

UMT ALUMNI PUBLICATION

# ILMIANS

2023



**Saquib Ahmad**

Country Managing  
Director  
SAP – Pakistan



**Dr Nadeem Ahmad**

Vice Chancellor Administration  
and Finance Sharjah Maritime  
Academy, UAE



**Syed Ijlal Jafri**

Group Chief  
Information Officer  
Martin Dow Ltd  
Pakistan

GREAT PLACE - GREAT LEARNING - GREAT FUTURE



# Ilmians 2023

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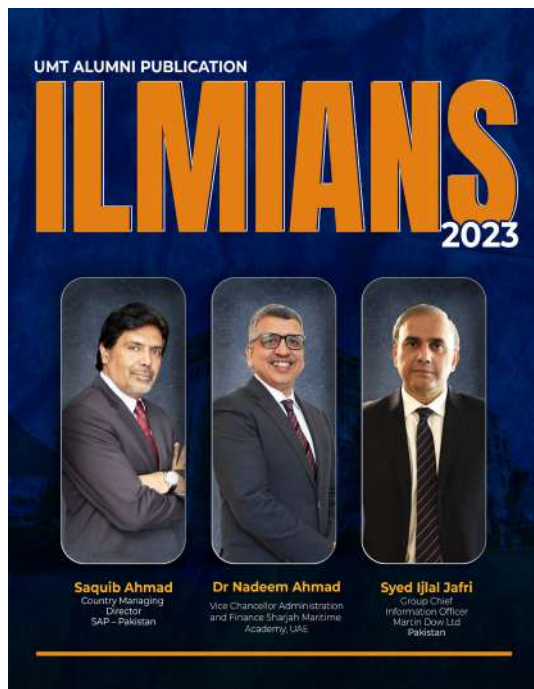
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Message By

# IBRAHIM HA



Greetings to all alumni of the University of Management and Technology (UMT)! The outgoing year proved to be one of the most important ones in the varsity's history, as it was declared the number 1 ranking university among all private sector higher education institutes in Pakistan. The laurel was awarded by none other than the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023.

The award is certainly proof of UMT's immense and continued focus on research that has a far-reaching impact, innovation in pedagogy, and consistent attention toward shaping the skills as well as the personality of UMT's participants.

But this was not the only honor bestowed upon UMT. THE named UMT among the top 501-600 higher education institutes of the world. Besides, UMT was declared one of the top 10 universities for Scopus-listed research publications, it was named fifth in Pakistan

# SAN MURAD

Member, Board of Governors, UMT/ILM Trust

by Nature Index for scientific research, while it was placed eighth in Pakistan for citations. Our Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization was also ranked the number 1 among ORICs of all other universities.

This year also saw the launch of our new school, the School of Pharmacy, at the SHS Campus on Raiwind Road. The school holds great promise and I am sure will add to UMT's legacy of producing sought-after scholars and professionals for the industry. Moreover, UMT also crossed the Rs 9 billion mark with respect to scholarships awarded to students over the course of the institute's 32-year history.

All these achievements have been the fruit of the collective efforts of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff. You, the alumni, have played a key role in diverse economic sectors at home and abroad in various roles and have been the ideal ambassadors of what UMT can offer to Pakistan and the world.

This year marked the organization of the first-ever Alumni Association Investiture Ceremony and the coming months will bring to light some more exciting transformative projects aimed at strengthening and empowering our alumni. We are also tailoring programs specifically for our alumni to help them continue down

the path of learning and skill building, and making professional progress.

As we look forward, we are extremely optimistic about attaining new heights and bringing home new honors with the continued support of the UMT fraternity, which includes our 31,000+ outstanding and invaluable alumni.

Your university days might be behind you, but the bonds that you made with knowledge and learning while at UMT should never be severed. You should keep pace with the changing times, and become highly engaged with the science behind artificial intelligence, as it would be essential for thriving in the world of tomorrow.

Whether it is a university you are considering for education, thinking of online lessons, or attending industry-specific sessions and conferences, never stop looking for ways to accelerate your career growth.

I am certain that you are as proud of your alma mater as it is of you. And I hope that you will continue to support us in making UMT and its impact more far-reaching.

I thank you for your continued patronage.

## Message by

### Sajjad Ahmed

MBA(P) – Year 1999

President

Dr Hasan Murad School  
of Management Alumni  
Association

CEO - Sagacious Group



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My association with UMT lasts more than 25 years and is one that makes me extremely proud. Looking back at the past and picturing the vision conceived by the great visionary Dr Hassan Sohaib Murad Sb, I wonder, "Who else could create such a

distinctive benchmark from a two-room start-up other than him?"

Today, UMT is the number 1 ranked private university in Pakistan having more than 30,000 Alumni from across the world. It is a great achievement and a proud moment for all faculty, staff, and alumni. UMT surely has played a major part in developing society, going an extra mile for its students and demonstrating an incredible commitment. Congratulations!

This tremendous achievement warrants continuous feedback from the corporate world regarding the quality of students, which can only be achieved through closer interactions between the Office of Corporate Linkages and Alumni working in various industries and sectors.

I feel privileged as well as excited in joining hands with UMT for the enhancement of the Alumni-UMT bond, seeking inspiration from alumni already making history in the workspaces spread across the World.

I look forward to strengthening our graduates' capabilities and readiness for the corporate world. I keenly await your guidelines, recommendations, and active participation in this effort. Together with commitment and collective wisdom, we will take it further.

In Shaa Allah

## Message by

### Umer Saeed

BS Computer Engineering – Year 2006

MS Data Science – Year 2020

President

School of Systems and Technology

Alumni Association

Senior RF Optimization Engineer,

Huawei



**F**

or the next two years it will be an honor to serve as the President of the School of Systems and Technology Alumni Association. I follow in the footsteps of extremely talented and dedicated alumni presidents and board of directors. I am grateful for the help and support of new officials,

each of who brings distinct gifts and talents to our organization.

The mission and commitment of our Alumni Association remains the same, to keep our alumni connected to our school, and each other, and to support student who wish to become computer scientists. Building on traditions from the past, creating new ones, and refocusing our efforts to build upon a strong history and foundation will be our goal as we move forward.

I urge you to become an active alumnus and engage with the exciting activities and opportunities this organization offers. There are variety of ways through which you can show appreciation and play a part. This includes attending events, cheering for our teams, staying connected to each other and the university, and of course, offering your time and gifts to help UMT students. Through this platform, you can get involve with the Alumni Association, read about inspiring alumni accomplishments, find out about upcoming alumni activities, learn about on-campus events, volunteer, and much more.

As we reflect back on where we have been over the past 30 years and where our school is heading, we should think about how we can help meet the needs of those who will follow us. Many alumni are already participating at many levels, and offering input with their time, talent and treasure. In big ways and in small, your contributions are important and valuable. As alumni, we are a vital thread in the fabric of this institution, and your support and participation is as needed as ever as we enter this new era in our school's history.

## Message by

### **Muhammad Faisal Thakur**

MA English Language Teaching

Year 2002

President

School of Social Sciences and  
Humanities Alumni Association

Founder & CEO, The Right Schools &  
Colleges Network



back to you". This stands so true to the family of UMT, beginning with the laying of foundations in the year 1990 to reaching the number one position in 2022.

I urge all UMT students and alumni to give your hundred percent to life and returns will come to you manifold. I wish you all have a successful life, but before that I would like to define what success is, because it is much more than riches, power or fame.

Success is simply the feeling of satisfaction and happiness one gets from leading a particular way of life or carrying out a particular productive activity. Success in any field or aspect of life can only be achieved through serious hard work and a little bit of opportunity, and UMT offers you those opportunities, so my advice is to grab every chance you get with fair means.

Congratulations once again team alumni UMT. You have proved your mettle once again by making historic startup for the various schools of UMT.

There is a famous quote which says, "Life is like a mirror, whatever you put into it comes

## Message by

### **Dr Zeeshan Arshad**

Doctor of Physiotherapy – Year 2020  
President  
School of Health Sciences Alumni  
Association  
CEO - Zainab Saddique Poly Clinic



A

s always, it gives me great pleasure to contribute to this amazing publication as a way of showing my appreciation for the team's admirable efforts. The endeavor is noteworthy.

A physiotherapist is someone who develops, prepares, and executes protocols through the use of expert measures and tests in order to improve people's mobility, arrange their physical activities, and use their skills to manage pain without the need for medicines. They are essential to improving the quality of living standards and health. Modern health sciences have achieved advancements that have increased longevity. This rise has helped to underline how crucial the idea of the quality of life is.

Improvement in people's quality of life is significantly facilitated by physiotherapists. The practice of physiotherapists is expanding and diversifying the world over. Physiotherapy in itself holds a multiverse of fields like musculoskeletal, ortho, occupational, cardiopulmonary, pediatric and gynecology.

The University of Management and Technology's School of Health Sciences offers a 5-year undergraduate degree that covers both basic and clinical science courses as well as practical and theoretical instruction focused on the planning and implementation of treatment plans.

Our focus is centered on empowering students with the skills that help them improve patients' quality of life and help them become part of a community of impassioned caregivers.



UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES



## Brief Profile

### INTERVIEW with

**Dr Nadeem Ahmad Khan**

MA Educational Leadership

Year 2002

Vice Chancellor Administration and  
Finance

Sharjah Maritime Academy, UAE

Dr Nadeem Khan currently works as the Dean of Institutional and Program Accreditation in the United Arab Emirate's largest system of Higher Education Institutions - Higher Colleges of Technology HCT.

He holds a diversified portfolio of working in leadership positions in academia and industry in several countries and contexts including Pakistan, UK, EU and the UAE. As an alumnus of the MA Education Program of ILM, Dr Nadeem continued his pursuits of academic excellence in the field of academic quality assurance and accreditation. He pursued MSc at the University of Oxford UK and continued his PhD in Educational Leadership and Management from the University of Nottingham UK with the most prestigious scholarships - the British Chevening Scholarship and the UK Overseas Research Scholarship for the PhD Studies.

Dr Nadeem has worked extensively in the field of academic quality assurance and enhancement and holds the status as a certified reviewer by the UAE's Ministry of Education's Commission of Academic Accreditation CAA as well as the Quality Assurance Agency QAA of the United Kingdom. He has carried out accreditation reviews in several institutions in the UAE and beyond. In recognition of his services in the specialized field, has been granted the Golden Residency Visa by the UAE government.

Q&A

**1. Please share the history of accreditation. Is it standard for all the education systems around the globe?**

Well, accreditation and quality assurance are used synonymously in academia and the professional world, the former has evolved from the US/ North American systems and later has its roots in the UK, EU, and other regions. In higher education, the accreditation movement dates back to the late eighteenth century with the evolution of formal education systems such as schools, colleges and universities. The system evolved as a voluntary process to assure that the institutions meet a certain threshold before they could be recognized and later evolved as a more rigorous and formal process. Accreditation serves as means to ensure that academic programs are relevant, continuously improved upon and meet the specific thresholds of quality. In addition, accreditation safeguards the interest of the students, faculty and staff and the wider community in terms of setting requirements and thresholds which cannot be avoided by the institutions. The purpose of accreditation is universal but different countries and professional bodies have their specific standards or criteria that require the higher education institutions to demonstrate that they meet the criteria. Like all peer review processes, accreditation is also a peer review process that involves the reviewers appointed by the accreditation agency who are familiar with the standards to make judgments about the quality of the applicant institution. The movement has grown significantly in recent years and more and more universities reach out to leading global accreditation agencies to get the seal of approval. A word of caution is that not all accreditation agencies are legit or hold a similar status. Some have evolved as commercial businesses so it is always wise to do a thorough search before seeking any international accreditation. Each country has developed standards for institutional as well as professional/program accreditation based on the best practices in higher education in the world. For instance, HEC recognizes professional accreditation

bodies for national accreditation. US has seven regional accreditation bodies that are members of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation CHEA. The top US agencies for accreditation that reach out to universities globally include Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business AACSB and The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs for Schools/Programs in business. For Engineering and Computer Sciences, the gold standard is the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology ABET and so on. Recently the UK's leading Quality Assurance Agency QAA has initiated the expansion to offer universities from around the world to apply for international accreditation. The added value of the process is that QAA has adopted the European Standards and Guidelines ESG 2015 to review the higher education intuitions. Meeting the ESG standards implies that the university is adhering to the standards that are common across



the European Higher Education Area which includes forty seven countries of the EU and beyond.

## **2. How do universities/ schools rank in the world? What are some authentic ranking bodies?**

University rankings have evolved in the past 50 years or so. It must be noted that none of the ranking systems have been able to identify matrices that measure the quality and excellence in teaching and learning. Despite this, rankings have become a necessary evil for higher education institutions to stay relevant and attract students. The most publicized global rankings systems include the Times Higher Education Rankings, QS Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (previously known as Shanghai Rankings). All of the ranking systems are heavily biased towards high-quality research outputs in addition to the academic reputation and employer reputation that comprise national and international entities.

