



# NEDIAN



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## NED University in International Limelight



Maria Khalid  
Chemical Engineering, Batch-2020

Owing to the pandemic, the world has witnessed a disdainful shift from the norm in the year 2020 and universities have been pelted with their own fair share of problems. Although, times are still equally-if not more-as strenuous this year, instead of turning a blind eye to them and irrationally awaiting normalcy to return, we are learning how to adapt

accordingly. NED University of Engineering and Technology takes pride in its completion of numerous events, in adherence to all the SOP's, making this year as engaging and stimulating as the previous for its students and the scientific community at large. First up, the 1st International Industrial Chemistry Conference was successfully inaugurated and held virtually at NED University from February 26th to 28th, 2021. The three-day conference acted as a

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE



International Industrial Chemistry CONFERENCE



All Pakistan Inter-University Football Championship (Women) 2021 SPORTS



Business Incubation Center & SMEDA INAUGURATION



Turkish Language MoU EDUCATION

torchbearer for the future endeavors to strengthen the industrial linkages as well as to discuss challenges that curtail research potential and industrial processes. Moreover, the discourse also encouraged seeking out possible solutions. For this purpose, renowned industry academia, scientists and researchers from across the globe were invited as speakers to impart their knowledge, provide expertise and stimulate learning via a series of technical sessions.

NED's Civil Engineering Department has also added some feathers to its cap this year. A 7-member team of third year Civil Engineering students from ACI NED University Chapter participated in the ACI (American Concrete Institute) Spring Virtual Concrete Solutions Competition 2021 and emerged victorious by securing 1st position in the Most Innovative Design/Developmental Use of Concrete Category. Tough measures were reinforced to evaluate the contest, with aspirants from ACI Student Chapters worldwide. Teams were required to demonstrate via

video an innovative way of using concrete that is sustainable and economically viable. The top 20 were shortlisted for a live interview with the judges during the ACI Virtual Concrete Convention on 28th March, where NED University's team won over the panelists with their appraisal of using Sugarcane Bagasse Ash (SCBA) as a partial substitute for concrete. Furthermore, the 11th International Civil Engineering Conference (ICEC) was organized and held in hybrid mode at the university, under the theme "Integrating Innovation and Sustainability in Civil Engineering". The session, planned on 1st April at the Civil Engineering Conference Hall, was attended by a limited audience in order to curb the spread of COVID but also went live as a Zoom webinar to ensure widespread exposure and inclusion. Soon after, on April 7th NED University bagged the KE KHI Awards 2021 in Sustainability and Environment. The awards appraise establishments that have contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of Karachi, in the essence of being

conscious about the environment. The university proved itself to be a leading pursuant in the carbon neutral and clean tech initiatives, aiming to maintain a space not only conducive to quality education but also to an eco-friendly future.

Additionally, the 6th International Electrical Engineering Conference (IEEC) 2021 was held on 8th April, where its theme "Aspiring Pathways in Electrical Engineering (ASPIRE)" accommodated a number of delegates lauded in their respective fields, to speak about an array of topics covering the areas of Electrical Engineering. Young scientists and experienced specialists are eagerly anticipating a similar but still a game changer of its kind event, the 1st International Conference on Applied Physics and Engineering (ICAPE 2021), which was held on September 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the auditorium. The programme is just one of the many tenacious efforts of NED University to revolutionize the tech community in Pakistan, establish platforms to collaborate new ideas, and pragmatize them into reality.

## Collaborations, Memorandums and Milestones

Umna Arshad  
Software Engineering, Batch-2019

The NED University of Engineering and Technology has been a pioneer in teaching engineering sciences and research despite the constant change in the nature and role of education over the century. The academic journey



that started in 1921 is going to complete its 100 years comprising of conduction of numerous qualitative researches, contribution towards creating inclusive

educational milieu, formation of a fair environment with the egalitarian approach, necessary actions being taken to deal with climatic changes and collaboration



with various prestigious organizations for an improved surrounding, this year.

As the university celebrates its 100 years of academic excellence in 2021, Engro Energy Limited (EEL), a subsidiary of Engro Corporation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the university to solarize the well-equipped Engineer Abul Kalam Library to create a cut down in the carbon footprint and construct a baby day-care centre to assist the female teachers providing them with the utmost comfort. This will not only contribute towards the socio-economic uplift of the nation but also promise a brighter and sustainable future for Pakistan. To further aid this cause of helping the natural environment in flourishing, NED University signed an MoU with Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) to plant 300 Miyawaki forests. Furthermore, the university has collaborated with Archroma, a global leader having specialty in chemicals towards sustainable solutions, signing a memorandum

for cooperation initially for a five-year period which will delve into textile research to enable the Pakistani Textile industry to keep up with the global innovations. Developmental projects, collaborative research and introduction to modern methodologies along with joint training sessions will be held for students to learn and overcome the trials of the fast paced and upscaled textile industry.

Recently, the university collaborated with TELEC Group, signing an MoU that will ensure TELEC offering EDA- (Electronic Design Automation) Software Suite of an industry price of approximately 0.5 - 1 million USD - Education donation package on FOC to the university which will help students acquire knowledge of the new-fangled 'Path-wave Design' tool and keeping up with the latest industry standards in addition to encouraging industry-academia partnership.

NED University, keeping its students well connected to the other

countries, signed another agreement with Turkey's Maarif Foundation on Friday, 9th April in Karachi which will aid the university in conducting the language course along with the two sides carrying out cultural and educational exchange programmes for the students. This will help students broaden their horizons, improve their communication skills and help admit them into colleges or even secure scholarships.

To encourage and uplift tech entrepreneurs, The Bank of Punjab collaborated with the National Incubation Centre and hosted an "Award and MoU Signing Ceremony" at NIC, NED University, Karachi creating a FinTech Learning and Development centre at NIC. This will provide the FinTech start-ups with workspace, highly qualified and trained advisors from the related IT and financial sectors along with training programmes. To expand the FinTech sector and spread awareness about it, the two organizations will also collectively host a FinTech Conference.

## Virtual Convocation 2020 - Reshaping the Clichéd Ways

Rida Kalim  
Software Engineering, Batch 2019

The Class of 2020 had anything but a normal senior year as they headed for their final semester, the world had undergone a great change. A sudden change that they got deprived of their last semester on campus; their one last time to relive precious moments before they bid farewell to NED. As the Covid-19 pandemic news took the world by storm, so did the news of a virtual graduation. The NED Class of



2020 was devastated at the news of an online ceremony and many expressed their views on social media platforms; expressing

disappointment as they were deprived of this momentous day in their lives, the honor to graduate in front of their families and bid one

last farewell to the years they spent in the university. The university did all that it could to provide students a memorable experience. Although, the ceremony was online but students were able to get their senior portraits, batch photo sessions and even threw their hats in the air to experience as much as they could on campus.

NED University conducted its 29th and first virtual convocation on January 8th 2021, graduating 3,080 students from undergraduate, masters and Ph.D. programmes. In an event, which was held via a Zoom meeting, the university's leadership, faculty, parents of graduating students and staff members all joined in to recognize the achievements of the Class of 2020. The ceremony was graced by the Governor of Sindh, Mr. Imran Ismail and the Chief guest, Mr. Tolga Ucak, the Consul General of Republic of Turkey in Karachi. Conducting the Convocation 2020 online was a proactive approach by NED University in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As the students logged in at the designated time, the university's leadership including the Pro Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and faculty members gathered in Syed Mahmood Alam Auditorium following the SOPs of public gathering. The Pro Chancellor, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro declared the convocation open followed by the recitation of the Holy Quran and national anthem. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi presented his report addressing the hard work of the faculty members, students and thanking the Chief guests, Governor of Sindh and Mr. Tolga Ucak for being a part of their ceremony. After the Vice Chancellor's report, the Pro Chancellor and Vice Chancellor

presented the conferment of Bachelor's degrees, followed by the conferment of Master degrees and finally the conferment of Ph.D. degrees." Prof. Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi honored the years of hard work that the students spent in being worthy of receiving their degrees from NED University. The award ceremony began with presenting the gold medals and merit certificates to the position holders of Bachelor of Engineering final examinations for each department followed by the Bachelor of Science programmes and Bachelor of Architecture programme.

The award ceremony continued for presenting the recipient of the Master's Degree and Master's degree in absentia. The prestigious degrees of Doctor of Philosophy were announced by Prof. Dr. Saad Ahmed Qazi; Dean Electrical Engineering presented the degrees to the Vice Chancellor. The Ph.D. degrees were awarded physically with the students in attendance. This year, the university presented 9 prestigious degrees for Doctor of Philosophy.

After the students were rewarded with their respective degrees, the chief guest Mr. Tolga Ucak presented his speech. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, he was not able to physically attend regardless his virtual participation was highly appreciated. "The future of the youth will be the future of your country, and future of your nation," his words truly left an impact on the students and their responsibility towards their country. Governor Sindh, Mr. Imran Ismail mentioned in his speech how NED University revolutionized education in the province of Sindh. Besides that, the Pro Chancellor also shared some words with the graduating class filling them with

enthusiasm for their years ahead and appreciating their hard work. With encouraging words delivered to the graduating class of 2020 the ceremony headed towards its end with a convocation prayer. The ceremony was declared closed, finalizing years of hard work and determination as the students proved themselves worthy and eligible for degrees presented by NED University.

Nonetheless, the students were not deprived of the gaiety of their big day. All the students were invited to the university in separate slots for a batch photoshoot, tossing graduation caps in the air and making irreplaceable memories. Despite the circumstances, NED University made adequate adaptations to provide students with the best experience and knowledge that they will need in their lives ahead. As the Class of 2020 ended their years at NED University, another batch enrolled and the university got back to its process of offering high quality education, ensuring a bright future for the youth of Pakistan.

## Adapting to Lingual Diversities

Abdullah Haider Ali  
Electrical Engineering, Batch 2020

**B**efore the Covid-19 Pandemic, it was a common sight to see some Chinese nationals strolling through the gardens of NED University during the evening and early morning hours. These health-conscious foreigners were actually part of the university's novel initiative to teach Chinese language to its students. In the wake of increasing economic ties between China and Pakistan especially the

multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the university stumble on the eminent need to impart engineering students with the knowledge of Chinese language. The university reports over 4000 thousand students who benefited from this initiative since its inception back in 2017. The first batch that studied Chinese are graduating this year. Let's see in a retrospect how their experience was in learning a new language, what they and the subsequent batches think about this initiative and how can we improve and bring more of such initiatives.

During the Fall of 2017, NED University announced two levels of Chinese language which were made compulsory to all new batches. The university established the idea to familiarize students with the basic working and foundation of Chinese language. Accordingly, the university successfully engaged several Chinese nationals to teach the course and established the CPEC Cell for further outreach and has been successful in signing MoUs with over 15 Chinese universities. Being a leading institute of the country, this initiative was in parallel to its vision to "be a leader in enabling Pakistan's social and economic transformation". However, the students had all sorts of mixed experiences and suggestions on the subject. To learn more, we asked several students from batch 2017 and onwards about their Chinese learning experience.

"I was really excited when I first heard of this opportunity. The job market currently requires people to have Chinese proficiency and experiencing it first hand was very interesting." Says one of our graduating students while recalling the excitement that many had when

they started to learn the language. Many other students also favored the idea that multilingual abilities are imperative in developing one's professional career. The first batch admitted that there was a lot of experimenting involved on part of both the teachers and students. One of the students said, "it was one-of-a-kind experiences for all of us as for the first time we were provided with a new flavor of studies apart from those complicated technical courses." It shows the students' affinity towards the 'fun' part of the experience given that most of them were already taking many highly technical courses. But it wasn't all fun and games for everyone as some find it tedious to have an extra course on their backs.

Many students confessed that the course gradually became a burden for them as they started to lose interest in it. Others hinted that what they learnt was not enough for them to communicate with natives. There were suggestions to make the second level of course optional or teach it in later years so as to keep the knowledge of the language fresh in students' minds. Especially the students who were taught online by local teachers found it more difficult and demanding since the more engaging activities were subsided as expressed by one of the students who didn't enjoy the online course and wanted to improve it by "bringing in some fun games and dialect classes".

Now it is understandable that learning new language is not a walk in the park, there's a learning curve in every new initiative. Perhaps, due to the pandemic and online classes, the newer students missed out on the more comical aspect of learning Chinese, the quirky noises of the students pronouncing Chinese words and characters that echoed in

the corridors and the whole class singing some Chinese songs with the teacher. These certainly provided a sense of whimsy to the overall experience of learning a new language. But still, like every other language, Chinese or Mandarin also have levels of learning and proficiency. Out of the 6 levels, only two levels were taught to the students. And in order to gain full working proficiency, more levels of study are required.

