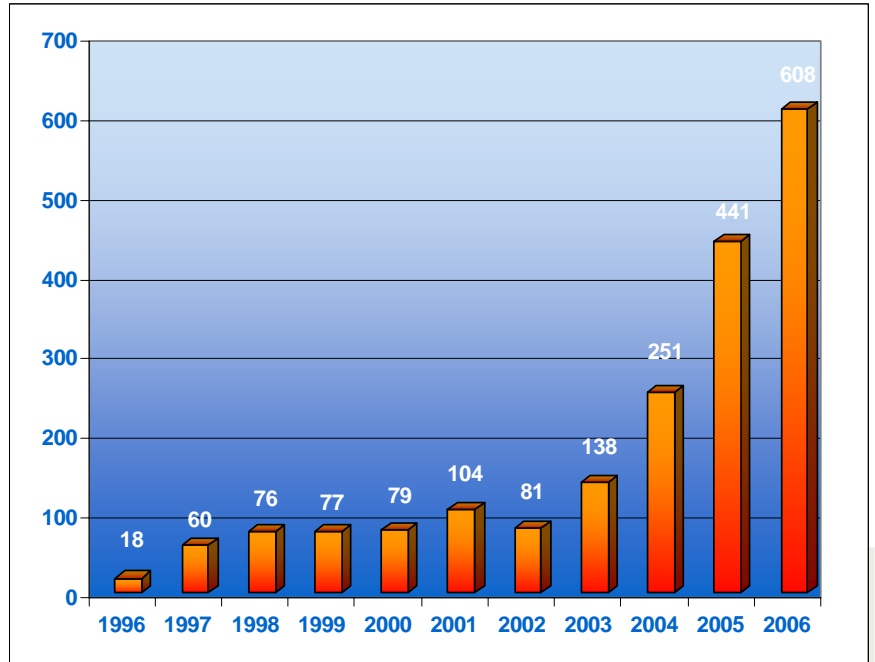
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Mr. Johnny Karam, graduating with a Master of Business Administration with Honours, proposed the Vote of Thanks at the postgraduate ceremony and expressed his gratitude to the faculty and parents for making this day a reality. "We all entered the temple of learning as apprentices asking for guidance and knowledge of those accomplished Masters. Wollongong as an institution along with its esteemed professors stood strong as solid foundations delivering to their promise of higher education," he said.

As the chart on the left indicates, the UOWD Graduation Ceremonies have been growing in scale and grandeur over the years. The first graduation ceremony in 1996 honoured just 18 students. By 2001, the number of graduates receiving their degrees swelled to 104. A total of 441 graduates were conferred degrees in 2005, while the Class of 2006 saw the largest graduating class yet with 608 graduates being honoured this year - certainly a cause for celebration.

With the first batch of graduates from the Class of 2007 joining the Alumni Association in February, the total number of UOWD graduates passed the 2,000 mark, with 2073 students having now graduated from UOWD in the 14 years since we first started operations in the UAE.



Annual Growth Chart of UOWD's Graduates

*The latest batch of alumni approved at the February Council brought the current total number of UOWD graduates to **2073!***



# Graduate Profiles

The University is very proud of its graduates and we are eager to find out about your achievements, career and other events since leaving UOWD.

If you would like to be profiled in these pages, please download the Graduate Profile form from the alumni section of the University website, or email [Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae](mailto:Alumni@uowdubai.ac.ae) with the following details:

- First Name(s)
- Family Name
- Student Number
- Degrees Awarded
- Date or year course completed
- Why did you choose the University of Wollongong over other universities?
- What are some of your achievements and interests?
- In which industry do you work?
- What is your Position/Title?
- Which company do you work for?
- In which city/suburb do you work?
- Outline your career history since graduation
- Include a current photo of yourself

If we use your profile in our newsletter or in the Alumni profiles section of the university's website, you will receive a UOWD gift pack.

Contact the Manager Student Services for more information on +971 4 390 0459 or email.

## What made you decide to study at UOWD?

It was the type of degrees (especially the majors) and courses offered, recommendations by friends who were studying in the university at the time, reputation of the university both locally and in Australia

## What present benefit are you finding with your academics at UOWD?

My academics at UOWD helped me obtain a job at Deloitte & Touché as an Auditor. This was a graduate placement, which required the applicant to undergo various tests. The skills learnt at UOWD helped me face all the tasks assigned to me with confidence, thereby, enabling me to be one of the few students to be chosen for the graduate placement

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## What made you decide to study at UOWD?

It has a high reputation in the market and it's one of the accredited universities in Dubai. The best features are the flexible timings and convenience as being close to work place.

## Tell us about your time at UOWD.

The main advantage of studying in UOWD is the integration of education with other interpersonal, computer and communication skills. It has enabled us to work and live in a multicultural environment.