## **3. According to you what areas are to be evaluated in quality assurance of education?**

Quality assurance in academia revolves around all functions of an academic institution, but most critically it entails that the programs offered by the universities meet the required benchmarks and standards comparable with reputable international norms. Any reputable accreditation agency will be interested to see the efforts a university is making to ensure that the policies, processes, systems and physical facilities are fit for purpose. All institutions globally aspire to receive a seal of approval from leading professional bodies. Leading accreditation agencies to have stringent standards and require universities to demonstrate compliance through self-evaluation which is validated by peer review of experts from accredited institutions to ensure consistency of implementation of standards and guidelines. Assuring and safeguarding the interests and rights of stakeholders –

students, faculty, staff and the community is another outcome of the accreditation process.

## **4. What do you think are the most pressing challenges facing the higher education sector?**

The foremost challenge faced by higher education is the relevance of credentials and awards. There is a disconnect between theory and practice, and students often fail to demonstrate the key competencies and skills required of them in the workplace. The world needs a more skilled workforce to take on the complex jobs of the future. There is no linear degree that can suffice the future job market. The interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning is no longer an option, it is a requirement. Another challenge is the digital transformation and the resources required to keep up with the pace of digital advancements. Natural calamities such as floods and the Covid-19 pandemic pose serious challenges for the higher education sector and the implications of these challenges are profound.

## **5. If you weren't in academics, what type of career would you pursue?**

I moved to academia by choice. As a matter of fact, I started my career as a banker and excelled in the job in a short span of time. However, there has been an innate urge to contribute to a bigger cause. It was one of the bold decisions of my life to quit the banking profession and join University once more as a full-time student to equip myself with the knowledge, skills, and competencies that have helped me in developing my repertoire as an academic. As much as I enjoy classroom teaching, I do also believe it is the leaders and administrators are equally responsible to bring about qualitative improvement in an institution.

## **6. What books are on your bedside table right now?**

Currently, I am reading Thinking Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman and it's

intriguing to find how we think and reach conclusions. The world might be a better place and wars could be averted if the decisions are made on the basis of hard facts that are rooted in data and precision, not just emotions, feelings and anger that drives the decision-making. We have seen so much polarization in our political discourse and people have taken unprecedented hard positions. There is a slight catch to this title as a lot of academic and statistical jargon is used in the book. So my colleagues in academia will enjoy reading it while those aiming for a bedside reading might find it boring.

**7. Are there any leaders or artists from the past or present that you turn to for inspiration and whose words or work you think would inspire others?**

I have seen true leadership in action by the late Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad and his persona has inspired so many, including me. I believe we have been lucky to have spent treasured moments with him and traveled with him on a few occasions both inside Pakistan and abroad. It was a great experience to perform Umrah with him during our trip to conduct a workshop at Pakistan Embassy School in Jeddah. His charismatic personality, character and personal demeanor has left a lasting impact on me. He was so well-read, and on every occasion you met him, he would recommend another great reading. He shared his conversations with leading authors in the field of Business and Academia. He truly lives in the hearts and minds of so many.

Another great personality who has left a lasting impression is Dr Mushtaq-ur-Rehman Siddiqui, the ex- Dean of the School of Education and Arts at ILM (now SSSH) whom I had found affectionate, principled, committed, self-less, and a true teacher. I was faculty in ILM for a short time before leaving for the UK. I had that unique opportunity to work in ILM/IMT at the time. I remember my work desk was set inside his office owing to spacing issue. He introduced me to several authors including the Futurist

– Alvin Tofler and Paulo Freire in addition to the historical affiliation with Allama Iqbal and his poetry, he has an advanced level of understanding of the Persian language. I still remember his words of wisdom: ‘there is no limit to what a man/woman can do; only if s/he does not consider who gets the credit; doing good has no limits and I had witnessed his actions speaking for his words.

**8. What advice would you give to students preparing to enter professional life?**

Make the best use of your time at the university and grab the most opportunities for personal and professional skills development and training even outside your subject area. There is no linear pathway to a career and jobs of the future require skills such as problem-solving, agility, adaptability, creativity, and pursuit to re-skill and upskill with changing workforce needs and demands. Also, try becoming an entrepreneur and master of your destiny.

**9. What are your suggestions to improve alumni networking?**

UMT's alumni are spread all over the world. The alumni office has been proactive and I have the opportunity to stay connected with the alumni office and fellow alumni in the UAE through the social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp groups. Some other tips include involving student volunteers and internees to join hands with the alumni office in their efforts for reaching out to the alumni. An online database of alumni needs to be updated by the interns in data science to group alumni based on their professions/interest groups and placements. Training and development of office bearers in engaging alumni in networking activities is another area to be considered.



## Brief Profile

### INTERVIEW with

#### **Saqib Ahmad**

MBA(E) – Year 2004

Country Managing Director SAP  
PAKISTAN

Saqib is the Managing Director for SAP in Pakistan. SAP is the market leader in enterprise application software. Since joining SAP in 2017, Saqib has significantly expanded SAP's footprint in Pakistan, exceeding growth targets and hiring local talent to enable the digital transformation of customers in both the public and private sectors. Saqib Ahmad has nearly 24 years' experience in delivering innovation and driving business value for customers in the Information Technology and Telecommunications industry in the region. Prior to joining SAP, Saqib was Director of Sales & Business Development for Oracle. In this role, he was responsible for a sales team that qualified and built business opportunities in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He introduced new applications to these markets and strengthened Oracle's relationships with key clients. Previously, Saqib was the Country Director, Pakistan and Afghanistan, for Comptel, where he determined the sales, partner and business strategies to optimize revenue, order intake and cost of sale. Saqib began his career with Nokia-Siemens, where he held a variety of roles, culminating in him being named Director of Sales, Middle East. Saqib holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor of Engineering in Telecommunication and Electronics from the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore and was recognized with the Aizza-e-Sabqat presidential award for academic excellence by President of Pakistan. Saqib has also completed the LEAP Programme of Business Administration & Management from INSEAD, France

Q&A

**1. Is intelligent enterprise only limited to larger organizations? Do you work with SMEs? If yes, how many clients do you have in the SME sector?**

Our belief is that every business has the opportunity to become an intelligent enterprise and the size of the organization does not need to be a barrier to the concept. In fact, the SME sector has demonstrated the ability to truly live up to the spirit of the intelligent enterprise by making their businesses truly digital and using data and automation as a driver of their business strategy.

In Pakistan, we are proud to be partnering with multiple businesses in the SME sector, as an approximate I believe the number of customers in this segment is about 800.

**2. What are the future technologies in SAP?**

SAP as a company has always been at the forefront of innovation, we have a strong commitment to solving the world's biggest challenges. In the recent past, we have invested significantly in developing solutions for climate change, sustainability, and circular economies.

In order to tackle such large-scale challenges SAP has invested in a set of future best practices we term "Next Practice", these are deeply rooted in technologies such as artificial intelligence, process mining, robotic process automation, and industry 4.0 to name a few

**3. What has working with SAP taught you about yourself over the last so many years?**

SAP Pakistan's vision,

- To help the world run better
- Improve people's lives better.

**4. Biggest challenges that you've come across during your association with SAP?**

With the passage of time some challenges

will remain always there whether you are in any organization, some of the highlighted ones for sure are

- Retention of skilled people,
- High impact of inflation,
- Change management in terms of introducing new softwares' as people always assume that they will replace them.
- USD - PKR

**5. How you differentiate Oracle and Microsoft**



**Positive attitude, respect towards team members, clear communication, ability to delegate and building relationships makes a person good leader.**

#### **Dynamics with SAP?**

All of them have great solutions and dynamic values and are working exceptionally in IT sector having one niche quality of providing superlative products to Pakistan market. But SAP is the best ERP market across the world and its market share speaks for itself.

#### **6. US remains the world's leading technology hub, still we find Germany based SAP taking the lead. What are the major reasons?**

At SAP we are proud of our German heritage, and our business solutions are modern-day engineering masterpieces. We understand that US provides a more diverse technology landscape and for this reason, we have head offices and innovation centers in the heart of Silicon Valley. So in a sense, you can think of us as much a US company as we are German.

#### **7. What is your favorite digital resource?**

This is a tough one, but if I have to choose, I will perhaps say the SAP Analytics Cloud (SAC) solution. In my role I am required to make decisions based on trends we see in our sales data and marry these with other outside influences such as political dynamics, dollar parities, and the overall business environment. This enables me to make decisions that are backed by data and the built-in planning and predictive functionalities help weed out any outliers which might cause blind spots in our judgement.

#### **8. Do you ever get impatient with Millennials who want it now!**

I consider this as their strength as they add value to the ecosystem, bringing their new ideas and ways of coping new changes to the system. Strategy behind their change management is optimistic & result oriented.



**9. You appear as keynote speaker on different digital forums, so what basic thoughts you share on these platforms?**

I always emphasize on some vital points which I want everyone to memorize.

- i- Digital transformation is the key to business innovation
- ii- HR is our key asset; we need skilled workforce.
- iii- Change management is the key to successful transformation.

And most important of all is to believe in yourself and make Pakistan proud.

**10. What do you think makes a good leader?**

Positive attitude, respect towards team members, clear communication, ability to delegate and building relationships makes a person good leader. Vision and faith in team are crucial elements as well.

**11. What's more important, completing**

**the scope perfectly or completing on time?**

They are both important. However, speaking from an agile point of view – you may be able to get the best of both worlds by prioritizing the “importance” and “time to deliver” of a scope item, in short manageable sprints. This helps businesses realize the “must-have” functionalities in a project quickly and then built on top with additional features in future rollouts, this way we do not compromise any of the scope deliverables in totality.

**12. Message for UMT alumni community.**

Stay Committed, Optimistic and Open to Change Management



# Brief Profile

## INTERVIEW with

Lieutenant Colonel  
**Khurram Jawad  
Khawaja** (Retd)

Master of Human Resource  
Management - 2013  
MS in Strategic  
Human Resource  
Management - 2017

Additional Director  
Transfer & Records  
DHA, Lahore

Lt Col Khurram Jawad Khawaja retired from Pakistan Army after 30 years of meritorious service in uniform. He has done Masters in International Relations, Masters in Human Resource Management and MS in Strategic Human Resource Management. He served in Semi Government Organization, where he experienced raising of a Government owned Company as a linch pin. He has been to warzones like Siachin, and on United Nations Mission to Somalia.

He served in Civil Armed Forces in Balochistan and face the brunt of miscreants' activities in Balochistan. He helped create environments best suited for oil and gas companies for exploration, and led 2D and 3D Seismic Survey in Balochistan. Since 2019, he is serving as Additional Director, Transfer & Record in Defence Housing Authority, Lahore.

# Q & A

**1. Kindly give us some idea of your early career, how you decided on an army career and why HR?**

I joined Pakistan Army at a very early age, just after my matriculation and as you know that age is very tender and emotional. In that particular age, everyone likes to become an army officer, pilot or doctor, etc. so I inclined towards the army and I joined it. Today Alhamdulillah, after 30 years of meritorious service I thank Allah Almighty that HE blessed me with the opportunity to serve Pakistan in uniform. By the way, my first ever posting after commission was at Siachin which is to-date a declared War Zone and highest Battle Field in the world. And your second part of the question Why HR? Actually, Army is a profession in which everyone is dealing with people all the time. Everyone is managing human resources in his capacity. Every individual is well knitted with each other, so in a way, human resource is our bread and butter. After retirement, the HR field, was of course, commensurate with my experience and passion.

**2. Is it fair to say the army attracts people that come from difficult backgrounds?**

I would disagree, army attracts people who have the love for the country and are passionate about serving our motherland, no matter what their backgrounds are, male or female. In my tenure, I have come across and interacted with officers and staff from every walk of life and from every socio-economic background. What differentiates every army officer from the other is performance, loyalty, skills and intelligence. The rest doesn't matter.

**3. Please share your current responsibilities as Additional Director Transfer and Records at DHA Lahore.**

I am serving DHA Lahore since 2019 as Additional Director Transfer & Records. The position warrants a great deal of responsibility. I am responsible for record updates and maintenance of all the plots. People invest their lifetime earnings in real estate, particularly in DHA, just because of

the credibility that we have earned over a period of almost half a century.

**4. What are the general rules of DHA for records retention and disposal?**

As far as record retention is concerned, we have a very elaborate computerized system through which we can even track down the course of a plot file once it's in the transfer process. Besides, my branch is responsible for the safe and secure transaction of plots or properties from one owner to another, for which a physical presence of the seller and buyer is mandatory. An



officer of Grade 18 or 19 gets all the procedure done in his presence, gets the biometric verification and pictures of the seller and buyer taken together which overrule the possibility of any forgery or fraud. In case a seller or buyer is unable to visit DHA office for any reason like living abroad, official commitments, medical grounds, we have a well-defined process to the extent of involving Pakistani Embassies/ Consulates abroad through which one can transfer his or her property to any other individual.

**5. Please share those records created or received electronically be treated differently than those created by other means.**

In my branch, all the processes are being done electronically so there are no chances of malpractice. Other societies where record keeping is done manually are prone to fraud or record misappropriation.

DHA has provided or given the masses, the ultimate living concept, which is evident from its town planning, commercial areas, parks etc.

**6. How have the structure and the general look of training and development changed in the last 20 or 30 years?**

Training and development is something very important for any organization for its growth. However, with technological advancement, training has changed considerably. There is a mark difference between one-on-one learning and online learning. The people of my generation are not yet ready to digest online learning.