Recently, NED University signaled to start Turkish language course as well, inferring the success of previous experiment with Chinese language. The popularity of Turkish Culture witnessed a spike recently due to the influence of their media industry in Pakistan. However, this progress has been received with mixed reviews. Many students consider it a step in the right direction as more recently, Turkey has become a demanding destination for Pakistani students as well as tourists, so it might be helpful to learn their language. On the other hand, many students think that learning Turkish wouldn't have significant future prospects for the students as Turkey is still not the most promising destination in terms of career and higher education. Suggestions had also surfaced to introduce more widespread international languages like German, French or Spanish for better outreach. Nevertheless, the world economy is getting unpredictable, therefore, only future will decide the usefulness of these new foreign languages for Pakistani students.

Overall, the experience of students with a new language is one full of learning, overcoming challenges and excitement. In conclusion, as one of our optimistic students said, "The commonness in the underlying rules of the language was akin to how we all share a basic bond of humanity.



Empathy is an important trait for professional world, and this course helped me find that." The aim of learner is to be more productive and to eventually become a better person. The foreign language courses at the university surely provide some fodder for this personal growth.



## Beamistri-Not the Average Mainstream Construction

Rabi Haroon  
Civil Engineering, Batch 2019

Science is what brings beauty to life. The world is in need of more abled and driven individuals who are passionate about their professions, and have a more practical approach rather than theoretical towards things in general. In order to cater such individuals and to put science into test, an event by the name of Beamistri was organized by the department of Civil Engineering which was held in December 2019 for the students of FE. It was truly an event of its kind.

The faculty members overlooking and mentoring the whole event included Dr. Fawwad Masood and Sir Saad Khan from Civil Engineering department. It was due to their utmost motivation, and dedicated hard work, that the event was a huge success. Beamistri was all about constructing a beam specimen that could endure the most amount of weight, and be extremely pocket-friendly at the same time.

The participants were the students of First Year from the department of Civil and Specialization in Construction Engineering Who were passionate about playing in

the open field of engineering. Students were given an open choice to decide on what approach they are going to have towards everything. For instance, how would they reduce the cost to the bare-minimum and make the best possible beam in terms of weight endurance?

The students were given a week and two, to make the best possible wooden beam. After discussing a couple of ideas with their respective mentors and teachers, the students were able to prepare some beam specimens. On the day of the event, the students were advised to bring in two beam specimens. The first specimen was to be the normal beam that they had used, with no additions to it. The second beam specimen, however, was the one with the additions made to it, in order to bear more stress than usual.

The testing was done in two phases. First came the testing of the untouched beam specimen, with no additions made to body in which the weight was slowly applied, until to the point where the beam finally fails and break. The point of failure and the amount of weight endured by the beam was then noted/written down. After the first phase came the second testing phase which was done on the beam specimen prepared by the

students. It was done at Materials Testing Lab, with UTM (Universal Testing Machine). UTM is a machine that serves the purpose of testing out the tensile and the compressive strength of materials thereby plotting a whole graph until the point of failure.

After the failure of the second beam, the failure point and the amount of weight endured was written down. The test results were then compared and compiled which kept the students on toes. Some students were ecstatic and others were disappointed when the results were announced but overall, everyone had something that they could take away from the event. Hamza Ali, Samir Jamali, Hamid Hussain, Sufiyan Ahmed, Mubashir Ali, Naeem ur Rehman and Hassan Babar bagged the first position among the cutthroat individuals while Osama, Abdur Rehman, Sami Farooq, Aryan, Umar bham, Naim and Sharjeel stood the first runner's up.

The event was indeed true to its nature and something that the individuals could learn from. It gave the students a platform where they could test their ideas, make spontaneous sense of the situation and test the sharpness of their minds. It was truly an event that a young mind would look forward to. Talks about Beamistri 2.0, are on the table and with the recent pandemic, it seems to be quite a task but there are no boundaries for a thinking mind. Keep on learning and keep on giving!

# Civil Engineering Students Transcending Boundaries

Aiman Siddiqui  
Civil Engineering, Batch 2019

A seven-member team namely Alyina, Ammar, Faiza, Mudassir, Muneeb, Sadia, and Talha, undergraduate students from Third Year, Civil Engineering Department made its debut in an International concrete solutions competition organized by American Concrete Institute (ACI) International in this fall semester and bagged 1st position with a ground-breaking submission on the most innovative use of concrete. The competition had an unconventional criterion to evaluate the teams from all over the world and team NEDIA, with their dexterous command on research and unswerving ambition, set new bars for the competitions in future. When asked about their experience competing with cutthroat individuals from all over the world, team NEDIA was all praises for the mentorship provided and for the life-changing exposure.

**Q. Tell us about your team, about the competition and about your submission? How did this opportunity come your way?**

**Alyina:** A promotional email of ACI International consisting of the competition brief was forwarded to us by Dr Asad Ur Rehman Khan, Dean of faculty of Civil and Petroleum Engineering (CPL) and Dr. Shamsoon Fareed, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering Department. Owing to the final exams looming close, it was a risky time to make a commitment but luckily, we ended up with more than enough people from third-year to form a team.



The brief was to make a YouTube video on any concrete related innovation that has the potential to create large scale benefit to the population. After video submission, the top 20 teams were shortlisted and interviewed by judges during the ACI Virtual Spring Concrete Convention. The results were announced live in another segment of the Convention after a few days. For our submission, we wanted to pick a topic that was viable for use in Pakistan and thus, choosing a theme that reduced the environmental impact of concrete was a no-brainer. Considering the largely unchecked local production of cement and Pakistan's high spot on the list of countries projected to suffer the most from global warming, our final topic combined the need to reduce CO2 emissions from the cement industry and putting Pakistan's significant agricultural waste to use through the partial replacement of

cement by sugarcane bagasse ash (SCBA) in concrete. Our idea was not novel; we consulted published papers to create our video since the competition stipulated this.

**Q. How was your experience participating in a global competition in terms of exposure, teamwork and challenges?**

**Faiza:** We had a great experience participating in such a competition and that too for the first time. Learning animation from scratch in such a short period of time was probably the first challenge we faced while finalizing the topic of SCBA since the evaluation criteria emphasized over "uniqueness of the idea" but eventually it worked out for all of us, Alhamdulillah.

**Alyina:** The fact that it was a remote competition really cast a damper on the 'exposure' bit, except perhaps during the interview stage where we interacted with the foreign



judges. Challenges were also rather 'local', something that we would have experienced even if it was not an international competition. They included a very tight deadline and our limited skill set in video editing and animation.

**Ammar:** Though the exposure was limited due to the pandemic situation, we worked remotely in our zones without having to deal with peer pressure but facing the foreign judges was a bit of a challenge yet it was also an uplifting experience.

**Mudassir:** Racing against the clock to meet the deadline, preparing strong content and understanding the work ethic of each other at the same time; these aspects made the process worthwhile. Participation in such mega events never goes in vain. If nothing else, you learn teamwork, time management and stepping out of your comfort zone at least.

**Q. What difference has the ACI Spring Concrete Solutions Competition made to your approach towards your field, academia and the way you perceive your discipline?**

**Muneeb:** The most effective impact is that we have started perceiving things in a more practical manner. We have converged our thoughts towards the implementation of such ideas that promise a more sustainable world. This whole competition taught us how different replacements in concrete can contribute to greener and environmentally friendlier structures.

**Q. Did this competition take prerequisite knowledge into account or did you have to go extra miles for the research and execution? Were you offered any mentorship?**

**Mudassir:** To be fair, this competition was novel in terms of

ideas and its basic brief. As a student of Civil Engineering, we majorly deal with conventional concrete but since the brief called for innovation, we had to go quite a few miles to boil down to this topic. We were mentored by Dr. Shamsoon Fareed in the best way possible. Not only did he endorse our ideas every time we approached him but also suggested quite remarkable ideas on his own. Speaking of mentorship; yes, we were mentored in the best way possible.

**Q. Competing for an international competition, there must have been a lot of pressure. How did you handle it?**

**Talha:** We started our work from 18th February 2021 and submitted it on 6th March 2021, which makes it about 18 or 19 days, but we were never nervous throughout the process. One thing remained firm that we will give our best and leave the rest to Allah. We never gave much room to redundant thoughts of failing or not being competent enough. The only time that we felt actually nervous was when we were preparing for the interview. The last few days before the interview were nerve-wrecking.

**Q. Who came up with the idea of participating in the competition? Were you all always on one page or did the idea welcome conflicts and disagreements?**

**Talha:** Final exams were just round the corner when I first saw this post, I was dead set on participating as I had never participated in a global competition and that too related to Civil Engineering. I tried to pitch my classmates in, most of whom were not keen enough to participate and the rest of them were vacillating due to impending exams. Nonetheless, we were able to make an adequate team within a few hours after ACI NED University Student Chapter

publicized the details on its social media forums.

As far as the disagreements are concerned, there were no hardcore disagreements but deciding the topic elicited a lot of energy as the members were adamant on finalizing the topic they had researched on.

**Muneeb:** I was asked by my friend Talha to participate in the competition and since it was scheduled after our final exams, I readily agreed. Neither were there any disagreements between us. Whatever we have been able to achieve lately, we owe it to our teamwork.

**Mudassir:** Agreements and disagreements definitely occur on the road to sieving out the best ideas but they never ignited a quarrel. While some endorsed a certain idea, some didn't but luckily, we were on the same page very soon.

**Q. It is a great pride for both you and the university, so do you intend to take part in more such competitions in future?**

**Alyina:** Insha'Allah, that's the plan! An incredible number of international student competitions centered around Civil and Construction engineering happen every year; and with vaccinations on the rise, we can expect the in-person mode soon. In that case we hope the university provides some degree of facilitation in terms of travel and attendance-loss support.

**Muneeb:** Definitely. I believe these competitions should not be dealt with like an extracurricular because these are actually a reinforcement of what you are not taught in classrooms and books.

**Sadia:** Participation in such competitions is not just geared towards work and enjoyment but it also aids hands-on learning. Life of an engineering student is all about



practical aspects and I think such competitions help us seek knowledge beyond a confined classroom.

**Q. What inspired you to take part in this competition? Did you not get cold feet before stepping into this considering coming parallel with cutthroat individuals from across the globe?**

**Alyina:** Cold feet, yes; a bout of uneasiness that mainly stemmed from having two-and-a-half weeks to accomplish what other teams executed in 2-3 months. But here's the thing, we had two options: either drop it all or just do the best we could, although this is a very low bar, even participation was a milestone for us.

**Faiza:** No team from NED University had ever taken part in an ACI Competition before us. So, we were already trailblazers just by participating. We could learn from our experience and use it to come back stronger next time but God had better plans, thankfully.

**Q. Socially distant, did you have any idea what your competitors were brewing? How did you set the bar for your project?**

**Faiza:** No, we did not know about our competitors' ideas but we knew for sure that they were working hard since they had been working for 2-3 months as they posted on their Instagram accounts.

**Alyina:** Instagram accounts were rife to an unnerving extent with how much effort some ACI Chapters had put into their submission. For our submission, we reviewed highly ranked videos of the CS Competition's previous iteration to set quality standards. We were all too aware of our less-than-stellar animation skills so we tried to offset that with an engaging script, with prompts that allowed cleaner, simpler animations. We also tried to

never lose sight of the brief: the priority was to reflect the high impact potential of SCBA cement in our content.

**Q. What message would you like to give to your juniors in accordance with your experience?**

**Faiza:** Just try to explore everything and you might discover new areas that excite you. You may not win at everything but at least you can get to enjoy the process of a lot of things.

**Alyina:** Branch out! Seek opportunities beyond the classroom right from first year, everything that you think you lack, expertise in can be learnt online or through some extra sessions with the faculty.

**Talha:** It is about time that you start thinking how to revolutionize construction such that it is friendly to the environment, to the people and for the economy of the country. In simple words, make construction more sustainable.

**Muneeb:** The world waiting for us outside is way different than we think so try to be practical instead of being a bookworm. Our field is already seething with research papers, it is time to bring them to large scale practice.

**Sadia:** Journey always matters more than the destination. It is during the journey that you experiment, learn, evolve and grow. So, do not care about winning or losing, just live in the moment and try to learn from every moment.

**Ammar:** Cope with failure and learn from mistakes. Never stop working hard. A new set of challenges always await you and the real challenges start once you step out of university.