Meet BCom graduate Vidya Flora Castelino



Meet MBA graduate Nasser Zuheir Alyazji Project Manager

## Alumni Study Grants

Have you recently graduated from one of UOWD's Bachelor programs? If you are thinking about proceeding into postgraduate studies, you may be eligible for an Alumni Study Grant. This grant covers 100% of the fee for one subject in any postgraduate program on offer. You must enroll within two sessions of completing your bachelor program and must meet the admission requirements for the program. The grant is applicable only towards subject fees and is not a cash grant. Other conditions may apply. Contact the Admissions office on +971 4 367 2400 for more information.

## Brief Introduction to New Postgraduate Programs

### **MASTER OF ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT (MEM)**

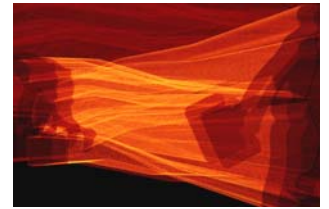
The Master of Engineering Management degree program (MEM) is designed to prepare engineers in better management of company resources towards successful completion of engineering projects. Basic management principles are of relevant interest to all engineers as management responsibility is an inevitable component of most engineering careers. The knowledge and skills of integrating engineering and management techniques in designing, operating, evaluating, implementing and managing continuous improvements of systems are highly valued in today's industrial environment.

### **MASTER OF APPLIED FINANCE & BANKING (MAFB)**

The Master of Applied Finance and Banking (MAFB) is designed to prepare students and professionals with advanced financial management and banking skills. This program incorporates finance strategy with banking theory and aligns its application to practice, with the aim of equipping students with the knowledge and skills required to successfully compete in the job market in the areas of accounting, finance and banking. The curriculum has been specifically developed with an international focus, allowing graduates to seek careers in this sector in any part of the world.

### **MASTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT (MITM)**

The Master of Information Technology Management (MITM) degree program is designed to equip and prepare IT professionals working in various industries for the increasing complexities of the digital economy. Small business enterprises and large corporations are operating in a global and competitive environment, hence, the rising demand for IT experts who can automate organizational processes by utilizing the latest innovations in technology and business. Competent IT managers are sought not only by companies engaged in the production or engineering of IT products but equally by existing and new service companies. The knowledge and skills necessary to anticipate, manage and implement business and technological advances that are critical to future business success are always highly in demand.



## Logistics Middle East Award for UOWD

In its Annual Review for 2006 LOGISTICS – Middle East magazine awarded UOWD the Educational Institute of the Year in the field of promoting Supply Chain Management.

Excerpts from the article in the December 2006 issue of Logistic – Middle East are reprinted below:

“Dubai is gaining a solid reputation as the region's most prominent logistics hub,” explains Dr. Cedwyn Fernandes, Chair of Graduate Studies. “We want to bring a certain level of knowledge infrastructure into the industry, which is essential for future growth.”

The university marked its entry into the logistics sector by hosting a Supply Chain Executive Forum, which took place in November 2006. “The forum basically helped executive management teams to identify and work through relevant supply chain issues,” says Dr. Fernandes. “So instead of enrolling individuals into the programme, organisations sent a whole team of executives from different areas of the business, such as sales managers, marketing managers and logisticians. The event was not simply aimed at people in the logistics industry, because that's like preaching to the converted.”

The university is now planning to further develop its courses in supply chain management. “The Supply Chain Executive Forum was not a stand alone event.” says Fernandes. “We also want to establish a Dubai research centre for logistics, similar to the one in Australia. In addition, there will be more executive forum events, which will probably focus on narrower topics in logistics and supply chain management, once the educational programme and research centre are launched,” he adds.

The timing for such courses seems perfect, especially with the logistics industry booming in the Middle East. Indeed, Fernandes believes companies should realise that supply chain management is not some division in the basement, but actually plays an essential role in business.

“If companies want to survive, they must understand that efficient logistics is essential to their business. In fact, our message is that the supply chain is the business. We hope to position UOWD at the forefront of this discipline.” he concludes.

# Future Alumni



## **Ankush Prasher**

Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Finance & Marketing

### **What made you decide to study at UOWD?**

Because of its regional and international reputation

### **What present benefit are you finding with your academics at UOWD?**

The quality of education is high; it's an opportunity to study from highly experienced and high profile Professors. It acts as a possibility to interact in a multicultural environment. UOWD name itself gives ample opportunity for work experience and internships because of its high recognition.

## **Hussein Doughan**

Masters in International Business

Sales Manager

### **What made you decide study at UOWD?**



UOWD was the best choice to enhance my education due to its worldwide recognition. Having done my bachelors in American University of Beirut, this was a different academic approach.

### **Tell us about your time at UOWD**

Studying at UOWD has enabled me to deal with multicultural environment. It has motivated me to work on my self development through the various workshops provided.



**Marawapina** is published 3 – 4 times a year by the UOWD Alumni Committee. It is the official source for information about the university's events, people, policies and programs. Our audience is the UOWD community comprising of over 2,000 Alumni and 175 faculty members. Marawapina also provides information about community events, organizations and volunteer opportunities that are of interest to our readers.

If you have suggestions for stories or features that you would like to see or comments about the newsletter, please write to us. We are listening.

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