**7. Your major career achievements?**

Respectful retirement after completion of a meritorious service in uniform is the biggest achievement. I got an opportunity to stand against the enemy as well as miscreants. Besides, my achievements in relation to HR



are the respect and blessings which I enjoy because of my interaction with the people.

### **8. What are the main challenges you face during work?**

The biggest challenge in my line of work is ensuring excellent and flawless customer service and being an exemplary team leader in my department. Customer satisfaction is what allows any department or company dealing in economics, industrialism and real estate to progress and grow indefinitely, and strong leadership will allow consistent and smooth operations to aid that growth.

Frankly, it is mostly dealing with the influx of customers with a new problem related to real estate every day, which in a strange way I enjoy. If a matter is genuine and legal, and is in my power and according to the company regulations, I can definitely help and deliver results which for me is personal happiness and achievement because many problems are quite painful at times.

### **9. How do you find managing HR in army different or same as corporate sector?**

Normally retiring officers think that managing HR is no problem, but after studying and experiencing human resource in the corporate sector, I would say that there is a marked difference between HR in army and in the corporate sector. In army by virtue of rules and regulations everyone in hierarchy is bound to his prescribed limits and his actions or duties. Systems have been customized as such that we only have to direct what need to be done and the person on the other end knows his limits and does what is needed. In the corporate sector, creating an atmosphere of respect, teamwork and empathy is the main challenge. One should always feel job security and he or she should love his or her job. To me, the HR's role is that of a mother who is emotionally attached to her children and always thinks for their betterment while maintaining decorum. There shouldn't be any communication gap between HR and the employees. HR should work as a cushion between the management and

the employees. They should understand the requirement of management and they should know their employees also and take along both the segments in the best interest of the organization, as well as all the stakeholders.

### **10. How do you define success?**

Success for me is to achieve small but very important milestones in life, to understand and gain basic skills that later help you to achieve bigger goals. Basic skills are the foundation for every big achievement. Success for me is also the fact that at the end of my day and at some point at the end of my career both my company staff and the consumer go home happy, leaving me with the satisfaction and confidence of having done my best.

### **11. Any your suggestions to improve alumni networking?**

My suggestion is that with the modernization of today's society, the art of engagement with the alumni and the current university family is quite important through any means possible. Our aim should be target-oriented. This engagement would most importantly generate a strong exchange of opinions, views, and years of experience that would keep the vision of our university bonded and anchored for years to come.

Besides, UMT could start a directory of alumni so that we could interact with each other if need be and get benefited with each other's experiences.

### **12. Message for UMT Alumni Community.**

My message to the alumni is that no matter where ever we are in our lives or how old we get, it is important never to think that your education is enough. Our world and the society are evolving every second. We need to walk with time and society and keep learning because it is important to hold on to your roots and your basics but it is also important to gain something new to keep moving forward and achieving more in our life. Otherwise, you will remain at one place while the world moves on.



# Brief Profile

## INTERVIEW with

### **Abuzar Qaseem**

BCS – Year 1999

Senior Manager  
Customer Incident Management

#### **EMEA UAE**

Data Protection and Cyber Security  
Dell Technologies UAE

Assalaam Alaikum. I wish everyone peace and happiness wherever you are. My name is Abuzar Qaseem and I am Pakistani by birth. Apart from the early few years, I have lived most of my life outside of Pakistan, primarily in the Middle East and a few years in Ireland. I studied in Saudi Arabia up to the college level, and followed it up with a bachelor's degree in Computer Sciences from ILM (now UMT) in Lahore.

It was the first year that the BCS program had been kicked off, but the strong leadership of the institution at the time was the very reason to become part of the UMT family. I started with my master's degree right after my bachelor's degree, but unfortunately had to discontinue it due to some unavoidable circumstances.

After completing my BCS, I went back to Saudi Arabia and started my career with a company called Al Alamiah Electronics where I spent about 8 years until the end of 2006. I joined Dell Technologies in 2007 in Ireland as a senior support engineer for the UK/Ireland market. Since then, I have changed five different roles within the company from program management, services sales, regional services lead, and now incident management. I am currently based in Dubai working for Dell Technologies as a senior manager covering Data Protection and Cyber Security related escalated incidents across Europe, Middle East and Africa.

I am a tech-savvy, accomplished and seasoned professional with 20+ years of industry experience in IT services.

Q & A

## 1. What is the nature and function of leadership in agile organizations?

The only thing constant in life is “change”. The increased competitiveness and complexity of the business environment means adaptivity, agility, fluidity, and flexibility are absolutely critical for organizational survival and thriving. Leadership in an agile organization strives to remove roadblocks to success so team members can be more productive and successful. To keep up with the various forces of change, the organization must develop their adaptive capability or agility if it wishes to survive and thrive. An agile organization equips itself with the intelligence to seize opportunities and react to threats by making timely decisions proactively which are effective, sustainable and generate a competitive advantage and give them some leverage in the quickly changing marketplace and in their ecosystem.

Leaders at every level, not just top managers, need to buy into agility as an organizational value as organization steps into the future with a clear vision and the action plan to get there.

## 2. Share your journey with Dell Technologies.

My passion to be a part of Dell Technologies came from my interaction with the Dell brand while working for Saudi-based Al Alamiah Electronics where I worked for about 8 years.

Al Alamiah Electronics was the sole distributor of Dell products in Saudi Arabia at the time. In the 7+ years I worked there, I equipped myself with great experience and expertise weaving through different roles and responsibilities both in the technical and management track. I project managed some very large countrywide multimillion dollar implementations working very closely with Dell team members. Towards the end of 2006, the passion switched gears and I applied for a technical role at the

Dell enterprise expert center in Dublin, Ireland. After having gone through multiple remote interviews, I joined Dell in Ireland in February 2007.

Having lived in the Middle East for most of my life, I was tempted to grab an opportunity in Bahrain covering enterprise deployment programs across the Middle East region.

## 3. According to you what are the most important qualities for an escalation manager to have?

When operating under pressure, people can very easily go into panic mode limiting their ability to plan it right resulting in more damage. First and foremost, the escalation manager should step into the driver seat, take



control, and become the SPOC for all communication. They then need to assess the business impact and quickly acknowledge the needs and pull together the required resources.

For incidents with severe impact to business, it's important that we quickly switch gears taking control of the situation offering cross functional resolution management to provide the best customer experience on end-to-end engagement. The number one showstopper to success is poor communication. In my view, the most important quality of an escalation manager is to stay calm and manage all communication from high level communication with clients and internal leadership to keeping an eye on the working team's resolution plans from engagement to resolution always maintaining ownership of the incident. It's extremely important to collaborate with the wider teams and global services network to ensure best practices and knowledge base articles are always in use. Finally in the closure phase, documenting lessons learned to drive service improvements.

#### **4. For you, what's the future of Incident Management?**

For decades, the team responding to technology incidents has always been IT. But of course, as with everything in technology, the past is not the predictor of the future and currently the practice of incident management is shifting. New technologies and interconnected products have changed how we manage incidents, mindsets, practices, and team structures are changing in order to keep up. Innovation in the incident management is bringing in the shift from being reactive to proactive. The use of automation and artificial intelligence with a customer centric mindset is positively impacting response times and helping to shift customer experience one eighty degrees.

Alert routing, notification, deduplication, message workflows, conference bridge creation, status page updates, on-call scheduling, escalation processes, and KPI tracking can also be wholly or partially automated to save the team time and reduce human error in set, repetitive tasks. Not to mention that automation saves the company money over time.

#### **5. What is your process for escalating an issue when the initial attempt to solve the problem failed?**

It is extremely important to understand what an escalation is and when to kick off the escalation process.

To qualify an escalation, a customer must have made an initial attempt to resolve the issue through the standard support channels. If they have failed to remedy the issue to their satisfaction unless there is a loss of production causing downtime and significant business impact.

In Dell Technologies, we have multiple tools covering scenarios when an individual is connected to the company network or on the move via the mobile application. No matter how you log the escalation, everything ends up in the global CRM accessible by the support services resources around the world allowing scalability and 24/7 availability. In the event of disasters causing internet outage, we also have a manual process via e-mail and telephone lines. There is some mandatory information required to create and escalation which is used to triage the incident, set the severity level and assign it to the right team. The cases are picked up within the SLO defined based on severity level and business impact.

#### **6. What would you consider the most significant accomplishment of your career?**

"Zero duplicates in Saudi Aramco IT rollouts" During my time in Al Alameh Electronics, I was presented with a challenge that had existed for years in all large-scale

deployment at Saudi Aramco. Every vendor rolling out IT equipment across the kingdom had faced the issue of duplication of records due to size and complexity of the projects.

I was warned about this and was asked to allocate sometime in the project times lines for the corrections which could at times take weeks.

I tasked myself with the mission to fix this everlasting challenge. I put my thinking caps on and started to map out the end-to-end scenarios. Cutting the story short, I replaced the maximum human intervention as possible with digitization and automation reducing the chance of error. The company leadership agreed to make the investment into the process enhancement and Alhamdulillah were the first ever vendor to have overcome the issue. What really made me proud was that Aramco asked me to come and implement the solution in their facility and I was awarded with an excellence award from the VP of IT.

The process optimization and solution is still in plan until today.

### **7. If you had the chance to start your career over again, what would you do differently?**

There are a lot of things that I could have done differently, but I wouldn't go back and change them, because my experiences have made me who I am. I try to always learn from my mistakes and view them as challenges to overcome or opportunities to do better the next time. One thing I would possibly need to improve on is the time spent with my family. Prioritizing a bit more on my work-life balance. After all, the efforts we make towards our careers are for our families and they are equally important to us. On the professional side, I would like to dedicate more time to educating and equipping myself with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, data analytics and data sciences. Success

is complete with excelling in both arenas – professional and personal.

Mother Teresa has perfectly said, "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.

We have only today. Let us begin". So, I also want to follow the same in both my personal and professional life and just keep going and growing.

### **8. What are some industry trends that have an impact on your role as a manager?**

We have survived through one of the greatest workplace disruptions in generations and the level of volatility will not slow down any time soon. Hybrid work will create more bouncy roads around where, when, and how much different employees are working. The workforce will continue to be greeted with real wage cuts as annual compensation increases fall behind inflation. These realities will be compounded on top of longer-term technological transformation and ongoing political disruption and uncertainty. The manager-employee relationship has become more important than ever as there will be weaker forces keeping employees in seats. Employees that work hybrid or remotely have fewer friends at work and thus weaker social and emotional connections with their coworkers. These weaker connections make it easier for employees to quit their job by reducing the social pressure that can encourage employees to stay longer. Wellness will become the newest metric that companies use to understand their employees. As a manager, I strive to develop myself and my team encouraging equality and diversity. In my team, within our training path, there is huge focus on developing soft skills as well as incorporating technology into our process using AI and RPA.

### **9. What is the biggest challenge you have faced in your career?**

Like all of us, I have come across multiple

challenging situations, but one that I would call out was a deployment worth \$5M gone wrong. I was flown from Europe to the Middle East to remove the obstacles, bring the environment to a healthy state and move to production restoring the customer confidence in the solution and the brand. With five different vendors being part of the overall solution and a very tight timeline, all my skills were put to the test starting from setting and resetting expectations to taking control of the steering wheel and driving the resolution.

With a deadline of 13 days to fix everything or be thrown out the door put everyone under immense pressure. I quickly setup an initiation calls to understand the challenges, setup a communications plan, secure resources, put together a project plan building some redundancies and taking the bull by the horns. There was a dire need to quickly establish relationships and boost the team morale. There is a lot to recall and share, but fast forward to day 13, we still had some challenges to overcome with a few tests failing. With only 6 hours left and the clock at 12AM, we got together as a team joining all efforts and giving it all that was needed. Alhamdulillah, we succeeded to complete all the tasks and hand over the solution to the customer for testing and sign-off. This was very much appreciated by everyone involved and turning around the customer experience 180 degrees. The engagement ended with a celebration and I booked my flights to return back home.

#### **10. How do you know when you are stressed? What do you do to de-stress?**

Its human nature to be worried and stressed at times. I try to focus on things that I have control over and not get too tied up in things that I cannot control. It's not very usual for me to get stressed but when I do, I would feel it with stiffness in my muscles in the neck. Prepare for the worst but hope for the best.

To de-stress myself, I practice gratitude and

think about all the good things and be appreciative and thankful to Almighty Allah for them.

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." - Melody Beattie

On a physical level, I get a glass of water, do some breathing exercises, and go for a quick walk.

#### **11. What advice would you give to students preparing for professional life?**

First and foremost, do anything you want to do, but do it with passion, honesty, and integrity. Always believe in yourself and build your personal brand with Equip yourself with knowledge and skill. Gain knowledge to make yourself a better human and to be able to differentiate between right and wrong.