**Mudassir:** Give in all you have got, and leave the rest to Allah. At some point in time, we would jest about making it to the top 20s, and Alhamdulillah, here we are today.

Such experiences are highly enlightening.

## Indelible Scholars in Time

1- Prof. Dr. M. A. Rauf Qureshi

Abdullah Haider Ali, Rida Kalim  
Electrical Engineering, Batch 2017,  
Software Engineering, Batch 2019

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf Qureshi, the name behind several pieces of research on the "Ring Theory" was indeed a laudable mathematician. Born on February 10th, 1935 in the city of Agra (India), he made remarkable academic achievements in the field of Mathematics, precisely, Algebra. Preceding with an extraordinary academic life, Dr. A. Rauf continued with his legacy of enriching the educational world with his wisdom. Often accredited with the title of "Young Professor" while teaching as a Lecturer and later acknowledged by his supervisor in Ph.D. as, "Mr. Rauf has his ideas in Research", speaks volumes about his personality in the field of academics and research. It was due to his passion, determination, and devotion that his hard work added a feather to the shining cap of academics in Pakistan. Dr. Qureshi passed on his legacy by planting a seed of his expertise in the minds of many students through his impeccable teaching and eternal wisdom in the world of

mathematics.



Dr. Mohammad Abdul Rauf Qureshi; a hardworking and devoted man, had a rather applaud-able educational background. He stepped into professional life by acquiring a B.A Hons (1953) and M.A degree (1955) from the University of Karachi, in the area of Mathematics. He stood 1st in his batch, in both of the respective degrees. He then went on to get an M.A Hons degree in 1959 from the University of Edinburgh, U.K and to Kings College, University of London, UK for his doctoral studies. He earned his Ph.D. in 1965 with the thesis title of "Modules over generalized ore rings".

Hailing from such an impressive educational background, Dr. Qureshi's commendable academic achievements cover the following milestones:

He earned a merit scholarship, offered to him by the university of Karachi in 1953, on the account of him securing 1st position in B.A Hons, so that he would get his M.A done from the University of Karachi, too. In addition, he later received yet another merit scholarship by the Government of Pakistan, for him to pursue his Ph.D. from the University

of London. He was awarded this scholarship on the occasion of him securing 1st position in his M.A degree plan.

Dr. A. Rauf Qureshi's contributions transcended beyond the domain of algebra. From reviewing papers in the American Mathematical Society to co-authoring a book on *Introduction to Mechanics*; from teaching in various varsities in Pakistan and abroad to his research on Ore Rings, Dr. Qureshi was a dynamic and versatile scholar. Perhaps, his biggest contribution was his lifelong and extensive research on Ring Theory. Ring Theory examines the various structures and representations of algebraic structures mainly for their applications in homological and polynomial identities. He published over 30 research papers in various journals and conferences on Ring Theory. In his Ph.D. thesis, *Module Theory over Generalized Ore Rings*, he discussed the immediate properties of Ore Rings and used them to obtain several promising results.

Among his innumerable contributions to the field of mathematics is the publication of his book *Foundations of Abstract Algebra*, a beacon of light for advanced studies into algebraic geometry. Other noteworthy publications include college-level textbooks for mathematics taught in Sindh province. For a long time, he edited *Riazi*, the journal of Karachi Mathematical Association. He took several Ph.D. scholars and grad students under his intellectual wings, navigating them through their research work. Dr. Qureshi was famous for noting that "*Mathematics has progressed 100 years beyond its current application*". Apart from teaching briefly at NED University of Engineering and

Technology, he taught throughout his life in several universities in Pakistan and abroad. So, it would not be wrong to say that Dr. Qureshi taught a generation of mathematicians and inspired many into pursuing advanced mathematical research. The life and work of Dr. Qureshi had been a treasure trove for the Math and Scientific community of Pakistan.

Dr. Qureshi's contribution to education, particularly mathematics and science are countless and his legacy, well, unmatched. An asset, a pride to our country, Dr. Qureshi went deep into the world of algebra and picked its essence from all over the globe. He was also the reviewer of 'Mathematical Reviews', a world-wide publication of American Mathematical Society. In addition to being accredited with several awards, accolades and honors to his name, coupled with his huge line of work in teaching and publications, Dr. Qureshi has brought numerous achievements home and has remained an asset for our country.

In his phenomenal career as Professor, Researcher, Supervisor, Chairperson, Dean, Reviewer, Editor, and Author in various local and international esteemed Institutions, one thing remained constant; his love for the country—that brought him back every time and compelled him to serve for the betterment and advancement of science and mathematics in the homeland. In writing these remembrances after the sad demise of Dr. Abdul Rauf Qureshi on April 13, 2021, we have all tried to capture a bit of what he was like, and what his contributions mean to us, in the hope that those who knew him will have even richer memories to share and—more importantly—



those who did not know him will get a glimpse of him through our words.

## 2- Prof. Dr. Mahmood Khan

Warda Haseen  
Economic & Finance, Batch 2017

*“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”*

**Marian Wright Edelman**

This quote concretely summarizes the life of Prof. Dr. Mahmood Khan, more commonly known as Dr. Pathan, who dedicated his entire life to one cause - improving lives of others through education. To him, the importance of attaining quality education was undeniable. Therefore, after receiving his secondary and intermediate schooling from Hyderabad, he got enrolled in the BSc Programme at University of Sindh in 1968 and graduated in 1972. Later, he received MSc and MA degrees by securing first positions in Pure and Applied Mathematics from University of Sindh in 1974 and 1979, respectively. For his remarkable performances he was also awarded with Chancellor Meritorious Medal (Gold Medal) and Vice Chancellor Medal (Silver Medal) by University of Sindh. However, this was not it! In times where the doctoral degrees were not very common, the thirst for knowledge kept Dr. Pathan driven and, in 1987, he received the Central Overseas Training (COT) Scholarship to attend the Brunel University of West London, UK for Ph.D. from where he earned his highest degree in 1991.

In 1976, after receiving his formal education, Dr. Pathan began working as a Lecturer in Education

Department, Government of Sindh. Later, in 1991, he was promoted to the post of Assistant Professor (AP) and he held this position till 1999. However, in the same year, he joined NED University of Engineering and Technology as an AP. In 2000, Dr. Pathan was promoted to the post of an Associate Professor and, in 2002, his rank was elevated to Professor. In 2006, he attended the National



Management Course (NMC-84) at Pakistan Administrative Staff College, Lahore, after which, in 2010, he was entitled as Meritorious Professor; the highest rank in academia that one could be honored with in Pakistan. He had also received the European Union Erasmus Mundus “External Cooperation Window” EMMA Faculty Mobility Programme Grant for the University of Warsaw, Poland which further enhanced his teaching skills. During these years he also remained engaged in supervising several research projects and doctoral studies.

Dr. Pathan also held different administrative positions at NED University like co-chairperson and chairperson at the department of Computer Science & Information

Technology (CS&IT). In 2005, he was appointed as the Dean of Information Sciences and Humanities (ISH) and retained this position till his retirement from NED University. In addition to this, Dr. Pathan also chaired many administrative bodies at NED University which include Admission Committee, Board of the Faculty (ISH), Board of Studies (CS&IT) and Management Committee for NED School. He also served as member for several internal bodies like Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council, Finance and Planning Committee, Advanced Studies & Research Board and Deans’ Committee. One of the many noticeable contributions of Dr. Pathan within the administrative domain was the development of an expert system software to automate the undergraduate admission

process at NED University in 2004 which received the most accolades and is in use till date.

Alongside his service at NED University, Dr. Pathan also worked as a member of National Curriculum Revision Committee for Information Technology (Higher Education Commission), Governor Sindh Information Technology Advisory Board and Board of Studies (PAFKIET and BUITMS). Moreover, he was nominated for “Governor Sindh Advisory Board” to promote R & D projects in the province of Sindh. After his long service at NED University, Dr. Pathan finally retired as Dean (ISH) - BPS Grade-22 officer in 2013. However, being a workaholic, he soon joined DHA Suffa University and later served as Registrar at Urdu University for few

years. After serving Urdu University, he joined the Aligarh Institute of Technology as a Principal which turned out to be his last association. As simple as it may sound, there were several hardships that accompanied Dr. Pathan in his journey of accomplishments. He was born in a middle-class family where the only wealth his family possessed was education. Starting from nothing to retiring as a Meritorious Professor from NED University of Engineering and Technology is a true depiction of his resilience where throughout his life, he embraced all the problems, and ached them with grace. Dr. Pathan was not only a persevering, honest and a hardworking individual but was also full of empathy. Therefore, tutoring and mentoring for free so that the under-privileged could also benefit from his education, secretly paying for his pupils' education were a few of his traits not known to everyone.

Unfortunately, in August 2020, Dr. Pathan tested positive for COVID-19, fought bravely with the disease, and defeated it; yet, he fell victim to his weak heart and passed peacefully to meet his Creator on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. With his wealth of education, Dr. Pathan has left behind him his hard-earned assets which not only includes his numerous students but also his four children who are all graduated from NED University. Although the void created by his departure can never be filled, yet his teachings and principles shall remain with us as his legacy! May Allah SWT grant Dr. Pathan forgiveness and elevate his ranks in Jannah, Ameen.

## Living Abroad-Views from Expatriate Alumni of NED

Abdullah Haider Ali, Aqsa Noor  
Electrical Engineering, Batch 2017  
Civil Engineering, Batch 2019

Opportunity" how it simply and single-handedly appears to be paddling the course of many engineers' lives. *"I will move back if I get a better 'opportunity' in Pakistan"*, shares an expat alumni of NED University currently residing in Dallas, USA.

NED University has a presence across the globe with its alumni having a tradition of moving to different places and creating a positive impact. Alumni like Ashraf Habibullah, the founder of Computer & Structures Inc., a pioneer structural design software and Raghieb Hussain, co-founder of multi-billion-dollar company Cavium and thousands of others who left Pakistan for greener pastures throughout the hundred years of NED's life made their own legacy; a legacy of struggle and excellence. In the United States alone, there are about eight different locally run associations of NED University alumni. The question arises that what makes our alumni roam around the world? What makes them so successful and how do they identify the connection to their roots? To learn better about it, we talked to several alumni living in different countries and we got some very insightful views.

North America and the Middle East seemed to be very popular among the alumni over the decades. So, what makes an engineer give up their home country for regions like the USA, Canada or the Middle East?

In a survey conducted with around 30 expatriate alumni, a decidedly fair & frequently received response was the provision for better career opportunities and higher studies. Many opted for these countries for better financial and social security. While many grabbed on to any and every opportunity coming their way outside Pakistan, some conveniently stayed back because of family ties. *"At first, I wasn't able to find a job in my own field so I took up a government job and now due to my family obligations it's hard for me to go abroad leaving this job."*, told an alumnus from Rawalpindi who still dreams about settling abroad if it wasn't for the family obligations. However, a promising career trajectory and a brilliant path to higher studies is not the only factor playing out for many to settle abroad. The spark of having a Second Nationality still excites many- while some rule it out for it comes with complex legal status, others conveniently opt for it to savor on to the benefits that comes with it: the sheer ability to live, work, and make assets in both countries simultaneously.

When asked how they can help their alma mater, our alumni had all sorts of ideas and ambitions. Given that most of them are living in developed countries, an overwhelming majority wanted to bring the knowledge of advanced technologies and practices to their university since they found it the most promising for a developing country like Pakistan. Others wanted to contribute to scholarships and sponsorships for the students. Some wanted to help



develop stronger networks to help NED University communities abroad. All in all, almost everyone wanted to help the university either by providing learning opportunities, career guidance or financial support like scholarships or entrepreneurial ventures.

Lastly, to the big question, *“Do you ever plan to return back to your country?”*, we find a few clear patterns. Pakistan being a culturally rich country that sets its foundation around strong family ties, emphasizes a lot on family values. Although, majority of our respondents didn't plan to move back to Pakistan, most of them thought a compelling reason could have been family reunion or to preserve their culture. Many of them also planned on starting businesses in Pakistan. But one thing that most of them stressed on was the fact that they had better opportunities in the countries they were living in and they would only consider moving back if and when similar opportunities arise in Pakistan. No matter what part of the world we are in, the desideratum of engineering is ubiquitous. Today, engineers are developing solutions and developing the latest technologies for everything from smart phones to the world's tallest buildings. The rapid pace of technology evolution and the increasing depletion of natural resources have made the demand for engineers greater than ever. Amidst all this, NED trained engineers are in the front row of the ever so changing world.