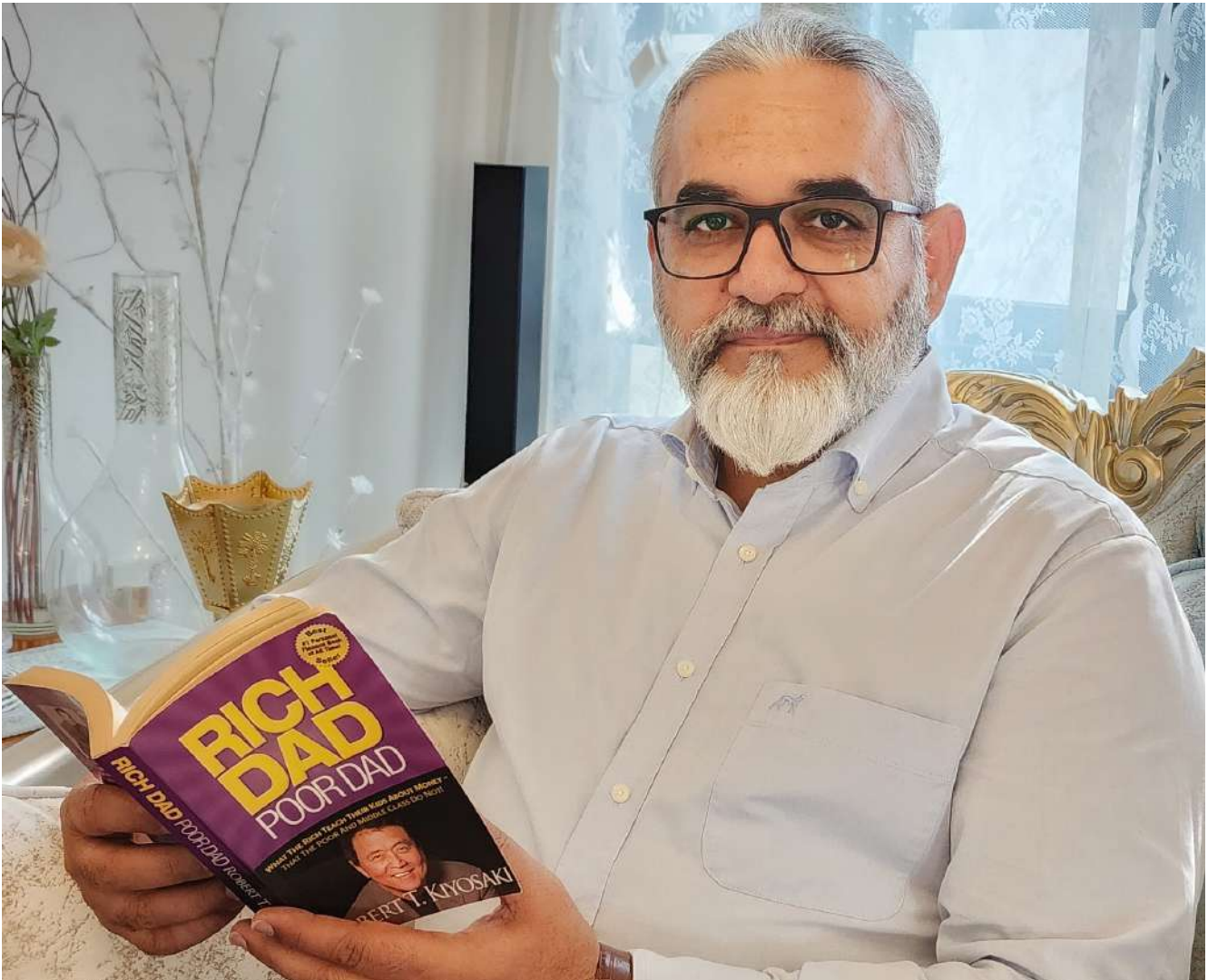
When you need help, don't hesitate to ask for it. It can be nerve-wracking when you're new to the job, but typically people enjoy helping someone out. There will always be someone to teach you something and we will never be done learning.

Communication, presentation skills, problem solving, and agility are among some of the most important competencies that will always come in handy.

Appreciate your achievements and celebrate them, but always have an attitude of gratitude.

#### **12. What are your suggestions to improve alumni networking?**

There needs to be a platform for the alumni to share their knowledge and experience, it could be in the form of a university/alumni blog. People could share their stories, struggles and challenges and how they overcame them. This can also be done in the form of F2F workshops. Most alumni even if settled abroad, would probably return back frequently or every few years.



This is an opportunity to invite them to the campus and give them a platform to share their success stories and insights with the student. This can evolve into career counselling sessions of direction setting. One other thing we should do is to give back to our society. This can be in the form of different initiatives and programs to bring a change in this world. We have a lot to be thankful for and we all need to pay it forward.

Spread knowledge and experience and you will be surprised how much you get to learn in return as long as you have an open mind and willingness to share.

### **13. What do you enjoy doing outside of your professional life?**

I love travelling, cooking, photography,

and anything to do with adventure. I am leading a small off-roading club in Dubai where we go out regularly on weekends dune bashing, camping, wadi exploration. These expeditions are either with friends or families. This provides an opportunity for us to learn to have fun while being safe as well as developing survival skills.

My passion for cooking led me to create a YouTube channel "Qaseem's Kitchen" where we share all kinds of different recipes, tips and tricks. Slow and steady organic growth and the support I get from my followers is something I really cherish. It is a platform to share and to learn from one another. I am also an NLP practitioner and love interacting with people and spreading positivity, coaching, and motivating.

# CELEBRATING GRADUATION DAY WITH PARENTS

The best way to say  
“Thank You Mom and  
Dad” is to celebrate your  
achievements with them.  
Happy Graduation!







# GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

## Syed Ijlal Jafri

MBA(E) – Year 1997

MS E-Business - Year 2001

Former President UMT Alumni  
Association 2014 - 2017

Group Chief Information Officer  
Martin Dow Group – Karachi

demonstrated his ability to lead cross-functional teams to deliver on these goals. Throughout his career, Ijlal has built a reputation for being a collaborative and approachable leader who is able to bridge the gap between business and technology. He is known for his exceptional communication skills and his ability to articulate complex technology concepts to non-technical stakeholders.

Ijlal is the Group Chief Information Officer at Martin Dow Group, based in Karachi, Pakistan. His primary responsibility is to manage the company's entire IT function across five different entities, including six manufacturing sites, two of which are located in France. As a Group CIO, he is responsible for developing and executing the company's global IT strategy and overseeing a team of IT professionals from diverse backgrounds. Before joining Martin Dow Group, Ijlal worked at AJ Pharma Holding in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he led the group's IT strategy for the Asia Pacific, Middle East, and Pakistan regions. Additionally, he has also worked for the French pharmaceutical company,

**M**eet Syed Ijlal Jafri, an accomplished IT professional with over 25 years of experience in devising effective IT strategies to support business objectives. With a passion for transforming business processes and creating new digital business models, Ijlal has worked with some of the largest multinationals in global leadership roles across Pharma, Consumer Healthcare, Aesthetic, and Hitech industries. Ijlal is deeply passionate about leveraging technology to enhance the customer experience and deliver value to stakeholders. He has a keen understanding of the importance of aligning technology strategies with business objectives and has

Les Laboratoires Servier, where he was responsible for IT operations in Pakistan while working as a digital leader, collaborating with the corporate office in Paris on various digital initiatives related to the pharmaceutical business. Overall, Ijlal has extensive experience in managing IT functions and developing global IT strategies for multinational organizations in the pharmaceutical industry.

Under Ijlal's leadership, Martin Dow Group has seen significant changes in its IT organization. He has remodelled the IT function with a customer-centric approach and a greater focus on agility to respond to shifting business needs. His vision is to lead the organization towards a truly digitally connected enterprise.

Ijlal has spearheaded several key initiatives at the company, including the successful launch of a single CRM for the entire group based on the latest technology and platform. He has also formed an information security division to enforce information security best practices across all entities of the group. With his capable team, he also initiated a Business Intelligence project at the group level, encompassing Sales, Marketing, Core Financial, Supply Chain, New Product Launch, Production Planning, and HR systems to provide key business insights to top management based on industry and big data. Additionally, with the help of his team, he has developed a comprehensive digital system to facilitate the complete life cycle of New Product Launch and spearheaded the first-ever Executive Council of the group, delivering 14 cross-functional projects related to process improvement, profitability, and employee engagement.

Ijlal has an impressive list of accolades

and achievements, including topping the session MBA batch 5 and being awarded a Gold Medal in the first convocation by the President of Pakistan. He was also on the Dean's Merit List as a double graduate from UMT, having completed an MBA in IT and Ms E-Business. Furthermore, he served as a member of the board of studies MoS - SPA from 2010 to 2017 and as the President of the Alumni Association from 2013 to 2017. In addition to his leadership roles, Ijlal has also served as a teacher and resource person, being a visiting faculty at SPA - UMT.

Ijlal's expertise lies in IT strategy planning and development, IT architecture design and development, digital business, ERP-Enterprise Resource Planning implementation, information security control, IT applications management, IT project, and program management, IT infrastructure, and operations management, IT service management - ITIL, business process re-engineering and management, team performance management, development, and vendor relationships management.

His accomplishments and expertise have earned him recognition globally, including being listed among the four people who participated in the global CIO 200 summit in Bangkok, Thailand, where he received the prestigious Global TOP 200 CIO Award.

Overall, Ijlal Jafri is a visionary CIO who is dedicated to leveraging technology to drive business growth and innovation. With his impressive track record of success, Ijlal is a valuable asset to any organization looking to transform their technology landscape and drive digital transformation.



**Annual Alumni (Female/Family)**  
**Tour to**  
**Shogran - Naran – Babusar Top**  
 June 25 - 28, 2022



# Recognizing UMT Legacy Families

## **M Usman Siddiqui (Father)**

MBA(E) – Year 1998  
Senior Manager  
Office of Controller Examination  
UMT

## **M Tayyab (Son)**

BS - Food Science and  
Technology  
UMT Student



LEGACY

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie, is seated in a room. Behind him are wooden shelves filled with books, decorative items, and a large potted plant with yellow flowers. The text 'ALUMNI ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE INDUSTRY—ACADEMIA RELATIONSHIPS' is overlaid in large, bold, orange and white letters.

# ALUMNI ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE INDUSTRY—ACADEMIA RELATIONSHIPS

Article  
by

**Mirza Zia Hussain**

MBA (P) – 2000  
Marketing Manager  
Export Marketing Kamal Limited  
Faisalabad Alumni Chapter  
Administrator

It's always a pleasure for me to write for alumni and my alma mater. This time, I am bringing my thoughts on alumni's role in strengthening the industry-academia (I-A) relationships. ILM/UMT is a positive support for their alumni and always backs their graduates. On the other side, we ILMIANS respond in kind whenever our alma mater calls upon us. Although Pakistan is far behind among other Asian countries in developing such relationship, the significance of this issue is forcing countries like us to give due importance to I-A linkages. There are many reasons but it's always felt that without I-A linkages preparation of human capital as



per the era's demand is not possible.

UMT is a great learning place and offering many programs in 55 disciplines in their 16 schools and three institutes. During the last 30 years, the university's graduates have made a significant contribution in their positions locally and internationally.

A university serves the industry in two ways. It provides the workforce necessary to run the industry, and two, it furnishes innovative ideas to start new business endeavors. This seeming simplistic relationship does not work so simplistically because of the essential differences between the two. Universities desire to contribute to the theory. On the other hand, the industry is restrained by profitability.

Therefore, academia and the industry are parallel sides of a river. As far as science and engineering

disciplines are concerned, creating linkages between the two sides of the river has the potential to contribute to the betterment of both.

Pakistan is lagging behind its Asian counterparts in the development of quality products and its export to the world due to lack of Research & Development (R&D), which leads to a lack of advancement in science and technology and lack of innovative products.

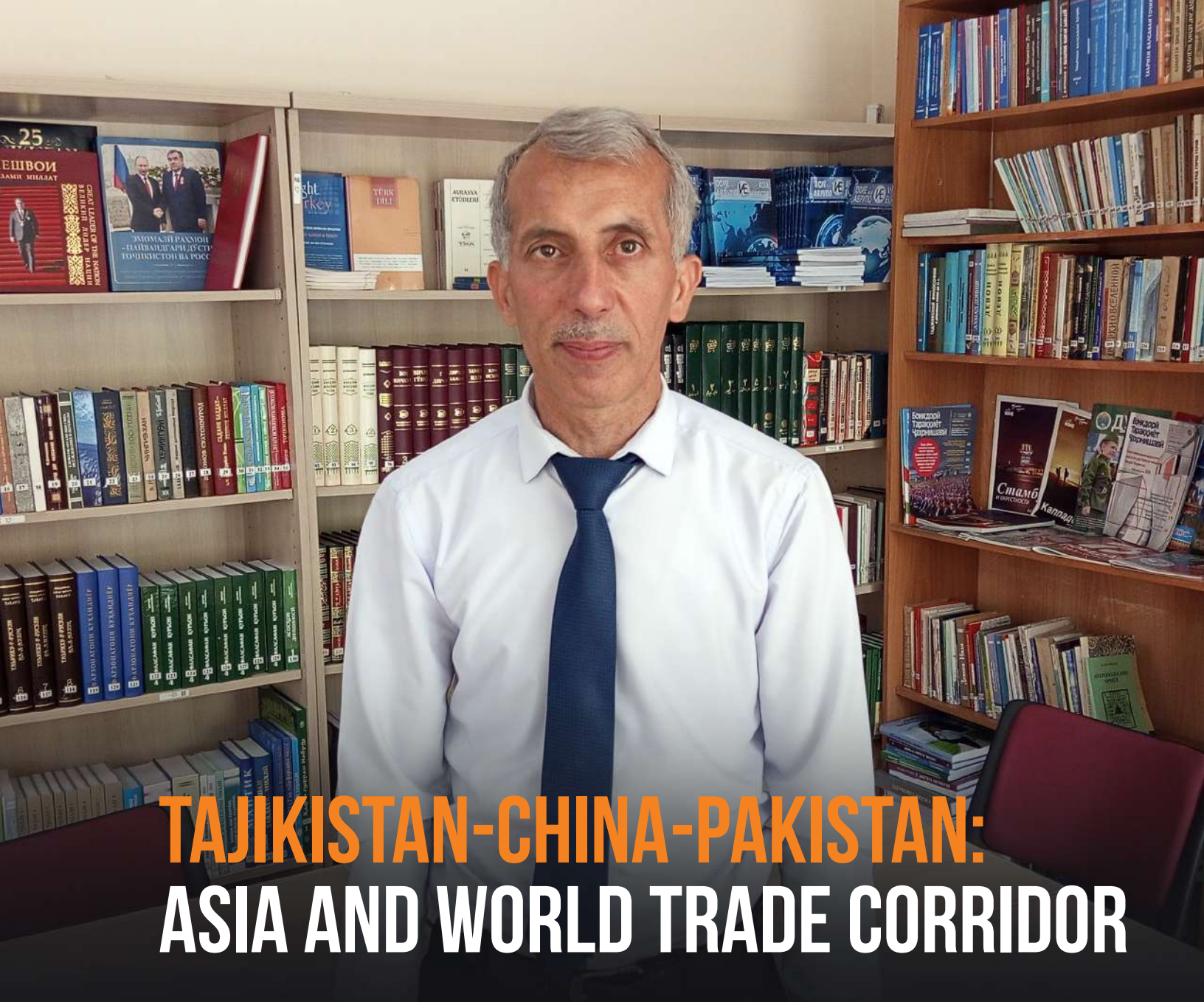
In Pakistan, out of 195 HEC-recognized public and private universities, 114 are collaborating with 85 public sector organizations. Higher education of a country and advancement in science and

technology are two major fields which have a key role in developing a nation but we are facing budgetary cuts in these fields. Unfortunately, a recent survey shows that Pakistan ranks 125th among 132 countries in terms of budgetary allocation for higher education.

Maintaining attraction with alumni after graduation can provide invaluable, lifelong support to UMT and currently enrolled students which are now more than 25,000. Ensure to engage alumni immediately after graduation to avoid intervals in contact that may lead to permanently losing the connection. It is significantly easier to maintain relationships than to build them later.

UMT and ILMIANS both need to build a bridge that helps both sides support the university in preparation of a roadmap that serves the industry as per its requirements. The office of Alumni is playing a very significant role and can play more vital role by engaging alumni in different ways to get the recent industrial updates. This is a two way traffic which can contribute to the grooming of our future leaders, managers, entrepreneurs and most important, patriotic nationals who remember the nation, country, community and alma mater. Let's increase our pace on this highway of knowledge, research and development because the goal is to prove that ILMIANS are fully equipped with the modern skills and updated knowledge.

Long live UMT.



# TAJIKISTAN-CHINA-PAKISTAN: ASIA AND WORLD TRADE CORRIDOR

Article  
by

**Mirsaid Rahmonov  
Mirsharifovich**

MBA(P) – Year 2005

Seniour Research Analyst  
Institute of Euro  
Asian Studies - Tajikistan

For the political, social and economic development of the state, independence and strengthening of regional and international relations are the main conditions, because without the development of cooperation, the development of other sectors is difficult. The cooperation and relations of the countries of South, East and Central Asia have a lot of opportunities and strengths that remain undiscovered, and their rational use could benefit all the countries of the region. Southeast Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, and China, geographically share borders with Central



Asia, especially Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, and connect the region with the Indian Ocean.

The countries of Central Asia mainly established direct political, economic and commercial relations with the countries of the world after the collapse of the Soviet Union (1991), and since then the region has shown its strategic importance in East and West.

The geographical and political positions of Central Asia are suitable for reopening trade routes with Southeast Asia. The project "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" is one of the joint economic programs of the region whose implementation will expand and develop trade routes. In this regard, this project has an important commercial importance and has been supported by the leaders of these

countries, and its implementation will provide new economic opportunities in the connection of the trade route of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, China, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

In this route, most of the roads from Pakistan to Central Asia pass through Kabul or the Wakhan Corridor, which is an ancient joint trade route. The revival of this historical trade route is in the economic interest of all the countries of the region, and it revives the original image of the Silk Road.

The "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" project is a new means through which, especially the "Tovdar" port, the countries of Central Asia can deliver their export

goods to the world in a short time. Another project - "Peshawar-Kabul-Tajikistan trade route" is also planned on this route, the implementation of which is in the interest of all the countries of the region and the Russian Federation.

The countries of Central Asia, which do not have a free sea trade route, can connect with the whole world, including the countries of the Indian Ocean, through the implementation of these projects. Cooperation and integration between the countries of Southeast Asia and Central Asia is very important for the strengthening and stability of this project. On the other hand, India, which recognizes the countries of Central Asia as external relatives and neighbors, has made relations with this region one of its economic and commercial priorities. India also takes significant steps to develop relations with Central Asia, including the development and implementation of the "Chabahar Port" project. China, which has a long history and good experience in international economic relations, makes continuous efforts to strengthen and expand cooperation with the countries of Central Asia.

In general, Central and South-Eastern Asia will become one of the main regions of the planet in the 21st century. Currently, the share of the region together with other Asian countries in the total domestic product of the world is 52 percent.

## Achievement by **UMT Alumna**



### **Hajira Saquib**

MBA (E) Year 2004

CEO

The Red Door Cafe, Islamabad

**A**s part of Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, the Parliament of Pakistan arranged a special session of Children's Parliament in Islamabad on Aug 12, 2022. Children aged 9 to 14 studying in various schools – from charity run institutions to the most renowned private schools – participated in the event.

Hajira Saquib, a UMT alumna, was the main goodwill mentor and coordinator for the activity on the request of the Parliament.

Her efforts were recognized by the National Assembly speaker and she was awarded a memorial shield.

Success **Story**

# Abdul Haseeb Mujahid

BS Textile Engineering – Year 2009  
MS School Leadership and  
Management – Year 2018

Educational Entrepreneur  
Academician, Consultant



Is UMT my first love? Is UMT in my blood? Am I destined to have UMT in my life forever? Seriously, I think these questions about the place I entered in 2004 and I somehow find myself still there.

I graduated from UMT with a textile degree in 2008 and returned in 2014 for a second degree in an entirely different discipline, after I had switched my profession from being an engineer to an educational entrepreneur.

During my latter stint, I did my MS in school leadership and management from SPA, UMT. After completion of my education, I laid the foundation of a private sector institution, besides being a project consultant for esteemed international organizations like USAID, Brazil Africa Educational cooperation programs, and Arab ECE foundation etc. However, UMT remained with me throughout my adventure. I have been named the alumni district chapter president.

I also recently received my PhD in education from the University of Education Lahore, and it was a beautiful coincidence that both my PhD supervisor and external evaluator were UMT Alumni.

UMT is like home, and I owe my professional success to UMT.

The institution's founder Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad inspired thousands of individuals, including myself and he nurtured UMT to become a comprehensive learning place. From academics to professional grooming, UMT stands out among all other institutions.

I wish all the very best to my alma mater, President Ibrahim Hasan Murad and the entire management.



# BUSINESS VALUATION: AN ART OR A SKILL?

Article  
by

**Usman Ali**  
MBA(P) – Year 2008

**Deputy Manager**  
Investments and New Business  
Master Wind Energy Limited

**B**usiness valuation is a process of determining economic value of a whole business entity, a standalone company, or business segment. Most plausible reasons include but are not limited to determination of; (i) fair value of a business for the sake of investment into a public or a private business entity, (ii) for sale of a particular business unit, (iii) or how much value a business can create through carving out a particular segment and thereon listing at the stock exchange. The next question comes into the mind that how these valuations are determined and why these are significant in today's business decision. As far as the later

part is concerned, the significance is material to understand that how major business decisions either present or future translate into financial position of a company. For example, if a corporation decides to invest into newer model of plant and machinery which can improve operational efficiency in terms of reduced direct costs, resolves bottlenecks and etc. then what will happen to the valuation of the company? Will the per share value increase or decrease? After all due considerations, any decision which can help improving the shareholders' value shall have to be taken care of. The first part of the aforementioned is equally important to understand that how one can value a firm? There are multiple ways of determining the valuation of a firm which includes; (i) discounted cashflows model or the DCF model,

(ii) comparable transaction method, (iii) precedent transaction method, (iv) exit multiple method, (v) the dividend discount model, and etc. Each one the methods or models have their own set of assumptions and limitations. Moreover, each method can be used in certain conditions, for example, if cash flows are stable for a company then DCF Model is more preferable than any other method.

The analytical process behind this whole exercise is not just limited to picking and choosing an appropriate valuation model. However, among important aspects it is equally important to put your ideas on the canvas to ascertain what kind of future it

holds for the company, sector, or industry. Translating the future into projections is very important and a sensitive aspect of the whole process since with a change in inputs or assumptions the output does change. One should be cautious especially at this point because your output will be as good as your input is.

On a bigger picture, we can see the valuation process is a function of future strategic decisions and implementation of those decisions and day-to-day execution of the tasks or operations to be performed by each of the departments of an entity. This is an inflection point between the two key resources of a firm i.e., (i) financial capital (ii) & human capital. An ideal combination of both causes a value accretion for a firm. Although, the business valuation is based on principal of finance and accounting, some part of the valuation is based on skills and some part of it is an art. An art to see the future through nuances a business faces from the internal and external environment. Skill based part is to understand the science behind each model, the applicability, and proper use of assumptions backed by thorough research.

The crux is that the top level or the board of a company needs to know the financial impact of their key decisions in form of valuation. For a manager or analyst performing this task should have technical knowledge and the artistic mindset so he/she can translation the qualitative information into useful quantitative information.

Should the readers have any query, please feel free to ask.

Usman Ali, MBA, CFA, CIA

Email: usmanali\_umt@yahoo.com

# MY FULBRIGHT EXPERIENCE: THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME



**T**he only thing you regret by the end of your life is the thing you wanted to do but did not. The opportunities you have missed. The dream you haven't lived. What if by the end of your life you realize that you haven't lived? I didn't want to be that person. I want to strive in my personal and professional life. The year 2020 was the year I could never forget as COVID-19 increased stress in my life. As an educator, I had to conduct virtual lectures

**Achievement  
by**

**Ana Ramsha**

MA English Language Teaching - 2013

MPhil Applied Linguistics - 2016

**Lecturer**

University of Management and  
Technology

from my home. Little did I know that remote teaching and lockdown would impact my well-being. One sunny day, one of my seniors shared a Fulbright FLTA fellowship advertisement with me. The FLTA Program is a nine-month, US Department of State funded, non-degree program that provides young teachers of English an opportunity to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States, while teaching their native language to US students and strengthening foreign language instruction at US colleges and universities.

When I heard about this opportunity, I never thought that one day I would be a Fulbrighter myself. There is no harm in trying, right? So, I planned to give it my best. I wanted to excel in my career. This opportunity was everything I was looking for. I always wanted an experience where I could teach, learn and travel at the same time. The selection took around a year from essays, recommendation letters, panel interview, and TOEFL to university placement. It was an exciting and stressful phase. It was a longtime dream to teach, study abroad, experience the multicultural component of campus life, and gain hands-on experience in an international university. After several years of building up my resume and gaining exposure in my field, I was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship which allowed me to fly to the US. I was placed at Florida International University (FIU) as a Fulbright Fellow for the year 2021-2022. For the first time in my professional career, I applied for a nine-month long study leave which was declined. I had to resign from my Lecturer position at the University of Lahore to embark on this enriching journey. I vividly remember the day I had to fly from Lahore to Miami. It was the longest flight of my life. When I arrived at Miami Airport, our program coordinator was there to pick me up. She dropped me at the university hostel and handed me a bag of eatables. UMT prepared me very well in the terms of Linguistics but at the same time I think there is always room to grow there are always more opportunities and I definitely think that being a teaching fellow abroad is the best way to improve my teaching and language skills. So, most of my day-to-day life was spent in the classroom interacting with students. It is not only an immersion but it is an exchange. I have almost fallen in love with the classroom. There is something so incredible about getting to teach people about Pakistan and Urdu language. I believe UMT prepared me very well for Fulbright. As a Fulbright scholar from Pakistan, I became more and more involved with the campus community and beyond, and I took every

opportunity to represent Pakistan and my culture in the best way possible. I joined the International Community Engagement Program (ICEP), and I became one of the mentors helping other international students.