The alumni are an asset to the university as they preserve and nurture NED University's century old legacy around the world. There is a lot we can learn from their knowledge and experiences. They help us understand better not only

the need of cutting-edge technologies that are shaping the world of tomorrow but how we can contribute substantially to our profession anywhere in the world while staying connected to our roots; a perfect balance between progressively modern and traditional values. This is the legacy of NED University that makes them unique and successful, and the university takes pride in its ever increasing and successful alumni.

## NIC-The Rising of Contemporary Magic Lamp

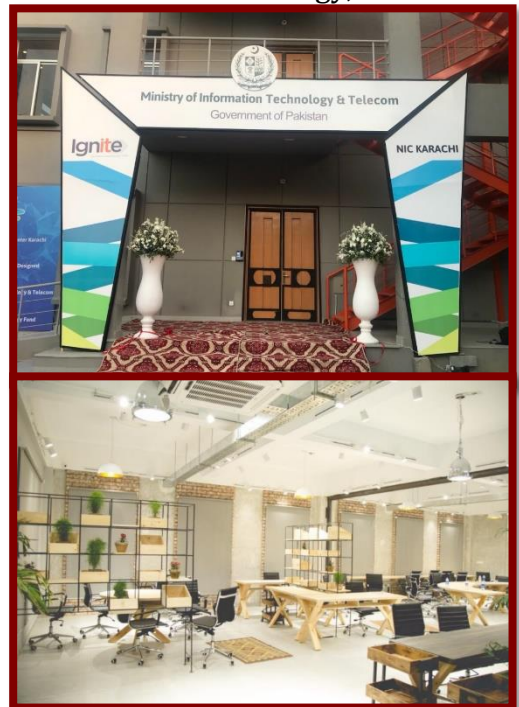
Afeera Suhail  
Electronics Engineering, Batch 2019

**N**IC, the most popular photoshoot site among the students of NED University is originally National Incubation Centre, a consortium for promoting promising start-ups among world class enterprises. An elegant architectural erection and a platform to interact with mentors and investors supporting profitable business, NIC is a perfect combination. NIC Karachi being a part of Ministry of IT & Telecom's National Incubation Centre Programme became a reality due to the collaboration of Pakistan's two major tech giants i.e., Ignite and LMKT. Since its inception in May 2018 by the support of HBL, PTCL, PPAF, Founder Institute and i2i, NIC has incubated over 100 start-ups creating more than 32 thousand job opportunities for talented individuals.

Besides, NIC holds the honor of hosting many promotional events. Training workshops organized by

NDCC namely “FLOODDEX” and “CLIMAZONE 1.0”, are two such events which allowed the experts and intellects to ponder upon major environmental issues and NIC being the house, successfully triggered the thoughts of bringing change in aspiring minds.

It was when NIC was about to host an event in collaboration with IBM (LETS TALK 2020: THE ECONOMIC GENDER GAP) promoting women empowerment in technology on March 07, 2020, the wave of covid-19 virus swept ceasing everything except hope and the spirit of moving on. As physical meetings were strongly discouraged, Team NIC started utilizing the core of its existence -Technology, thus the



(23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021) by National Dialogue on Climate Change. Now the count has exceeded 500 events.

NIC welcomes young students and entrepreneurs along with their mentors to witness their work and its impact, highly inspiring them to be part of the journey. A group of Entrepreneurship students from SZABIST, PAF-KIET, KASBIT, IOBM, PACE-College of Advanced

Studies, a delegation that included Director ORIC along 15 Ph.D. faculty from Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering Science and Technology, visited NIC where they interacted with the founders of start-ups also got to know about local start-up ecosystem and the pros and cons of social entrepreneurship. The students had a special session with Bioniks who introduced them to two individuals who are benefited by their creation of prosthetic limbs. NIC Karachi is always open to create avenues for engagement with like-minded individuals and organisations. In this regard Brigadier Imran Naqvi (Director Productions, ISPR), Major Adnan Satti, Ms. Tabassum Pardesi (Co-Founder and CEO Uprise. Africa) and many prominent figures visited NIC Karachi to meet up with Syed Azfar Hussain (Programme Manager, NIC) to learn about the work they do and its cause. Moreover, during the visit of the KASBIT delegation on 30 March 2021, NIC supported the plan of establishment of an incubation centre at KASBIT to pass on the legacy further. By raising above 970 million rupees as investment for various start-ups to date, NIC's commitment to uplift the lives of the bottom 10 million Pakistanis through innovation and advocacy, has now proven to be on the right track. Hence NIC has acted like a trampoline in boasting up creative ideas and promising careers and will surely expand its services and reach in future endeavors.

## Independent Initiatives Ft M. Rehan Tanveer

Aqsa Noor  
Civil Engineering, Batch 2019

From a part-time car modifier to running a fully-fledged multi million business, unfaltering commitment and steadfastness spelled success for Rehan Tanveer who is an engineer, entrepreneur, content creator and no less than a role model for many aspiring students. Mr. Tanveer, 24, is an automotive engineer from the class of 2020 in NED University and currently the CEO of [www.mechanic4u.pk](http://www.mechanic4u.pk). In conversation with NEDian, Tanveer brought the journey of an engineer struggling with his startup to light, his preeminent expertise and first-hand experience at scaling up his business thereby emphasising on his life and learning at the university.

**Q. Let's start off from the very beginning, how do you look back at your time at NED University?**

I credit some of the major life lessons I have learned up until now simply to the university, it has been supremely influential on my personality and what I am today. I learned strategies to be a better, effective judge of character and worked my way into smartly differentiating between right and wrong. I wasn't the most studious child yet some teachers I met at the university left a huge impact on me through their unconditional support and motivation. I remember my Islamiyat teacher who would help me catch up after hours and reinforced "nothing is impossible" regularly. One of the many remarkable lessons he taught me was, "If you ever see someone in trouble and difficulty and you do not have resources to help him, you must, at least, pray to Almighty Allah to get him out of that trouble and difficulty."

**Q. Do you think your institution played a significant role in your start-up initiative?**





Absolutely! My university has played a pivotal role in shaping my personality. It has undoubtedly carved me into someone who can stand and deliver in front of crowds. NED University has certainly taught me things that will definitely help me not only in my professional life but personally as well.

**Q. What was the thought process behind starting mechanic4u.pk? Where did you draw the inspiration from?**

I have been a car fanatic all my life, this went on till my university where I used to promote motorsports in Pakistan through my YouTube channel. I used to own a Honda Vessel at that time which came with Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) system, a very modern technology for that time. In 2016, my father got me a new car which was severely damaged later. I was devastated not only because it broke but more so because the mechanic could not figure out the issue as he had not worked with a DCT before. I also used to drive *Careem* at that period to make up for my expenses and for my car's maintenance. On observing the working mechanism of *Careem*, the idea struck me one day about making an application that features expert advice about all the latest cars and technologies, something that puts the owner in direct contact with a representative who understands the issue to its core and proposes a solution.

**Q. What was the next step? How did you work this idea into a reality and who was your mentor through this course?**

Generating capital was the first step to bring my idea to life and so I started working towards it. I would modify sports cars post university hours and make profits out of selling them, coupled with my savings from

*Careem* earnings and my mother's monetary assistance. I was able to generate adequate capital, to begin with, this way. I knew it was not supposed to be a one-man army and that I had to draft a team. I wanted to build a proper team, organized and designated. Throughout this process, my elder brother, an entrepreneur himself, was my mentor and so I always went to him for any business-related advice.

**Q. What services does mechanic4u.pk provide?**

mechanic4u.pk is a doorstep car maintenance service. Car owners usually tend to miss their maintenance dates due to busy schedules and unprecedented circumstances (like what happened in covid-19 lockdown). The motive behind this was to make this service accessible and just a call away. We operate through vans, which we call 'Workshop on Wheels'. The vehicle consists of a whole computer scanner and catalytic converter cleaning machine.

Moreover, our idea was to educate people about their cars as well. Let's take a catalytic converter, for instance. Its purpose is to convert all harmful gases to harmless ones, like NOX to Nitrogen and Oxygen, Carbon dioxide to Carbon, and so on. A very frequent query we get is, "Our car's throttle response isn't the same as before" which is simply a catalytic converter cleaning issue & according to standards, it must be done for every 25000 km. There was no concept of this standardization in Pakistan, so we went on to make this cleaning machine on our own. Currently, we don't provide road assistance but our free online assistance is up and running; we even offer callbacks to clients who are stuck on the road at odd hours and are out of credit. Finally, there's this common factor

of mistrust among car owners and mechanics. Thus, we brought a new idea to provide a 7-days workmanship guarantee during which the customer can avail our services without bearing charges if any issue is encountered or persists. If an issue has been created from our side in the car, we take full responsibility for it and cover expenses ourselves. An ordinary mechanic would never go to such an extent.

**Q. How does your team operate?**

We've got 7 engineers (5 engineers & 2 DAs). On the top, we have the Regional Manager, under which are 6 more managers. Five of those managers are for the 5 vans, and one is the Dealership Manager. All of them report to the Regional Manager, who in turn reports to the Chief Operating Officer, Usama Siddiqui, who is my partner and cousin as well. For every car, we assign a team of 3, which includes at least 1 engineer so that the customer doesn't have to talk to the mechanic. Also, there's an option for communication where you can talk online. We have an operational call center that provides online assistance 14 hours, 7 days a week.

**Q. Do you have an app for your startup?**

When I pitched Tech Developers about the idea for the app, I was advised not to spend too much on the capital for it and examine trends about leads being generated through website, where we currently deal from <http://mechanic4u.pk/>. The application development has been in the works for 6 to 7 months now, we've made numerous revisions to provide the most user-friendly experience for our customers, it is set to go live after Eid.

**Q. Do you think a 9-5 job would have given you the same amount of exposure you have today as an entrepreneur?**

Not at all! There is no way one can gain the lengths of exposure in terms of management, industry, and finance that one gets through starting his firm. I come from a background where both of my brothers had their firms, they offered me guidance at each step but I was the one who generated the capital for my startup all by myself. From the beginning, my approach was very unorthodox. Right now, we are a team of around 50 people, which is equivalent to saying that we are a means of livelihood to 50 families. This is how students at NED University should think—we are in the process of developing technologically as a country, there are innumerable options and ideas in the market that one can tap into.

**Q. How hard was the initial phase of business startup before it started providing you with monetary benefits?**

The first 6 months of my startup were extremely difficult, we would receive calls constantly from 9 am to 11 in the night about raising investment & operations. I have seen my share of hard times; However, I would like to quote Junaid Akram aka *Ganji swag* here whom I met one day and as we were discussing the responsibilities one has with an online reach and audience to influence people and use their voice for good. He said, “The same goes for business. If you have an opportunity, and you can create sources of income for the people, then it is your responsibility to do so. Who knows what benefits this may bring to your business?” I would say it's all about one's mentality: belief in yourself, have faith in Allah, & never give up.

**Q. How is the marketing and advertising sector handled at your startup?**

I handle all of it. Alhamdulillah, we cater 600 to 1000 tasks per month. Only the doorstep figure is 500, the rest 400 are at dealerships, which come in for major repairs. Our turnover is pretty good. We spend \$1500 to \$2500 on marketing which is quite a striking figure because no one spends such an amount on it here. I have opted for both social media marketing and on-floor marketing (rickshaw marketing, billboards, banners, etc.) Billboards give off a nice impression to the customers that they are dealing with a legitimate company. As *mechanic4u.pk* is SBC registered trademark, it adds to our positive market credibility as well.

**Q. How Did You Handle Adversity and Doubt?**

My family members and even my elder brother suggested that I do IELTS and move to a foreign country but I wanted to stay in Pakistan and start something on my own. My closest friends demotivated me at that time but as I turned things around through my hard work and dedication, everyone congratulated me including my elder brother. However, my mother's unwavering moral and monetary support helped me establish my business.

**Q. Do you think our Engineering Curriculum lacks enough guidance for business aspirants?**

At our time, we only had one course related to business, Business Communication, but I guess there's more now and they are more advanced because a few students approached me for help and I realised that our curriculum was not like theirs. I think there should be at least 8 to 10 business-related courses including a few basics on marketing as well.

**Q. If you could time travel back to day one of your startup and have 15 minutes with your former self to communicate any lessons you have learned during this span to save yourself from mistakes, what would you tell yourself?**

I would only say: spend less, so you lose less. I should have invested less initially but I learned many invaluable lessons from that mistake.

**Q. What advice would you like to give to engineers who are aspiring to start their businesses?**

Instead of doing tuition, which is a norm around NED University, I would suggest investing energies in business as there is *Barkat* in trade. Start small and don't shy away from difficulties. Analyze competition and market, gain experience, and stay focused and organized. Always bring something new to the table, revise your plans and modify them. Be creative but take calculated risks and above all, prepare to give the best service to your clients.

**Q. Would you like to share what you are currently working on?**

I am working on another idea, another startup. I cannot share the details right now, but it is related to motorsports. We have two racing circuits in Pakistan, one here in Karachi, and another in Lahore. So, I am working on a few things related to that. Insha'Allah very soon it will be operational. The track will be available to the public by July



# Bridging Infallibility

## KDA Pedestrian Bridge Design Competition, NED University B.Archs.; Redefining Urban Scape



A Group Photo of the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah with Prize Winning Students of NED University Who Designed Pedestrian Bridges

Aiman Yasha Naseem  
Biomedical Engineering, Batch 2019

In times of surfeiting natives in the metropolitan, redefining urban scape, engaging the needs of the inhabitants and aiding to the sophistication of urban planning is a definite requisite. Karachi Development Authority in particular had focused on stabilizing the pedestrian needs amidst the city bustle, vocalizing the demand in dire as, *'In Karachi, the road transportation is designed and developed in such a manner that overhead pedestrian bridges become a necessary street element'*, in a tender to call for the apt design initiatives by the students of B.Arch. undergrads at NED University to cast an enormous impact on the overall urban setting. With the initiative of developing TEN pedestrian bridges at varied locations of the city, the pedestrian

bridge contest by KDA had called for students of Architecture at NED to participate in the design competition for pedestrian bridges. With eminent features of the overall design to involve, cumulative aesthetics, interrelationship with the context and to merge with the urban scape was a pre-requisite. Involvement of seven different groups to explore their insight of designs and undergoing 3-4 different stages of the designing process did not go in vain for three teams had conquered the competition with their "infallible bridge designs" widely praised and endorsed by KDA, simultaneously illuminating the achievements of their institution. Engaging in an interview with the success domineering teams of the design competition is definitely a conversation worth the hour

**Conclusive statement**  
Success in perspective of the position holders of the design

competition, describing their achievements as "The experience was worthwhile because we learned how group and peer-to-peer learning can speed up the process, how to deal with the pressure of deadlines in times of pandemic and how to work around budget and design constraints", is a definite tool for redefining the aims for pupils of construction and design at interest. Such platforms and medium for the skilled and learned in all fields shall be the requisite if achieving milestones is to be inculcated as a basic impression. In addition, such opportunities utilize the skills at fair interest of the participants encouraging more productivity at personal and collaboratively at industrial level.

### Interview with the Winning Team

**Q. Would you please tell us a bit about the competition and your participation in it?**

KDA began the project, which consists of three phases: research, design, and presentation, with each step lasting one week, in order to engage in a much more innovative design for Karachi's urban envelope, jumping off the stereotypical structures while maintaining their simplistic characteristic of development. For this, they organized a competition in collaboration with NED University where each of the seven teams were given a different site for a bridge design with proper guidance of KDA officials and well reputed engineers, and because we were the senior batch, we were given the opportunity first, which we gladly took.

**Q. Was there any assistance available, and how much time you were given?**

We were given about a month to complete the entire design process and presentation in which we surveyed pedestrian bridges at various sites. As indicated above, seminars offered by engineering firms, such as IIL and Urban Objects were held to mentor us and the faculty were really helpful, albeit we were not given much leeway in our studio projects.

**Q. What were the considerations you made when developing pedestrian bridges and was your project built explicitly with your region's infrastructure (Karachi/Sindh) in mind?**

We were supposed to keep in consideration the design requirements provided by the KDA officials which included a very context specific design, retaining the basic pattern of structure followed in the bridges in Karachi, yet the innovation had to be evident within constraints like transparency of the structure, self-sustenance with solar panels, exhibiting security in circulation for pedestrians and the budget in mind that was already specified. We approached a modular aspect that can adopt to any site respectively whereas mentioned above requirements were already ground to follow norms of Karachi at the first place producing a design that was climate friendly, sustainable to the environment and cost effective.

**Q. Which aspects of your design distinguish it from the competition?**

Because it followed the pattern of functional heritage that was required, our design was the most congruent with the design brief. Every aspect, including aesthetics, had a utilitarian foundation, the client brief was prioritized over decoration, which was the most important customer brief in the

context of Karachi. In addition to that, the best thing is, it can adapt to any site with only a few small modifications. All these factors collectively make our design stand out.

**Q. How was your experience as a team designing the pedestrian bridge in terms of learning considering you were aided by professional engineers working for well reputed companies as well as the local labor?**

The experience was worthwhile because we learned how group and peer-to-peer learning can speed up the process, how to deal with the pressure of deadlines in times of pandemic, when not everyone is ready to collaborate and how to work around budget and design constraints. Because this was the first time, we had the opportunity to design a real-life proposal, when we had previously just designed imaginary studio projects, we had to keep the doctrinal requirements in mind and resolve them in the most practical way possible, which was new to us, and we believe we learned the most this way, which will either help us in our professions or as practitioners. This project also provided our team with relevant and sufficient understanding of technological, practical, aesthetic, and behavioral reinforcement factors, allowing individuals to make the best use of urban spaces possible.

**Q. What impact will this experience have on your professional life and where does it stand in terms of a career accomplishment?**

We gained the most professional exposure throughout the course since we had thought about every little element to the point where we were either calling structural engineers for technical support or

Dr. Noman Ahmed for design direction. Furthermore, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi provided us with feedback for our improvement; having a connection with such knowledgeable people improved our design as well as our professional experience. This, in our perspective, was the first and most important achievement of our careers since it was our first real-life plan that will be executed in Karachi, providing us with practical experience. As a result of the recognition in publications, this will undoubtedly increase our portfolio.

**Q. How will you utilize your expertise to inspire others, particularly your juniors, and do you believe there are enough possibilities for them to autonomously develop and use their pragmatic skills?**

This project taught our juniors how to bridge the gap between hypothetical projects and real-life projects, keeping the design mindful of the constraints and achieving the most agreeable results for our customer rather than pursuing what we as architects would enjoy. No, I do not believe so. We regret to say that by the time our youngsters are given the freedom to create, they have been so controlled by the limitations that their designs lack originality and creativity. The industry is so far behind and wedded to the practical and old school ways that we have been applying for far too long.

**Q. Considering this experience, what are some additional public buildings/infrastructures that you believe should be developed in this way?**

Everything has opportunity for innovation, and in the case of Pakistan, I believe we need to reimagine our public buildings that



define our urban environment in such a manner that they reflect our culture and norms of collaborative relationships, rather than imitating the western pattern of modernism.

## Interview with the 1st Runner Up Team

**Q. Can you tell us a little bit about the competition and provide specifics regarding the reason why took part in it?**

The initiative was an inter-batch competition held by the Sindh government and funded by the KDA within the jurisdiction of NED University. The requirement stated that 10 pedestrian bridges were to be built in Karachi at various locations, and we were one of the seven teams who competed, each with its distinct design. KDA authorities, engineering companies, as well as several contractors and labors, informed us on the site and its requirements through physical and virtual meetings, while our chairman, Dr. Anila Naeem, and our main instructor, Dr. Suneela Ahmed, aided us with design specifics. It was the first competition on a local level that was not only restricted to design but also extended to its actual implementation, therefore we participated to develop our practical talents in the area.

**Q. How long did it take you to finish it from the ground up, and did you receive any mentoring?**

We separated our work into phases of research and case studies, design process, and final presentation over the course of a month where we paid visits to sellers and contractors, such as Mr. Riaz from Iman Interiors, in Karachi's major metal marketplaces as well as sites. Dr. Suneela's supervision, as well as discussions with NED University structural engineers Dr. Fawwad

Masood and Mr. Aslam Faqeer, were vital in the mentoring process.

**Q. What factors did you consider while designing pedestrian bridges, and was your project created specifically with your region's infrastructure (Karachi/Sindh) in mind?**

While building the pedestrian bridge, we attempted to address current pedestrian bridge concerns that we saw during our trips as well as those that we learned from the public and users. Our design tried to integrate construction and aesthetics acting as 'locus of identity' while reacting to the region for which it would be built, keeping in mind the experience of both pedestrian bridge users and road users for whom the bridge would serve as an architectural marvel. The design was built following the design of FAST where rows, grid and sequence of column flows to infinity in a non-hierarchical space marking the progressive impression of the busiest city, Karachi. FAST's architecture inspired the turquoise blue hue and the usage of bricks as a material palette. The tarpal shades from the surrounding area are shown on the bridge in a form tensile framework for light and shadow play. The bridge's abstract railing not only symbolizes Karachi's turmoil, but it's also user-friendly.

**Q. How do the above-mentioned factors make your design stand out from the rest?**

We feel our design distinguishes out since our main goal was to create an urban marker rather than merely a pedestrian bridge, which we were able to do. In order to improve the structural form, we studied worldwide and national case studies, technical solutions, and the varying effects of form structure. We prioritized building details without

sacrificing overall aesthetics, and it is sensitive to its location and context without overdoing the colors or materials.

**Q. In terms of learning, how was your experience developing the pedestrian bridge as a team and what did you get out of it, given that you were supported by both experienced engineers from reputable firms and local labor?**

Our team was a blend of fourth years and a third year where critiques from within the team were highly encouraged and so was learning from one another which enhanced our communication skills. We learned as a group not just how to design, but also how to consider cost, structural stability, and function, which many architects overlook. We learned how to generate realistic solutions, gained considerable construction expertise on a range of bridge types by studying existing pedestrian bridges and motorways in Karachi and producing a design that is not isolated and merges nicely with the setting. Through several multidisciplinary meetings and market excursions all across the city, from Saddar and Gizri to Defence, we also gained knowledge about materials and construction.

**Q. What influence will this experience have on your work life, and where does it rank in terms of professional achievement?**

The entire process of obtaining an employment will have a good influence on our careers. It adds value to our résumé and portfolio and will assist us in presenting ourselves to reputable architecture companies, communicating with local vendors as well as government officials. We learned time management skills, presenting abilities, and how to defend our

research and design results in front of the public and juries. It gave us a flavor of the real world ahead of time which will be extremely beneficial for our work life. It is a significant professional achievement because we have been recognized not only within the university but also on a provincial and city level, and if this project is built as promised by the Sindh government, we will be ecstatic because it will be our first real project during our student years.

**Q. How will you use your experience to encourage your juniors, and do you feel there are enough opportunities for them to develop and use their pragmatic skills on their own?**

We would want to urge our youngsters to join in tournaments and take advantage of free possibilities since you never know which one strike will reach the target! It is not only about winning or losing; it is also about the experience and the lessons learned. We will assist our juniors in managing their workload, reading about various things, and visiting sites. Today, we live in a digitalized world with numerous chances available on the internet. We will urge our youngsters to look for information relating to their disciplines, such as accredited courses, competitions, and attend seminars, so that they may learn from it and improve their talents in a certain subject.

**Q. Are there any other public structures or infrastructure that you would want to see reinvented in this way?**

The majority of Karachi's public architecture remains unnoticed. Our pre-existing historical structures and heritage buildings are in desperate need of conservation, and adaptive re-use may be

accomplished while protecting the original entities. Bus stops along highways should be built in a way that gives maximum comfort and caters to all age groups, while public bathrooms should be given more significance in terms of sanitation and privacy. Not only should charging stations, seating arrangements, and suitable shade with plants and landscaping be included, but we feel that our city squares and beachfronts also require such inventive solutions.

## Interview with the 2nd Runner Up Team

**Q. Can you tell us a little bit about the competition and provide specifics regarding the reason why took part in it?**

The project was organized by Karachi Development Authority, to design a Pedestrian Bridge in 10 Different locations in Karachi. We learnt about this project on our semester break and through our Class Advisor. The core attraction for this project was that it would definitely help us to better understand how to approach a bridge design, what its requirements are and how to communicate with team members and instructor involved in the project.

**Q. How long did it take you to finish it from the ground up, and did you receive any mentoring?**

It took almost one and a half month to complete all the work of project. We were having the mentorship of our faculty member Dr. Masooma Shakir.