I also participated as one of the main organizers in Pakistan Day, A Ramadan Event, and FIU World Fair, and I did this with dedication, pride, and the constant goal of making a difference. I had a vision and clear understanding of global education and how to make it a reality through the projects that I embarked on.

I attended multiple workshops that enriched my knowledge on social issues including Human Rights, Homelessness, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Coral Reef Preservation, Environmental/ Sustainability, and Global Engagement.

In addition, I have also supported the community in South Florida by serving in service projects with non-profit organizations, such as Culture and Language Day, Shoebox of Joy, and Global Empowerment Mission.

My dedication has contributed to bringing smiles to children in multiple projects. For instance, I facilitated a language activity for children at a local elementary school in the Culture and Language Day project. I applied my skills in linguistics by engaging with the children through playful Urdu language activities, and brought the beauty of Pakistan to my table display while sharing my culture with children ages five (5) to eleven (11).

To conclude, I have come to believe that a Fulbright opportunity, to be fully admired, needs to be considered years after the experience. There is much enthusiasm when one comes back from their time overseas about how one might make a difference in their community. I believe Fulbright will open many new doors for me and I cannot wait to apply everything I learned from my time abroad to my work in Pakistan.



# A GUIDELINE FOR RECRUITERS AND CANDIDATES

Article  
by

**Osama Tayyab**

MBA(Ev) - Year 2013

**Group Head Human Resources**  
Auriga Group of Companies

In this age, both applicants and recruiters are confronting problems. Applicants are eyeing superlative opportunities and recruiters are looking for the preeminent resources that can enlarge value in their organization.

In this article, I would like to share a few anomalies carried out by recruiters and applicants and their conformity. This article is based on my objective experience and observation.

If we start with recruiters, recruiters have a lot of workload and densities from their organization. They try to find out the best resource for vacant positions, a resource that can stay and perform in the organization.

In the 21st century, the finest and thrifty option is LinkedIn and social media. The second one is the latest and best option to have your own portal for hiring. Recruiters must not go for third-party or costly solutions, even though it depends on the nature of the vacant position.

Now, let's discuss the kinds of applicants. There are two types of jobs, one is for fresh graduates and the other for experienced specialists. Applicants spend time and energy to find out the best suitable opportunity, they spend time to apply. Recruiters should at least go through applications in the right way, no matter if applications are in the hundreds. To be chivalrous, recruiters must respond to them decently. Recruiters should call the candidates for an interview after screening, irrespective of the fact that dozens of applicants are passing the basic

criteria. From the recruiters' end, they must discuss the salary package, benefits, job description, and atmosphere of the company. This will not only help themselves but also the applicants, as recruiters will get only the germane profiles.

If we talk about applicants, they must see the job ads accurately and only apply if they pass the basic criteria. Most fresh grads just want a job, they do not have their future objectives in mind and some are even unable to explain the exact job that they desire. Their common reply is, "Sir I just want a job, I can adjust anywhere."

To be candid, why should a company hire you if you are not able to discern your

objective in life? It may take some time to get an appropriate job, but that job must lead you to achieve your goals in life. Fresh grads have just one thing on their mind: salary negotiation. I believe that the Pakistani educational system does not provide any practical experience during the study period, so negotiating a salary without any kind of experience only looks odd. Fresh graduates should focus on learning and after getting an experience of 1 to 2 years, they will be in a position to negotiate their salaries.

Experienced professionals are also doing same mistakes while applying for the job. For instance, they have seen the basic criteria written in the job ad, realize that they do not meet that criteria, but they still apply.

In a corporate setting, you need at least a year to understand the environment, job nature, and the job itself. In the next year, you would be in a position to perform. So one must stay in any organization for at least three years. When you are going to join an organization, you must think thrice and not only think but also discuss with your mentors and your links in the new organization. Only then will you be in a position to make a good decision.

You should also follow the 7 steps of the decision-making process before any corporate decision, including a job switch. In the 7 steps of decision-making, you need to identify the decision, gather relevant information, identify the alternatives, weigh the evidence, choose among the alternatives, take action and review your decision.

In this age, references do not matter a lot, it's all about your qualifications and experience which land you a job and excel in the current job.

Last, but not least, you should be well-prepared before the interview. So, the crux of the article for applicants is to apply only for the best suitable jobs, and for the recruiters is to pay attention to every single applicant.



**T**he starting point for all winnings is desire. Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears. Whenever you feel like quitting, just remember why you started. I was born in the Southern Punjabi city of Khanewal but my father moved Sargodha to look for better educational opportunities for his children. I studied at Fazaia Model Inter College Sargodha from grades 1 to 10. I was one of the brightest students in the institution

**M Ashar Hassan**  
BS Electrical Engineering-2015

ITC (Installation, Testing & Commissioning)  
Team Leader  
ALSTOM Lahore

## Success Story

and received several awards in curricular and extracurricular activities. Due to my excellent record, I got a scholarship to study at Acme College of Excellence Sargodha, where I completed my Intermediate education.

The place where I am today wasn't easy to get. I guess it has never been easy for anyone. I desperately wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and join the Pakistan Air Force. It wouldn't be untrue if I said I wanted to serve my motherland, but I guess it was not the appropriate destination for me.

Being turned down by the Pakistan Air Force was really a disappointment as I had put so much hard work and commitment

into the preparations. After that, I confronted the biggest question of my life "Now what?" I really had no clue what to do next. But it was my teachers who suggested I go for electrical engineering, but selecting an institution was again an issue. Migration from Sargodha to Lahore city was really challenging for us, as my father was overseas and we had to put extra effort to settle in such a big city.

The promising outlook that UMT portrayed appealed to me greatly, so I made it my choice of institution. I am still very proud of making that choice. I got a scholarship for BS-Electrical Engineering.

I must say the university has the right tools to turn coal into a diamond. It provided me with a platform where I polished my skills and knowledge. It made me more than I expected to become. My batch had a diversity of talent which made the environment extremely conducive to learning. There were ups and downs during the course of my degree, which put me under a lot of stress, but my teachers never stopped believing in me. They provided support every time I needed it. Apart from studies, teachers like Professor Saleem Ata, Professor Ali Mardan, and many other counselors played an important role in mentoring me. Due to their continuous support, I was selected as Teacher Assistant in the mathematics department, where I provided support to students and offered to counsel when needed. This job gave me broader exposure to face new challenges and moreover help ease my parents' financial burden. I ended up with a CGPA of 3.61, making everything worth its while. Finding a job after completion of the degree was really tough and many of us believed that only candidates with references got employed. The first 6-8 months were tough as I did not get a single interview call, but I never stopped believing. During that phase, I taught students free of cost so that I could transfer my knowledge as much as I could. I would like to mention UMT's Career Counselling department which played an important role in finding me a job. The department connected me

with one of the leading mobility service providers "ALSTOM". Due to their support, I got an interview call and got selected as an installation, testing, and commissioning (ITC) engineer.

ALSTOM is a global leader in the transportation sector. From high-speed trains, metros, monorails and trams, to turnkey systems, services, infrastructure, signaling and digital mobility, Alstom offers its diverse customers the broadest portfolio in the industry.

I worked for Pakistani Projects for almost two years after which the company sent me to Iran for their international project in 2018. It was my dream to go overseas and represent our country, our people, and our culture. I worked in Iran for almost 8-months for installation and testing of a modern metro system technology. That was a life-changing experience for me, as I faced so many challenges.

It was rightly said by Alana Stewart that no matter "what kind of challenges or difficulties or painful situations you go through in your life, we all have something deep within us that we can reach down and find the inner strength to get through them".

I was very proud to become part of the project. I always believe that if your intentions toward your work are pure, God will bless you with the best. I am grateful to my management who later send me to Malaysia and the Philippines to get more exposure to modern mobility solutions. Currently, I am working as an installation, testing & commissioning (ITC) team leader for Pakistani projects. We are installing a new computer-based interlocking system for Pakistan Railways.

In the end, I would like to add that don't look for shortcuts in life. Life is like a ladder and every focused step leads you toward success. Always keep your dreams alive. Every achievement requires faith, belief in yourself, hard work, vision, determination, and dedication. Always remember, "All things are possible for those who believe".

# MY PRECIOUS MY ALMA MATER



I (an alumna and employee of UMT) want to describe the indescribable feelings. I feel satisfied and blessed, as my Alma Mater has given me so many reasons to learn and grow. Too often, we underestimate the power of a smile. Let me share my story of the smile at the University of Management and Technology. It is said that anecdote of the past should be done as long as it gives pleasure and happiness. And this is what exactly happens when I

**Safia Iqbal**  
MA English – Year 2014  
M.Phil Educational Leadership and  
Management – Year 2017

**Research Associate**  
University of Management and  
Technology

## Success Story

I remember my Alma Mater. I joined UMT without any direction or I must say I never thought about such beautiful destination. I remember it was a fine morning in December 2018. I was announced as an MPhil Scholar at the convocation ceremony of UMT and moments later when I proudly exchanged my Student-Card into UMT Employee Card (back to duty) that moment made me realize that I am becoming the woman of my dreams. That thought made me smile as it was from the core of my heart, therefore it's always a source of motivation for me. By wearing the smile, that UMT gave me, I was flying on the land of UMT. Still, I do as it gives me positive



energy to grow.

I got 2 degrees, a scholarship, an internship, and a job at UMT. Currently, I am a “Research Associate” and that means two things: 1) I am working on two HEC Y-category journals of UMT, and 2) I can be difficult to impress. It’s because many opportunities were given to me at UMT that include; professional and personal growth, learning from mistakes, mentors, counselors, Rector and Dean Merit awards, appreciation, acknowledgment, research work, conferences, stage performances, etc. Ahh! What a marvelous journey it was. Being a Rector Medalist (2014) during MA English, an MPhil-Scholar with the highest

CGPA in my Batch, and remarkably in Oct 2018, I started the job at UMT; here I admire that UMT gave me a permanent reason to feel proud. Sometimes, I left myself flabbergasted that I even started seeing the dreams at UMT, and fortunately, I was allowed to fly towards them. After spending almost 10 years of my life at UMT, living and working on this beautiful campus, I am planning to write a paper as a reflection of my experiences that would save my memories and would be an everlasting inspiring story for the newcomers.

Thank you UMT. A proud UMTIAN.



# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The first ever in the academic history of Pakistan, "Alumni Association Investiture ceremony" was organized by Office of Alumni Relations on Friday October 14, 2022. A remarkable tradition to bid farewell and honor the hard work done by UMT 2nd Alumni Association and welcome 3rd School wise Alumni Associations.







# TO BE A WOMAN IN THE MALE-DOMINATED WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE

Article  
by

**Rafia Gulzar**  
Bachelor of Architecture  
- Year 2020

Architect  
Studio 23 Design

**S**o, you're an architect... But isn't that a man's world? For more than 130 years, women have been trying to secure a foothold in architecture. The lack of female diversity in various industries is a common issue facing many countries, especially in male-dominated industries such as construction, building, engineering, and architecture. This is especially the case in countries like Pakistan, where a larger part of society still has concerns over working women. You might see elders encouraging women in academics but the construction industry has always been off limits. When you google architects in Pakistan, the

list is stacked with the names of Nayyer Ali Dada, Kausar Bashir Ahmed, Arif Hassan and many more. You might also find Yasmeen Lari as one of the listees but that's about it. Let's talk about our gem, Yasmeen Lari, the first female architect of Pakistan. The 79-year-old architect was awarded the prestigious Jane Drew prize, a gong that recognizes women's contribution to architecture. She was once asked about her experience as the women in the field to which she replied,

"I feel like such an imposter, Everything I do is a collaboration, so I shouldn't be known as the author of my work. It's a fallacy to think that women like me have really battled. Pakistan is still a very male-dominated society, but if you are a woman working in public life then you are already part of the elite, with a powerful support system behind you"

Over the last few decades, the profession has made more room for women. We have gone a long way from being outsider players in the architecture to playing vital roles in challenging and big architectural projects.

Teachers have the potential to transform this situation. It is clear that there is a direct correlation between them and the students to be confident in their ability to succeed. The teachers at School of Architecture and Planning, UMT were the biggest support when it came to the gender imbalance in the classroom.

However, when women decide to work, they are often treated with a great deal of courtesy. Benevolent sexism is when someone positively reinforces gender stereotypes. For example, a boss may feel protective of women employees or idealize their role as mothers. In the context of the campaign for equality, A benevolent sexist might openly support initiatives to protect women from harsh working conditions or promote work/life balance. But I, however, was extremely lucky in this scenario, my superiors at work were ever welcoming and embracing, they believed in my ability to nail every project they handed me, win every argument they indulge me in and

score every project they sent me for. While the seniors understood and respected my role, the black collar staff still held the gender card against me,

A close friend of mine complained how clients assumed that she was there to take notes and serve coffee. Hence, the problem lies within our culture, and the role created for a woman. It is not the education that we lack, but acceptance.

Some of us still have to remind someone every single day that we are, in fact, an architect. And sometimes not just an architect, but the architect.

In a nut shell, after a year and a half of working in the field, I've come to terms with the fact that the feeling of being under a microscope every day at work or feeling like you are intruding on a boy's club every time you step foot on a new construction site will always be there. To survive in this field, you must find that certainty within yourself and wear it with all your might.