**Q. What factors did you consider while designing pedestrian bridges, and was your project created specifically with your region's infrastructure (Karachi/Sindh) in mind?**

The basic factors which are taken care of during the design comprises of; the weight of the steel members, the type of construction, influx of people crossing the bridge, the amount of traffic involved and an overall aesthetic quality of the bridge, in our case we blended them with our contextual features. Yes, our design was part of our site analysis and it metaphorically complements the environment by its contribution towards our coastal side. Other than that, the technical issues regarding site location, roads, population density etc. are also taken care of while designing this bridge.

**Q. How do the above-mentioned factors make your design stand out from the rest?**

The feature that makes it stand out is the use of arch system to transfer the load and making this approach as our concept of design too. The bridge is also very minimalistic in approach with simple white colored steel members making it stand out in the urban scape.

**Q. In terms of learning, how was your experience developing the pedestrian bridge as a team and what did you get out of it, given that you were supported by both experienced engineers from reputable firms and local labor?**

It was really a close learning experience with the Engineering involved behind this project since it's a functionality-based project prior to the aesthetic. It was a wonderful experience to work with such intelligent mindsets comprising of intellectual and leadership skills. To have different ideas coming out of many skillful mindsets would eventually make a good team and good design. It aided us to handle and witness the discussion that happens between an architect and engineer in a project.



**Q. How will you use your experience to encourage your juniors, and do you feel there are enough opportunities for them to develop and use their pragmatic skills on their own?**

We would be delighted to share our experience with the juniors of our university as well as students in field. We will encourage them to take part in such competitions where not only our technical expertise and skills are improved but are also appreciated by other architects and civil engineers, which serves as a great source of learning. The opportunities are lesser than we expect because this was the first project that we have come across in three years of studying architecture. So, we would request the authorities to come up with more exciting opportunities for individuals.

**Q. Are there any other public structures or infrastructure that you would want to see reinvented in this way?**

The housing schemes for poor, landscape all around the city, public parks or any monumental sculptures could be designed by students. The students have a lot of potential than anyone can imagine!

## The Road to NED University- Shuttles in Retrospect

Maria Khalid  
Chemical Engineering, Batch 2020

After a long and agonizing day at university, there is nothing more that a student wants other than a means of transport that brings them back to the comforts of home safely and swiftly. At NED university, a significant portion of students do not travel to and fro in their personal vehicles and instead are reliant entirely on the university's shuttle service to accommodate them every day. This could be due to busy and working family members finding it inconvenient to make time in their schedules to pick and drop them or because many middle-class families cannot afford the hefty, and often unreasonable sums charged by private vans. Whatever the reason may be, a huge responsibility falls on the shoulders of the university to provide an economically feasible and flexible alternative that suits the needs of the students, so that they

may be able to focus on their education and not waste precious time, money and energy ruminating on their daily commute. While the modest amount that the university charges for this service is wholly accepted by the students and they have voiced their praise for the university's efforts as well. But besides that, they have also come forward with a number of issues that should be ironed out promptly to ensure that this system becomes more efficient for both parties.

Their most prominent complaint in the ball game has been the severe shortage of campus buses and as an NEDian, you might recall several instances when a teacher took up a few extra minutes of the students after their last class and the imploring faces that followed. "But we'll miss our point" or "the bus will reach full capacity and leave without us" are phrases that have been reiterated time and time again in such situations and have made reaching to the point an anxiety-fueled experience. If the bus leaves or refuses to accept more passengers, the students are left grasping at straws to find another mode of transport to travel home and those who are mercifully let inside are in no peace of mind either.

Since hundreds of them use these buses, they are always jam-packed, leaving many to ride them while standing. This could have been ignored to an extent before but after the pandemic, this implies that proper SOPs cannot be followed, forcing the shuttle to cater to a smaller group or else the risks and spread of the disease will soar high. Students should also be informed



prior if their bus has been delayed or won't be arriving- waiting for them for over an hour and then getting enlightened has been nothing but a nuisance for them.

The general routes and easily accessible bus stops have been lauded but concerns and requests have been raised to establish new ones in areas that receive an influx of NEDians, such as Gulistan-e-Johar and Gulzar-e-Hijri. Students, from these areas want to take the campus buses but due to non-availability, have to use other costlier options. The condition of the buses is fairly good but it can be further improved as well.

It has been, however, suggested by some individuals that the university devise a tracking system for shuttles on a mobile application where they can track their buses. This tracking is otherwise conveniently carried out through comrades that catch the bus prior to you. A couple of students also hinted at a fully online system for registration and payment verified through a QR code installed in the point to avoid the sneaking of unregistered passengers. This lavish suggestion is nothing but a rather productive improvement that will take the game of transportation at NED University one notch up.

Lastly, the shuttles that run within the campus form an enjoyable experience for students and faculty alike, but their number and timings should be increased to facilitate them throughout the day and especially during the torrid hours. The transport services of NED are no less than a blessing revered by its students, and should be improved and taken care of both by the management and the students in order to resume ideal function.

## Demystifying Canteens

Maria Khalid  
Chemical Engineering, Batch 2020

An incessant beat of tapping feet fills the classroom, pens and pencils are spun in hand, to a rhythm and purpose unbeknownst to all, offering a welcome distraction from today's lesson.

Words continue to become hazier when heard, and more illegible as they are scrawled across notebooks by a harried lot, for their ears are no longer attuned to the teacher's lecture nor their gazes locked onto the whiteboard. Their feverish eyes instead, are fixated onto a sight slightly above, following the ticking of the clock as the last few minutes inch by. And when the hand finally strikes the designated time, the

disinterest or exhaustion spring up, renewed with vigor. Students stride past the teachers in a sometimes-imprudent manner, but the teachers barely bat an eye, as this sudden burst of energy is a regular occurrence. It's lunch break finally.

Thereafter, like a swarm of bees on the hunt for nectar, NEDians flock around the student canteens to make good of the promise of a delicious meal and a much-awaited breather from the studies. The canteens are not just favorite spots to hang out with your friends but also cradles for blossoming new ones. So, it doesn't come as a surprise that when you ask a random NEDian the location of a canteen, they'll seem like the most well-acquainted person out there, but more often than not, fall short while answering questions about anything else regarding the university that spans over a hundred and fifty acres.



collective sigh of relief is heard loud and clear. The heads that were previously lolling around in

To develop a deeper understanding of student opinion about these canteens as well as to map out



problem areas as to resolve them, a survey was conducted after which many interesting facts and figures came to light. The first among these revelations was a whopping majority of students who take their meals in the canteen everyday - making the subject of our article an imperative part of their university life. Their pick out of the seven operating ones depended largely on their willingness to spend and choice of food available, with the Environmental canteen and SFC quick to push out the remaining contenders from the top spot by winning the hearts of students and hailing as their most frequented.

Responses also highlighted that the importance of canteens arose mainly because a considerable number of students do not deem it worthy of their time to pack their own lunch from home, given their hectic schedules, so the speedy services offered at these canteens come as a huge means to facilitate them. Controversially, many were also of the view that healthier options were of little importance, where taste and low prices took precedence, giving little motivation for a change towards salubrity (healthiness).

While satisfaction was eminent in the number of canteens which students felt were sufficient to provide for the university's populace, on the other hand, dissatisfaction was also expressed when it came to these same places maintaining the standard of quality, ambiance and hygiene. The latter came up quite alarmingly, since we are currently experiencing a pandemic and therefore mitigation measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission should unarguably be the top priority. Apart from wearing masks, people threw caution to

wind and other SOP's such as social distancing, and sanitary practices in preparation and packaging of food was largely ignored. Students admit that the pandemic has made them more conscious of this and rightly so.

Although it is vexing to wait for your order in long, suffocating queues and a whole other ordeal walking what feels like half a mile from your department to a far-flung canteen at NED University, it is nonetheless an interesting and compulsory experience of the university.

## Exceling at Sports-Women Teams in Spotlight

Afeera Suhail

Electronics Engineering, Batch 2019

Sports indeed hold the power to change lives. Developing leadership skills, teamwork, grace

Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi is among the finest advocates of sports. It is due to his continuous efforts that NED University besides having cricket and football grounds, tennis, volleyball and basketball court, fitness centre and squash complex now owns a red tartan track and a synthetic football turf. These wonderful sports projects were inaugurated during 2020. No other university in the country has such sports infrastructure. As the outcome of these positive efforts

by the worthy Vice Chancellor, a growing interest of females in sports was observed and NED University's first women football and futsal teams emerged in the year 2019.

The foremost female futsal team in NED University started its long run



and self-esteem in an athlete, sports is considered as a solid platform for women to level the playing field in terms of gender equality. In this regard, many institutions encourage athletics in their campuses. Likewise, the Vice Chancellor of NED University of Engineering and Technology, Prof.

by participating in Inter University Futsal league 2020 organized by Karachi United Football Club. Beginning the league by two spectacular wins each against UIT and BBSUL, Team NED University secured 4th position with the final match being rescheduled on Dec 13, 2020 due to covid lockdown.

The passion of females to leave their mark on the society even took them under the limitless sky where the warmth of sun gave them power to fight for total 5 days in the prior practice sessions. Afterwards under the supervision of Coach Mr. Mehmood, the trials were conducted and hence NED University's first ever football team was formed. The captains and vice captains were announced by Manager Sports Mr. Tariq Gujjar and female Sports Officer Ms. Farkhanda Fasi and a friendly match was played between NED University and Karachi University. Thus, the journey began with having the opening ceremony of All Pakistan women's intervarsity football championship held on 25th February, 2020 as a moment to cherish. All the teams marched the parade with their university flags held high. Chief guests were International Footballer Kaleemullah and Imtiaz Ali shah. This Championship was played for three days with final match won by Punjab University and closing ceremony was held on 28th February, 2020.

Since beginning, the society has maintained its social representation and is progressing with each passing day. Amongst this, the contribution of these brave ladies in this society has created an encouraging and positive aura. Such role models instill confidence, crushing the discriminating taboos and inspire the rest to be their own hero.

## The New Paradigm of Sports

Maria Khalid, Syed Maarij Shoaib  
Chemical Engineering, Batch 2020  
Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2018

It is a common misconception that the bright individuals accepted at NED University are only academically driven and the concept of sports is detached from them. Suffice to say, NEDians have proven their dexterity in sports multiple times, and to further uplift the talent and fervor of sportsmanship in them, NED University has developed a state-of-the-art sports complex which boasts separate facilities catering to the needs of both boys and girls. In view of that, with the recent collaboration with Government of Sindh, NED University has inaugurated a wide variety of exemplary sport infrastructure including but not limited to, a synthetic football turf surrounded by an Olympic grade running track, indoor gymnasium, tennis court, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a futsal and squash court as well as a grand floodlit cricket stadium. This debonair sports complex is counted as a rarity even amongst the most sought-after universities in Pakistan. However, since there is always more to what meets the eye and we wanted to paint a picture from all perspectives, we knocked upon the door of students who used these facilities at a regular basis and conducted a survey with the aim to gather some praise and tips for improvement, and inadvertently, a tirade of constructive criticism naturally followed.

Overall, students were satisfied with the sports infrastructure present in the university, and with the provincial government allocating funds and the worthy Vice Chancellor,



Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi, himself presiding over the projects, the responses are bound to get even better with due time. Timely maintenance is of ample importance when it comes to laying down the foundation for any long-term initiative and students were impressed with the dedication the staff showed in keeping everything maintained at top-notch quality. With sound facilities present, girls are also being encouraged to actively participate in sports when most sport platforms in Pakistan are unfortunately biased towards men, and this has garnered a positive response from NED University's female students.

Trailing this positive feedback, there was also a fair amount of skepticism placed by students over the non-availability of sports equipment like footballs and weights in the fitness center. "NED University has got impeccable sport facilities but the staff can be obstinate at times which keep students away from availing them", voiced a survey respondent. There was also a plea to host intra-



university sporting events for students, to train and seek out budding talent for higher level competitions and encourage fitness all year round. This demand was soon met as NSA NED University hosted a full-fledged sports fiesta, brimming with zest and energy, and rejuvenated the spirit of students that was long lost due to the outspread of Covid-19 for over a year.

The survey concluded by asking students about the type of sporting facilities they wished would be added to the roster to which the request for a swimming facility, trainers, marathon and a hockey ground were some frequented answers. Given the university's interest in the sporting department, these critiques should be welcomed as a means to pave a way for improvement and make NED University a paragon of the developing sports industry in Pakistan.



## Into the Hostels of NED University

Maria Khalid, Syed Marrij Shoaib  
Chemical Engineering, Batch 2020  
Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2018

Located at the heart of one of the most bustling parts of the city, NED University with its agenda to impart quality and fairly affordable education takes pride in not only attracting an economically variegated gentry of Karachi and its adjoining urban centers, but also witnesses a stark interest from students belonging to the rural areas of Pakistan as well as foreign countries. As the latter embark on this 4 year 'experience of a lifetime', away from their hometowns, a grave issue that arises is that of their accommodation. Private residences, besides the fact that they can end up costing an arm and a leg for low-income families, are also often not

located at convenient distances from the university, making it necessary for NED University to facilitate their students via hostels in order to welcome a diversified student body through its gates.

As there is always elbow room to reflect and grow in any institution, we conducted a survey asking our hostelites on what could and should be done to make their stay at the university not just the bare tolerable but an enjoyable memory to reminisce upon in later life. The responses we received were eye-opening and truthfully conveyed the charms and tribulations of hostel life at campus. NED University, that seems to be making an effectual effort to fulfil its responsibility and provide an atmosphere conducive to healthy learning, earned a 'satisfied' rating by the students. While majority of the students were

very happy with the amount they were being charged with at hostels, and cognate with the facilities provided, there were some arguments as well. For instance, many students argued that the management drastically needed to make some much needed improvements and responded with responsible statements that would result in the amelioration of campus services as a whole.

One of the concerns highlighted how the arrival of new hostelites in bulk numbers was a stressful situation for the current residents, especially during the pandemic when the fear of an outbreak within the vicinity was looming more than ever over their heads. Sometimes more than 40 students would be assigned a single hall, causing a disruption in their study schedules as well as raising security concerns. Moreover, quality of mess food lacked in several areas, from hygiene and taste to timings and in addition the squalid conditions and inept maintenance of both the girls' and

boys' and girls' hostels, along with the lack of female staff in the former was disdainfully expressed. Granted that some of these common complaints are not so easy to resolve in a trice, and that hostels are surely better than the alternate options, the university still needs to ensure that the funds they are investing in the hostels are beneficial to the hostelites and is not just profligate spending. Hostel administration should be trained well enough to facilitate the hostelites and hostels must be renovated and kept clean in their best interest. Strict actions must be taken in case of violation of any policy to ensure safety and well-being of the students, and a dedicated study area should be designated to allow them to better focus on their academics while they are away from their families and possibly homesick.

## Post-Covid Postgraduate on Foreign Soil

Shanzay Hussain  
English Linguistics, Batch 2019

Apply to different schools and universities around the globe each year to pursue their higher education. Acceptance to a foreign university is the culmination of many students' lifelong ambitions. After all, obtaining a foreign degree is almost synonymous with gaining a firm foothold in the labor pool. However, the pandemic became an obstacle for the students due to increased health risks and travel restrictions worldwide. The COVID-

19 pandemic has had a drastic yet significant influence on study-abroad plans. Upon asking the alumni about their experience abroad, they highlighted the following issues. Mavra Rizvi, an NED University alumna - presently pursuing a master's degree at the University of Louisiana, quoted that due to colleges lowering their acceptance criteria, it became relatively easier to secure a scholarship. Many students found themselves in an unforeseen position in the tumult, having to choose between their educational experience and their home nation. Growing concerns over border closures exacerbated the situation as the pandemic increased financial issues and since studying abroad requires huge investment, it became impossible for many students to travel abroad.

Along the same lines, Mr Muhammad Umer who had been delivering his services as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering at NED University, added insight with his experience, in preparation for his departure to Alabama (USA) for PhD pursual in a week, *"Opportunities rose as the number of applicants decreased, and those who had their valid standardized tests received their acceptance."*

The application process in itself is cumbersome and requires lots of documentation and thorough planning. The pandemic caused economic recessions and mass layoffs due to which submission of documents became no mean feat. The interviewed alumni admit that the documentation process took longer due to lockdowns. The delays in couriers, mails, and absence of university personnel added catalysts to the delays. The visas are taking a lot more time than usual. According to one of the alumni, Mudassir Naseem Khan - the interview for visa issuance requires time due to the

limited slots they have during the pandemic. *"What I learned is that for a visa, one should apply two months earlier than the pre-pandemic usual time span."*

Foreign universities usually require English proficiency tests. These requirements provide the students with an opportunity to experience pedagogy at international colleges. Applicants will have increased chances by demonstrating their skills at such English language proficiency exams. Following the pandemic, it became nearly impossible to conduct such tests. Exemption from English language proficiency examination were given in many cases. Syeda Batool Zehra, another from the pool of the alumni, currently pursuing her master's in engineering and management at the University of Toronto, feels that the university expressed leniency in such assessments. *"They gave me an exemption, but I completed my IELTS as soon as I got the opportunity and submitted its results."*

Despite all the demur, the universities admission committees ensured the facilitation of each student adequately with the help of technology, shifting the process to the virtual mediums. Some professors opted for online classes and some for on-campus, following the necessary SOPs and precautions. Universities also established a centre of health in their vicinity for the students who faced stressful and mental issues. Zehra also admits that studying abroad is riddled with challenges. However, her professors made sure to provide easy access to their consultations and encouraged group discussions. *"The university facilitated the students with online services to the library for easy access of books."*

The alumni expressed their struggles of getting the best opportunity out there during such



times. However, all the hard work was fruitful. With time and experience, one will learn a lot. However, one should be equipped

as it is no less than a war. Most of the alumni professed their experience of studying abroad as positive. It is challenging to study abroad, but

once you have passed through the stumbling obstacles, you can have great experiences on foreign soil.

## On Campus Studies Post Online Era of Lockdown

Shanzay Hussain  
English Linguistics, Batch 2019

The threats we confront are becoming more intertwined as the globe grows more interconnected. The COVID-19 pandemic is still spreading. Education is no exception. For teachers, parents, and schools, the entire pandemic has been a tough challenge. The sudden shift of platforms affected the student's performance significantly. This crisis has brought to light several flaws and injustices in our educational institutions, ranging from a lack of access to the broadband and computers essential for online learning to the lack of supportive milieu, required to focus on learning to a mismatch of resources and needs. As a result of the lockdowns in response to COVID-19, traditional schooling has been disrupted, with widespread school closures.

Life is slowly retracting its steps yet; the after-effects of the pandemic are still visible. One thing is undeniable: even if it is found safe to return to school, it will not be the same as before. The pandemic deepened the cracks in our education system. Protests broke out across the country as high-stake exams released their timetables. It scared the students who barely retained anything during virtual classes and those who had little to no access to virtual learning. The repercussions of the pandemic were grave yet, the reopening of the institutions was all but inevitable.

The students had to adapt once again to on-site studies that required immense amounts of attention. Minor things such as writing, making notes, and just being mentally present in class were draining. The students also need to make sure to fill the required quota for compulsory attendance. However, institutions should be lenient in this case as apart from the coronavirus, there are many other diseases causing problems. The struggle of commuting every day while bearing the daily expenses seemed to have taken a toll on mental health. **"Online learning was easily accessible but not graspable,"** informed a student. Some professions cannot be taught or seen through a screen. Although virtual learning was a lifesaver amid COVID-19, it could never amount to traditional learning.

Campus-based courses allow students to use a variety of learning approaches. Everyone learns in their unique way. Campus-based studies can utilize all areas of learning since professors can assess strengths and limitations and provide a better learning environment, ensuring that students receive an outstanding education. **"On-campus classes are better,"** a student who recently resumed on-site answered upon being asked about on-campus classes. Social engagement with lecturers and fellow students is also accessible with campus-based learning. It is crucial not only on a social level but also on an intellectual one. It allows students

to discuss what they understand and assist one another.

Another student stated, **"Learning at home was hard - campus lessons centralize your focus."** The problem was not learning but the examinations. The subsequent shift to virtual learning forced students to adapt to a new method causing them stress. Comprehending concepts through e-learning was no easy task but applying them during examinations was no less than a feat. Written tests with a massive syllabus are no longer successful; instead, it is the understanding of the curriculum that has taken precedence. Despite the shortcomings, the majority of the students are glad to be back on campus. We should envisage colleges to adjust even more to meet the shifting requirements of students as they continue to learn from the pandemic by being imaginative and creative with the learning opportunities and environments they provide.

## Sailing Through the Pandemic

Lead with restrictions and fraught with the closure of the university due to COVID, NED University's student societies have refused to accept defeat. The hustle and bustle of student life has waned but the same cannot be said about their societies, which have remained fastidious about keeping their reputation as pristine as before.

## LPS- Literary and Publications Society

Aiman Yasha Naseem,  
Biomedical Engineering, Batch 2018

LPS (Literary and Publications Society), serving with the manifesto to “Resurrect Literature” amidst an engineers’ entitlement to innovation and technology was rebooted in the year 2017, conquering the hearts of literati with on-site events to lure their interests.

Gearing up for tenure 2019, just when the Executive Body was about to ensemble the team, the pandemic had its first hit in the city with an extension to the semester break, the final decision by the administration was to enter the online-verse for the new semester.



From settling for on-site to online interviews for the general body, and getting the inductions delayed, LPS Executive Body was slipping out of time for their intended plans. With a renowned affirmation of on-site literary events like ‘Zawwiya’ and ‘NED University Literature Festival’, the literati followers had their hopes high for the new tenure. The

uncertainty for the on-site academic session had completely transformed to a very certain online initiative for academics and so it had been the chosen path for extra-curricular executions.

Launching the first initiative by the name of ‘Rubaroo’, an online version of literary confrontation with all the facets of literature, covering from Theatre, Poetry, Daastangoi, an online poetry recital by the eminent poets in town, and an online theatre, Rubaroo had carried out a successful session of five episodes altogether in 2020.

Tenure 2020-21, had by the time lowered its expectancy for complete on-site scheduling. With all our inductions being carried out online smoothly, we aimed for a better online approach. The pandemic lowering in its intensity brought us the chance for an on-site campaign alongside the regular activities at the campus.

Gearing up with Bait Baazi training sessions, to an initiative of a separate LPS theatre wing, we had our contingency plans for going online amidst the session. As agonizing as it sounds, the plans had lost their on-site appeal, but are still being catered to be executed at the best.

## NDS-NED University Debating Society

Maria Khalid  
Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2020

NDS organized a series of online declamation competitions, witnessing zealous participation from an array of departments, and successfully managed to break away from the desultory atmosphere that had taken hold as extracurricular activities faced an unsolicited halt due to the pandemic. ‘Adab-e-

Ramadan’ was particularly lauded as one of the most triumphant events of NDS to date while it’s new magnum opus ‘Azaad Khayal’, a six-episode bi-lingual web series tackling taboo social issues, was also met with admirable praise.

Additionally, under the initiative to bolster public speaking skills in NEDians, NDS held a number of training sessions for all kind of platforms in hybrid mode. Their impact was evident when NED University emerged victorious as the Best Delegation at INDUSMUN IV, which was held at Regent Plaza Hotel, Karachi, from 1st to 3rd April 2021. More recently, two leading bodies, namely the Youth Parliament and Sports and Youth Affairs Department Sindh Government, arranged the All-Karachi Young Leaders Parliamentary Debate 2.0, 2021. The Round Matches were held at Indus University between 20th and 21st March and the final on 23rd March at The Marriott Hotel in 2021. Four NED University teams took part, all of which qualified to the Quarterfinals, two into the semifinals and team NED-A, with their concerted efforts, won the tournament, marking their fourth successive All Karachi Tournament win.

## NPS-NED University Photography Society

Maria Khalid  
Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2020

NPS had the onus of carrying out all their planned events and general body meetings online, a task easier said than done. Google Meet and Zoom became the new normal for these, a framework which came with its own impediments, in the vain hope of maintaining the same zest that was present on-campus.



Online education has already been a cold sore for the students, so this experience of having the photography society shift to the same platform was nothing short of strange and unsettling and unfortunately, carrying out some events online were impossible, hence there was no choice but to postpone them till on-campus activities resumed. Nevertheless, armed with an optimistic outlook, NPS continues to look for ways to make their content efficient and engaging within the prevailing circumstances. Their highly enjoyable Recommendation of the Week Series came up with outstanding TV show and book reviews for the readers and brought them out of their quarantine-induced languor. Another write-up series, Ramadan Reminiscence, was a collaboration of short heartfelt narratives by NEDians, hooking readers with their ups and downs of a quarantined Ramadan. Last but not the least, the captions creating awareness about mental health and major events that took place all year round, along with the photo-walks are always a hit amongst the students.

## NSA-NED University SMS

### Alert Society

Rabi Haroon

Civil Engineering, Batch2019

The pandemic brought various challenges and the most galling one was to bridge the gap between students and the university life. To cope with the negative effects of pandemic, NSA NED University, as a media society felt responsible to serve as a beacon of hope in times of darkness, to resume its activities, to bring awareness about the pandemic and help students cope

with the situation, and also bring a little fun in their lives.