I have found that it is important to have a perspective of why you do what you do and you must unapologetically share your perspective. Your perspective is why you were selected for the role and why you are getting paid. I have also learned throughout the years that speaking up is so important. I used to keep my mouth shut, even when I had an idea or I disagreed. Now, I will never let myself go unheard in any way and the amount of confidence it has brought out in me is immense. There is no lie in the fact that it is a man's world but it isn't false either that you are going to encounter many that will hold your cup of tea whilst you are busy shattering those glass ceilings. We have to trust ourselves and the work we do. Of course, on some days, it might be tougher for some of us to get credit than it is for men, but we have to remember that it will cost the next generations less effort. We have always called our women "The architects of society", Its time we let them be one.

Let's reflect, today, tomorrow and everyday.



# ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER



# 2022





**Anam Tasleem**  
M.Phil Applied Linguistics  
- Year 2020

**Lecturer**  
University of Lahore

## Success Story

I am Anam Tasleem. I have been teaching for more than five years and currently work as a lecturer of English at The University of Lahore. Teaching has always been my passion, which is why I chose the profession. It was not an easy journey for me to arrive at this point. I belong to a small village and faced many ups and downs to achieve my dreams. My education journey was full of struggles, disappointments, and hard work. But the thing that

was always present in me was a spirit of never giving up. My educational journey was a roller coaster ride. I used to leave at 6AM to reach school in time. When you are traveling from village to the city, the weather affects your every move. In winter, there is fog, in summer it's the heat, and then there are the rains spells. I used to get back from school at 6PM, sometimes even later. I missed trips and other events of my school and college as I lived too far off in a village. As a student, these are some of the most important things, but to attend them was impossible. There were days when I felt I could not continue my studies and must quit. But in those very times, I pushed myself to not give

up and work harder.

I am thankful to Allah that today each sacrifice has been paid off. I completed my MPhil degree from UMT in Applied Linguistics in 2019. It was a great learning experience. This university gave me many things. This university made me who I am today. All the teachers in our department worked hard to help us achieve our dreams. With education, I am making up for activities I missed out on. I have explored almost all of the northern areas of Pakistan and I am able to attend all functions and ceremonies. My family now lives in the city and our lifestyle has improved considerably. Finally, I am at a point in my career where I am proud of all the suffering I had to go through. I am very happy I never gave up. Being a lecturer at university was my dream, which has come true. I am the only girl of my village who is working as a lecturer at any university.

There were days when everyone around me made me think it was very difficult for a girl to go to Lahore and get higher education. It is often very hard to go against people around you; you face so many discouragements and hindrances, especially if you belong to a village. However, I persisted.

In the end, I proved that no matter how much the world tries to hold you back, always continue with the belief that what you want to achieve is possible. Believing you can become successful is the most important step in actually succeeding. Every obstacle we come across in life allows us to improve our circumstances, and whilst the lazy complain, the others are creating opportunities through their kind hearts, generosity, and willingness to get things done. Our struggles in life develop power in us, so it's important to face the challenges of life with a big heart.

When I got admission in MPhil English everyone around me believed that I'll quit the degree soon. I worked hard and completed my degree in time. After completing my degree, getting a job was my priority. I was lucky to secure an online teaching job in America. This job improved

my English a lot. The knowledge we get through books during studies is quite different from real life.

Working experience teaches you a lot. And if you get to work with professional people, you learn a lot. My convocation was delayed due to the Covid pandemic. Ten days after my convocation, I got a job as a lecturer at the University of Lahore. This has been the best experience until now. The organization itself is an institution. People here are so professional and competent. Every day you learn something new. I am very thankful to "My UMT" and most importantly my teachers for giving me quality education. I am proud to be alumni of UMT.

My message for students is to try hard and believe in yourself until you see success. It is quite common for many people to give up after many setbacks and failures. In reality, there is no gain without pain. So, try hard to achieve success in life despite what life offers you. Sometimes, life offers you situations that not only demands hard work and perseverance but some patience. You should identify your priorities in life and develop a good strategy to work towards fulfilling them rather than wasting your time and effort on unnecessary aspects of life. Always focus on what you want to do, rather than on what others tell you.

In the end, I would like to say that success does not happen in a day. It needs time and determination. Sometimes, you have to suffer, cope with your surroundings and circumstances.

The only thing that really matters is whether you kept trying when the world was against you. If you continue striving for success, you will eventually achieve it. Just don't give up.

# Poetry By

Rameesha Arshad  
Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry  
- Year 2022

## Where's The Evergreen Peace???

The rest after tiredness !  
The best after hard work ?

The comfort of my comforter !  
The cushioning of my cushion ?

The peace of my mind !  
The trance of my soul ?

The tricks for your lyrics !  
The lyrics of your song ?

The luxury of luxuries !  
The beauty of the beast ?

All are just  
dying out peace!!!

All are just  
illusions of haqeer!!!

This is not eternal peace.

Then Where's the evergreen peace???  
It's need for speed to achieve for free

# Recognizing UMT Legacy Families

## Zahida Riaz (Daughter)

BS (Hons) English Literature  
UMT Student

## Shazia Mirza (Mother)

MPhil Special Education  
– Year 2022



# SERENDIPITY

## A TRAVELOGUE OF SKARDU, GILGIT-BALTISTAN, PAKISTAN

**Travelogue**  
by

**Shahzad Nabi**  
MPhil in  
Applied Linguistics, 2020

Lecturer  
University of Lahore

My spirit soars where the air goes thin. When I think about the serene moments spent in the company of Mother Nature, it helps me to go about my daily affairs more efficiently. William Wordsworth describes this situation as, For oft, when on my couch I lie In vacant or in pensive mood, They flash upon that inward eye Which is the bliss of solitude; And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils. Although I am a language teacher, my quest for mountain adventures knows no limits. I have been traveling to the Northern areas of Pakistan since my teen years, but Skardu which is 972 kms away from Lahore, remained a dream place to visit.



A kid was heading to his school (Road to Skardu City from Kachura)

## From Lahore to Skardu by Road

On the eve of July 22, 2022, we started our journey at 3 pm. It was a smooth journey until we passed through the Mansehra Motorway. It usually takes 8-9 hours from Lahore to Naran. Since I was travelling with kids, we reached Kaghan at 2 am, taking around 11 hours. We decided to leave for Skardu early in the morning. But we left Naran at 11 am. We were disappointed by our late departure, but that did not last

long, as the scenery from Naran to Babusar was scintillating. Green mountains partly covered with snow, rafting in the blue water of Kunhar River, and highs and lows of the road make the passage extremely pleasant. Babusar Top, located at 13,700 ft above the sea level, where the temperature falls below 0 degree Celsius in no time, is a destination for many. Great things can be written about this destination, but our endpoint was still 10 hours away. We rushed through that place and headed towards Chilas (check your brakes when you are going down from Babusar Top to Chilas). When we reached Chilas, everything started to look dry, colorless and lifeless, because the temperature could reach to 98 F in July. Driving one-and-a-half hours on the Chilas-Jaglot Road felt like driving in the scorching heat of Lahore in June. It takes three hours to reach Jaglot, a proper town with almost every facility of life. Kachura Valley, Skardu was still 4 hours away, local people tell you that it takes 2-3 hours to reach Skardu from Jaglot, but with family, we knew it would

take an extra hour. We reached Kachura Valley at 1:00 am in the morning, so it took 14 hours from Naran to Skardu. On the



Indus River, Chilas (The Ghost Town)

Kachura roundabout towards Shangrilla, we booked an economical hotel. The moment we entered the room, we slept right away.

## Skardu: An Embodiment of Nature's Perfection

On the third day of our journey, we woke up with a view as illustrated in figure 3 that made us forget the tiredness of the previous two days. This place was covered with apricot and apple trees (you can pick these fruits without paying anything), and pyramid-shape mountains surrounding a small lake down the hill.

## Shangrilla Resort

At 10 am, we rushed towards the famous Shangrilla Resort. From Lower Kachura to Shangrilla Resort, it takes hardly 10 minutes. They charge you Rs 1,000/- for a single entry as a visitor, we paid our dues and entered the most beautiful and well-administered place. When you visit this place, you would find that not only people from Pakistan but also people from all over the world are

visiting. This place has world-class cottages, restaurants, and a human-made lake. We took lunch, and it is great to state here that you would find quality and inexpensive food inside a world class ambiance. The atmosphere was so relaxing that we did not want to go any further, as Robert Frost in his poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' stated, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep." We left this place with a heavy heart.

### Upper Kachura Lake

It took us 10 minutes to reach Upper

can easily track down the hill here, but it tests your trekking skills to climb up the



hills). Upper Kachura is one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Blue water with green trees inside of as well as around the lake, pyramid-shaped mountains in the background, and rough terrain make

this place worth a visit. High-quality boating and small cafes add to the beauty of this place. This little piece of heaven encouraged us to visit other scenic beauties of this Western Himalayan Forests.

### Soq Valley

It was getting darker, but our love for nature triggered us to visit another hidden wonder of Skardu. On our way back to Lower Kachura, we took a

15 minutes' drive through the rough, pebbly and jagged road to Soq Valley. This place is an epitome of poets' imagination about



Kachura Lake from Shangrilla Resort, where we parked our cars and trekked for 15 minutes down the hills to reach it (you

nature as it is covered with picturesque landscape, fast flowing river sandwiched by mountains. We took camping chairs, sat on the bank of the river, and ordered a cup of Kehwa (tea). The coldness of the water and its splashing, mist in the air and warmth of the tea provided an unforgettable memory. At the end of this wonderful day, we rushed back to the hotel which was 15 minutes away. Hence the day was completed when we sat in the courtyard of the hotel and ate fresh apricots after dinner.

### Deosai-The Land of Giant

Next morning, we asked the locals about The Land of Giants, and they had great stories to tell. Locals usually take PKR 10,000 to 15,000 to Deosai on four-wheel jeeps. I was the one who made everyone agree to visit this place as I had heard wonderful stories about this place. Locals and jeep drivers told us that it would take 4 hours to Sheosar Lake (Alpine Lake), but you cannot trust this claim by the locals as it took us 6 hours to reach our targeted place, but the overwhelming beauty of this place made us forget hardships of the journey.

This place is famous for its endless swathes of green surrounded by snowy mountains, beautiful flowers of all colors, and occasional streams that cut through the wilderness.

On the way to Sheosar Lake, you would go through a view of Nanga Parbat, The Killer Mountain. It began to rain that decreased the temperature to 5 degrees Celsius, adding to our delight. We reached Sheosar Lake at 4 pm and spent hardly 15 minutes. Fortunately, we found a tent on our way back to Skardu, where steaming hot cups of tea were being offered. We took tea to warm our bodies and hurried back to Skardu. It was a tardy day, but full of adventure as we reached the hotel at 11 pm.

### Departure from Skardu

We woke up with the psychic ramifications

of returning home the next morning that we would miss this place. We departed at 8 am, but we got to know that the road back to Jaglot was blocked due to land sliding, but this did not last long as we were on our way back to Naran where we had to stay the night. We reached Naran at 10 pm that day.

### Departure from Naran

The next morning, the quest for nature had not ended, as we decided to visit the famous Saif-ul-Malook Lake. We spent 2 hours there where I captured the pictures of my travel partners for the first time; otherwise, no one else's pictures were taken by the camera. It took us 8 hours to reach Lahore. Noise, traffic, air pollution, and cemented surroundings welcomed us back home and gave us the reality check that the trip was over. What a gloomy night that was!





# UNRAVELLING THE SUCCESS MANTRA!


Article  
by

**Faryal Sadiq**

MS Biotechnology

- Year 2021

Life is no less than a roller coaster ride encompassing several ups and downs. You may get knocked down by life innumerable times, face substantial obstacles, suffer through a period of monotonous despair and meet acquaintances that target you with low blows. Hence, life might unfold infinite crude veracities to you time by time. Conversely, it will also have interludes of glee to benefit you with certain goodness wherein a paramount occurrence in life will shower you with prospects that your heart truly desires, just like a fairy tale in the making. However, it is crucial to ascertain that you are your own storyteller



and you are the maker of your own destiny by means of dedication and persistence. Once you get to understand this mantra in life, nothing can halt you from attainment of your goals. With such an optimistic approach towards life, even when you suffer from ruthless times, you will still manage to brace yourself up, vouch for extra efforts, embrace self-belief and as a result find luck, glory and prominence in life. Humans, as the most privileged being, possess the innate audacity to never give up without a fight, so you merely need to unleash that inner potential. You can become fortunate enough to embrace success merely by having a robust faith in self, a fighting spirit and permanence in approach. As in the words of Plato, "Excellence is not a gift, but a skill that takes practice."

"We do not act rightly because we are excellent,

in fact we achieve excellence by acting rightly" Therefore, no matter how dark the night is, there always is a bright and shining day ahead of you. All turmoil in life is a trial that makes you or breaks you, so what matters the most is how you react in that scenario. Not to forget, that you will always remain surrounded by negative people who attempt to halt your progress, damage your positivity and make you question yourself. All you have to do is to disregard such characters, wholly cleanse your aura from any sort of pessimism and seize every opportunity that comes your way. Thus, if you remain steadfast amidst all uncertainties in life and shun all reservations

implied upon you by others, you will eventually reach to the end and regardless of what outcome the end beholds, it will still make you a much better version of yourself.