NSA NED University initiated a campaign titled "Awareness for COVID-19" from its social media platform. The campaign was created to engage the students in a noble cause of raising awareness related to covid-19 with their positive messages and relevant hashtags from NSA's platform. Keeping in mind the quarantine leisure, NSA brought a series titled "Productive Time in Quarantine" based on useful courses related to different fields of engineering with an aim to motivate students to spend their quarantine period in a productive manner.

While the pandemic posed certain restrictions, and with no sign of university opening anytime soon, Team NSA took charge and considered the fact that, in times like these, people are more prone to succumb to their own thoughts. Therefore, NSA started a series of live sessions by the name 'Uljhan', with many mental health specialists on the panel. This initiative proved to be effective, and the message of importance of having a stable mind, reached huge audiences.

Reminiscing the good old times, when no man had spoken or heard of the pandemic. To the days, when the university hosted full-house events, everyone having the time of their lives, NSA came up with an idea of showcasing the university as digital art. For that, an illustrative series was initiated by NSA titled as "Illustrative Path to NED's Canvas" which beautifully portrayed the famous places of NED University, their significance and emotions of NEDians attached to them.

The initial covid-19 period showed human nature captivated in loneliness, anxiety, mental breakdowns, and severe stress as the most common signs, and to help

the team of NSA in such state of mind, NSA arranged virtual workshops related to their domains to enhance their individual capabilities.

## TNF-The NEDIAN'S Forum

Rabi Haroon

Civil Engineering, Batch2019

The NEDIAN's Forum is a society that highlights social and mental issues faced by students. It aims to encourage students to open up about anxiety, disorders and other social issues faced by them. Besides that, it hosts a medley of events and seminars and encourages people to open up about their mental health issues. Also, it provides students with a platform, a safe haven, a place, where they can just be themselves. It is a place, where they can channel all their worries and frustrations out.

Since the Covid 19 pandemic put restrictions to almost everything and with the university at pause, and the students stuck at home, TNF decided to arrange online activities during lockdown to engage people and to take a little stress off their minds. Online activities included awareness videos, things that would help raise awareness about social causes and one's own health. The NEDIAN's Forum strived hard to create an impact on students during these difficult times. At the start, it seemed difficult to grab everyone's attention, but through the able workings of team TNF, it was all made possible. TNF focused on different social issues, invited famous speakers to help students find motivation to get things done, and played its part to help build the society. TNF gave things an interesting turn in Covid 19 from attracting audience and increasing interaction with students, to exploring the hidden talents in

NEDians at all levels. TNF also organized an online Talent Hunt activity which gave people a platform to unleash their talents and have fun with it.

## American Concrete Institute- ACI NED University

Aiman Siddiqui,  
Civil Engineering, Batch 2019

With the onslaught of the pandemic, American Concrete Institute (ACI) NED University Student Chapter at the department of Civil engineering swiftly adapted to the new normal and streamlined its operations to create a quarantine of quality. With campus on shut, members split between cities—united only by Wi-Fi, ACI NED University promptly shifted to virtual mode, breaking new grounds in organizing remotely planned digital activities.

First up in the quarantine series was Engineers' Digital Fair: a diverse line-up of weekly competitions that included technical article writing and software-based challenges. Also, the massive participation statistics in the competition coaxed them to hop on to Chapter Talks including Online with alumni. Stretched across a fortnight, these Facebook live episodes brought recent graduates from a wide range of specialties to discuss academics, entrepreneurship, studying abroad and career shifts from mainstream engineering to its offshoots and even fields not related to engineering. These broadcasts allowed live audience interaction, giving students insights to successful career trajectories whilst training the ACI team to reach out to professionals and correspond effectively online.

Next in line was VirtuRealm—a free technical webinar series featuring

top professionals from the industry, followed by a panel quiz. VirtuRealm provided students a platform to get in touch with seasoned professionals and get their civil engineering related queries answered in real-time.

Also, the team ACI was longing to organize an event that harbored their real essence: a practical construction related competition which had been hindered due to the unavailability of venue and restrictions on social gatherings. No restraint could surpass the insurmountable strategies of the ACI team that drew up *Stycrete*, a meticulously planned hybrid technical competition in January 2021. This competition revolved around eco-friendly concrete brought about by the partial replacement of fine aggregates by Styrofoam beads. A far cry from the hustle and bustle of trademark ACI events, *Stycrete* adhered to all SOPs, channeled an entirely remote execution of the event by delivery of materials to the participants' homes and live mentoring via video calls. This groundbreaking concept was appreciated during the ACI Virtual Spring Concrete Convention where Student Chapters across the globe discussed pandemic activities.

The pandemic also paved the way for student participation in international events, free from the chains of travel costs. Team NEDIA represented ACI NED University for the first time at the ACI Concrete Solutions Competition 2021 and was awarded *victor ludorum* in the "Most Innovative Design" category; an unprecedented feat that boosted global visibility of ACI student chapter and prestige. The ACI members from first to final year also attended the ACI Spring Concrete Convention and grasped a taste of international exposure.

The lockdown brought the team's coordination skills to their pinnacle. Online promotional campaigns, recruitments, morale-boosting icebreaker activities, synergetic orientation—they successfully paved their way through it all! They looked at the pandemic as a signal to enhance their virtual presence and went full steam ahead on team-training on this front. This inevitably led to top tier enhancement in social media engagement and a higher quality graphics threshold than ever before. Their online engagement levels have never looked better! Now, with vaccinations promising a slow return to normalcy, ACI NED University Student Chapter hopes to take these pandemic lessons and apply them on an even bigger stage both virtually and in real-time.

### Ending Note

In retrospect, we could not have fathomed this level of indulgence online before the lockdown, but this change is, after all, a manifestation of the phrase "drastic times call for drastic measures. Memories of the days when large gatherings and university trips were not sparked with fear and prohibitions seem to be fading like background noise as we focus on clearing these new hurdles. Socializing cannot bear the same fruit as compared to that with friends at picturesque meet-up spots at NED University. Hence, this increased screen time has made us all a little bit reclusive and wondering whether- and when- we would be able to go back to the glory days, but the lesson to take from this disconcertedness, the epitome of which NED University's societies have become, is to handle adversity with a proactive mindset and function to the best of our abilities.



## Editorial

Newspaper, a handy source of getting multiple topics is a good expression of information coupled with knowledge about what is in trend nowadays. It carries information about events, Happenings, experiences, sports, general affair and a lot more. It also provides a great sense of educational value that always served as an accelerating force behind social and economic development where education plays parental role and development is like offspring in this increasingly globalizing world, mass media is communication source that reaches a large audience. These days, youth proactive participation in the media is applauded due to indulging into multiple ranges of technical skills (such as technical learning, production, writing, editing lay outing and reporting),, cultivating strong socio-cultural impact besides acting as a source of information, informally educating masses and above all provoking sense of awareness. Yet there is room for many others to join and contribute for major developments in wide range of technological innovations. Hence it is an emerging opportunity to bring in one's own unique knowledge and perspective. Media participation empowers the youth. Writing as a mode of self-expression and sense of identity is a primary form of communication that not only facilitates education and learning but enhance sense of accomplishment and ownership. Writing paves opportunities and possibilities for creative and transformative instances to celebrate unique and innovative ideas. This opportunity of writing about their educational life is

beginning of learning for the entire life. Therefore, youth participation in media through writing needs to be strengthened and nurtured. Newspaper, as one of communication sources has been opted as an opportunity to expand knowledge and spark interest in reading. This newspaper in tends to describe and analyze important aspects of the university happenings and events for fellow student's insight with valuable information and vocational knowledge. Thus, the educative role of this newspaper aims for knowledge and development of socio-cultural consciousness. The contents of this newspaper comprise of highlights of collaborations, memorandums and milestones of NED University of Engineering and technology, honored to be a pioneering engineering institute of Pakistan. The enthusiastic participation of students in various competitions is highlighted with inspiring success stories penned down through interviews. No forgettable experiences of University life, cherished memories of canteens, tree shaded benches, shuttles, events and finally the convocation, would like to be read as flash back into the times through interesting reads by articles like 'Demystifying Canteens', 'The Road to NED University-Shuttles in Retrospect' and 'Virtual Convocation 2020 – Reshaping the clichéd ways.' Indelible Scholars in Time' is another impressive read in remembrance of legendary academician Prof. Dr. M.A. Rauf Qureshi, and Prof. Dr. Mahmood Khan Pathan. The success stories of notable alumni are documented as the source of inspiration for the upcoming students of the university. Post COVID experiences expressed

in the articles are to be read must for the lessons to be applied in future.

## Disclaimer

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## Newspaper Team

### Editorial Committee

1. Dr. Fawwad Masood, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering
2. Ms. Fariha Tehseen, Lecturer, Department of Architecture & Planning
3. Ms. Maheen Tufail Dahraj, Lecturer, Department of Humanities
4. Aiman Siddiqui, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
5. Aiman Yasha Naseem Biomedical Engineering, Batch 2018

## Team Coordination

- 1 Rabel Ahmed, Assistant Director, UAFA
- 2 Syed Adnan ul Hasan Naqvi, Staff Member, UAFA

## Team Layout Designing

1. Ms. Fariha Tehseen, Lecturer, Department of Architecture & Planning
2. Rabel Ahmed, Assistant Director, UAFA
3. Allah Bakhsh, Polymer & Petrochemical Engineering, Batch 2019
4. Sarah Ashraf Material Engineering, Batch 2020
5. Susheel Wadhvani, Civil Engineering, Batch 2018
6. Hamna Arshad, Chemical Engineering, Batch 2018
7. Ayesha Anwar, Electrical Engineering, Batch 2019
8. Aleena Amir, Applied Physics, Batch 2020
9. Brerah Sagheer, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019

## Team News Writers

1. Abdullah Haider Ali, Electrical Engineering, Batch 2017
2. Maria Khalid, Chemical Engineering, Batch 2020
3. Aqsa Noor, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
4. Umna Arshad, Software Engineering, Batch 2019
5. Rabi Haroon, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
6. Afeera Suhail, Electronic Engineering, Batch 2019
7. Shanzay Hussain, English Linguistics, Batch 2019
8. Rida Kalim, Software Engineering, Batch 2019
9. Syed Maarij Shoaib, Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2018
10. Warda Haseen Economic & Finance, Batch 2017

## Team News Reporters

- 1 Anmol Shaikh, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
- 2 Wasla Zainab, Telecommunication Engineering, Batch 2019
- 3 Maham Hayat, Industrial Chemistry, Batch 2018
- 4 Aruba Yousuf, Applied Physics, Batch 2018
- 5 Hassan Ashfaq, Software Engineering, Batch 2019
- 6 Sana Mashhood, Software Engineering, Batch 2020
- 7 Mohammad Farooqui, Electronics Engineering, Batch 2019
- 8 Hadia Sajjad, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Batch 2018
- 9 Muhammad Usman, Computer Science, Batch 2018
- 10 Muhammad Ebad, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Batch 2019
- 11 Fawwad Idrees, Economic and Finance, Batch 2020
- 12 Novaira Naqvi, Computational Finance, Batch 2018
- 13 Zaynab Nasir, Electronics Engineering, Batch 2019
- 14 Hifza Waqar, English Linguistics, Batch 2019
- 15 Maham Zehra Naqvi, Computer Science, 2019
- 16 Zainab Mushtaq, Urban Engineering, Batch 2019

- 17 Arman, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
- 18 Ghazi Siddiqui, Urban Engineering, Batch 2018
- 19 Umair Khan, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
- 20 Manum Fatima, Electrical Engineering, Batch 2019
- 21 Gotam, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
- 22 Hamza Akhtar, Electrical Engineering, Batch 2018
- 23 Sameed Ahmed, Civil Engineering, Batch 2019
- 24 Madiha Qureshi, Biomedical Engineering, Batch 2019
- 25 Iqra Waheed, Management Sciences, Batch 2019
- 26 Hamna Jafri, English Linguistics, Batch 2019
- 27 Ayesha Khwaja, English Linguistics, Batch 2020

## Team Photography

- 1 Abdus Sami, Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2018
- 2 Abdullah Ahmed, Electronics Engineering, Batch 2018
- 3 Ahmed Akmal, Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2019
4. Ali Mehboob, Mechanical Engineering, Batch 2019
- 5 Muhammad Aman, Electrical Engineering, Batch 2020