People tend to believe that those who succeed in life are the most fortunate. Good luck is a widely accepted truth, in each religion, in every culture and is even a scientifically proven reality. Hence, people from every walk of life rely upon it in one way or the other. Impartially speaking, luck has a lot more to do with the mindset other than probability. Luck is majorly an outcome of a positive attitude towards life which forms a gateway to the accomplishment of all desired opportunities by random occurrence of chance.

Luck beams upon each one of us from time to time in form of an opportunity and when that happens, the only way forward is to make the most of it by working immensely hard; because hard work never turns futile, instead it enables you to acquire strength of mind and grants you with the fervor to put your best foot forward at all times.

Undoubtedly, this approach is a blessing for self in one way or the other, which is then categorized as good luck but in reality, it is the upshot of your own conscious actions. Hence, by taking an initiative and then working your fingers to the bone, you make a genuine attempt to get luck to work in your favor.

There always will be a period in life when things get dreadful, self-belief becomes questionable and the fear of failure terrifies you. This is where your importunity towards your goals will eventually move mountains for you. In the times of distress, your only constant reminder is to understand that you can never have a custom-made life, but if you polish yourself and stay committed to your goals, then you are bound to touch the heights of glory wherein, even if you fail to succeed in achievement of your goals, you will still be a winner because you looked into the eyes of your destiny and managed to give it your best shot.

For then, life might not have turned tables for you but has still made you a lone warrior

who knows how to swim against the tide. Henceforth, with such matchless potentials you are definitely a superhuman and no one can take that away from you because hard work is a rare asset and not everyone has the colossal capacity and mammoth stamina to outshine in the times of adversity.

Undoubtedly, persistence and dedication towards your cause are crucial to any accomplishment. So, midst attaining success, even if life requires from you to make amends, find new pathways, to trigger your passion and most of all to be bold enough to take harsh decisions and stick to them, then so be it. No matter how much of an effort you are bound to put for a cause, never be hesitant because the outcome will totally be worthy of it.

Subsequently, there will be a stage when you realize that the harder you work, the luckier you will get because a talented person might not succeed in life due to lack of determination and resolve but a person who dares to dream, also carries the nerve to achieve his heartfelt yearnings.

Albert Einstein truly believed in "Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than the person with all the facts". Your dreams define you endlessly, for when you opt for your dreams as your gateway to life, you become a symbol of strength. You are ultimately being true to yourself and that is a rare asset, offering you an upper hand in life. Therefore, let the world ridicule you or undermine you because their opinions are not your problem, you need to stay compassionate and committed to your goals so no matter what they say, never doubt your worth.

All in all, life is a juncture, comprised of both good and bad experiences. Some are rainy days and other days are all about sun glistening upon us. During this struggle, when you are moving in the right course and things work your way, stay gratified and keep the momentum going. But if you find yourself in a rough patch you must never let negativity cast its shadow upon you and all those who hamper your progress must stay at an arm's length because their criticism during tough times will bring no good to

you.

So whatever the circumstances are, an ideal mantra to success in life is to put up a fight for it. You must remain persistent, never be doubtful of yourself, learn from your past, obliterate all your bad experiences, be mindful of any blunders, disregard all animosities and comply towards your future aspirations with zeal and zest. In short, most passionately just mold your efforts in accordance with your objectives, as that is the only way to triumph life, to achieve brilliance and to build self-reputation.

# UMT Alumnus Featured in Bloomberg

FOR SUCCESS IN THE  
BUSINESS WORLD

**Mr Amjad Ali**  
MBA (P) - Year 1999

CEO and Founder,  
**Nutrifactor**



# PRACTICAL SKILLS IN EDUCATION



**P**ractical skills typically refer to the abilities that employees acquire to perform their duties efficiently. You can learn many of these skills without undertaking formal education or certification. They may include interpersonal, physical, creative, hard or soft skills. You can gain them by studying, working or training.

## Improved Skill Set

Practical learning, as mentioned above, has the unique ability to help students apply their skills in a non-classroom environment. While it's important to learn the theory of a topic or subject, getting out and applying the theory to a practical situation enables you to build upon existing skills, such as problem-solving.

It also allows you to apply your technical knowledge in the field, which is incredibly beneficial in all subjects but particularly in

subjects such as horticulture, aged care and disability care.

**Article  
by**

**Muhammad Musa**

MS(IB) - Year 2022

Why practical knowledge is more important than theoretical knowledge?

Can you imagine someone teaching you to swim or drive a vehicle, within four walls of a classroom? It is impossible! You have to get into the water to learn swimming and you have to be out on the road to learn driving. Some subjects are skill based and practice oriented. Theoretical knowledge of skill-based subjects needs to be supported by practice. Subjects like teaching and engineering are skill based. In these subjects, practical knowledge

is more important than theoretical knowledge. Practical work includes experiments in laboratories, study tours, projects, assignments etc. The advantages of practical work are unmatched and theoretical knowledge is of little value until students can apply it for practical purposes.

Which European countries have the most digital skills?

- Over half of people in the European Union had at least basic digital skills in 2021, new data shows.
- The Netherlands, Finland and Ireland scored highest, says Eurostat.
- Romania, Bulgaria and Poland had the lowest share.
- Digital inclusion that will help 1 billion people globally is the key aim of the EDISON Alliance, a World Economic Forum initiative.

Practical work encourages self-learning. Practical work familiarizes students with tools and equipment that he will be required to use. Practice leads to perfection. One cannot become an expert overnight; greater the practice, greater the expertise.

What are practical skills?

1. Digital literacy
2. Problem-solving
3. Speed reading
4. Leadership
5. Public speaking
6. Writing
7. Communication
8. Programming
9. Creativity
10. Digital marketing and social media

Overview of practical skills in Pakistani education system

What is the main reason of failure of education system in Pakistan? The problems associated with the education system of Pakistan are a lack of adequate budget, lack of policy implementation, defective examination system, poor physical facilities, lack of teacher quality, lack of implementation of education policies, directionless education, low enrollment,

high scale dropouts and various political issues.

How to Improve Education System In Pakistan?

The education industry today is faced with many challenges, and in order to improve the education system and the performance and development of the education industry, the major improvement must be made in the sector. This article discusses the major components that need to be worked upon to create an effective improvement strategy.

1. Better Standards:

The policies and programs in the education structure should be developed to aim higher achievement standards and goals. Standards are formal documents that establish uniform education criteria, methods, processes, and practices developed through an accredited consensus process. Standards should be developed based on guiding principles of openness, balance, consensus, and due process and should be duly established in order to meet technical, safety, regulatory, societal, and market needs and should also be catalysts for technological innovation and global market competition

2. More Accountability:

The institutions, the educators, the managements are the people who provide instructions, curriculum, and demonstration to the students and thus pave the way for results. There should be an accountability strategy under which the institutions showing remarkable results should be rewarded and those with poorer results should be penalized.

3. Parent Involvement:

Overall, research has consistently shown that parental involvement in children's education does make a positive difference to pupils' achievement. Most children have two main educators in their lives – their parents and their teachers. Parents are the prime educators until the child attends an early year setting or starts school and they

remain a major influence on their children's learning throughout school and beyond. The school and parents both have crucial roles to play.

#### 4. Autonomous Structure:

Some nations are innovative in their quest for the optimal school structure, while others pursue policies with little deviation from the orthodox model of the local or community school. Research suggests that moving to a more autonomous school structure generates a significant improvement in the quality of their pupil intake and a significant improvement in pupil performance.

#### 5. Adapt to New Technologies:

Educational institutions must adapt to new technologies if they want to remain competitive. Technology has become an integral part of most students' learning experiences, and educational institutions must offer the newest technologies. Some benefits of using information technology in education are: It induces scientific, economic, technological, information and multicultural literacy and global awareness, promotes inventive thinking, develops effective communication, induces personal, social, and civic responsibility, and eventually leads to high productivity. It also gives students a sense of using real-world tools with effective, relevant, and high-quality results. Students will be drawn to those companies or institutions that can keep up with changes in technology. The use of updated technology and equipment will improve the learning experience and will also increase productivity.

#### 6. Develop Personalized Learning:

Educational institutions can develop personalized learning to overcome the challenge presented by standardized learning. Technology has made available a huge number of educational opportunities and it has become feasible to develop training courses customized to individual needs and for individuals of any age. Online courses provide students to have more

options for choosing an educational service provider that meets their needs, abilities, finances, and personal preferences

#### 7. Provide Customized Training:

Employers and educators must provide customized training in order to address the challenge of adapting to the economy's changing employment needs. Some companies are taking advantage of this growing market by creating personalized training that directly meets a company's requirements. Personalized and specialized training can be imparted by way of training seminars, conferences, home study programs, and publishing excellent books on contemporary topics. Similarly, there are training providers that specialize only in one business area, technology, or process. Instead of offering an off-the-shelf solution, the instructor uses real-life scenarios to deliver training that participants can relate to. This allows the instructor to address the specific needs of each team he works with. Customized training can be delivered right at the company's facilities, making it even more effective.

# Recognizing UMT Legacy Families

## Syed Ali Yaser (Father)

MBA(E) – Year 2011  
Sales Manager  
Aujan Coca-Cola Beverages -  
Riyadh KSA

## Syeda Laila Rubab (Daughter)

MBA(P) – Year 2021  
Trade Activation Analyst  
PEPSICO International  
Pakistan



# FOR A MAN TO CONQUER HIMSELF IS THE FIRST AND NOBLEST OF ALL VICTORIES: PLATO.



**M Abdul Rehman**  
MS Civil Engineering,  
2022

**Geo Technical Designer**  
Geoservecs Engineering Consultant

## Success Story

Plato's philosophy always inspired me, but this quote stuck in my mind. I believe if somebody is clear about his vision, he is already successful, because a visionary mind leads to eternal success.

I was a poor student until the primary level, having been spoilt by misplaced affection from my family as I was the only brother to four elder sisters.

Things started improving by the middle standard and I got unexpectedly good marks in matric. My family urged me to enroll in FSc Pre-Engineering.

To be honest, I always wanted to be an artist, but my family wanted me to be an engineer. After my FSc, I got enrolled in UET to become a civil engineer and completed the degree in 2019.

I had already decided during my studies to not take up the teaching profession, for which I needed an MS or MPhil degree.

For that, I got enrolled in the MS Civil Engineering at UMT. We used to have classes three days a week for the first two semesters and I used to travel all the way from Gujranwala, my hometown, to Lahore and back each day when the classes were held.

Once the COVID pandemic hit at the start of 2020, each and every recruitment agency stopped advertising jobs for about 2 years, but thankfully I continued my studies online.

I felt extremely glad that I had opted for the MS just before COVID, otherwise the two years of the pandemic would have been a total waste for me.

We had around 25 students in the MS batch and most had opted for a thesis. But most quit the thesis midway in favor of additional courses. Engineering research is quite difficult and time consuming, which is why all except me opted out of completing the thesis.

It was a moment of pride for me to present my research, as no one from my batch exhibited the consistency to complete the thesis.

As the quote said, For a man to conquer himself is the first and noblest of all victories, I feel happy that I conquered myself in my bachelor's to opt for my master's with research for starting my teaching journey. I now plan to pursue a PhD in the future.

The key takeaway from my experience is that consistency is the key to success.

# Recognizing UMT Legacy Families

## Ali Ijaz (Brother)

BS Accounting and  
Finance – Year 2016  
Program Manager  
Punjab Information  
Technology Board

## M Bilal Ijaz (Brother)

BS -Software Engineering  
UMT Student  
Algoryte  
Lead Unreal Engine  
Developer- Islamabad



# A VISIONARY BLIND DEFYING ALL ODDS



Sight is the most precious of gift of Allah's gifts and we are blessed with it to enjoy the beauty around us. But there are people who have this blessing in their early life, but experience its gradual loss as time moves ahead. Such people are called acquired blind. The changes, distress and disappointment that a person suffering from this disease became known to me during the data collection phase for my thesis of MPhil Special Education.

Farhan is a courageous student who passed out from Govt Secondary Institute for the Blind, Sheranwala Gate, Lahore. He is 21 years of age and has been an acquired blind from the past 13 years of his life. Farhan was born to a laborer father and being the brother of 4 siblings, he is the youngest in his family. His two elder brothers are congenitally blind and also victims of

Article  
by

**Shazia Mirza**  
MPhil Special Education  
- Year 2022

multiple disabilities. He was sent to school upon the decision of his parents, and there his journey began.

Q - Farhan, would you like to share the bits of your journey at your school?

Farhan: - I had the best and memorable time of my life at my school. I was raised by great teachers like Fayyaz-ul-Hasan, Jabir Hussain, Jameel, and the one and only Sir Khadim. They all were so dedicated and were working under the guidance of Professor Rafi ullah Malik, who is presently the principal of our school. They created an environment that helped children like us jump up higher than ever, and it helped us forget all that ever happened to us.

Shazia:- How many skills were you trained for along with your studies?

Farhan:- First of all, I was taught Braille and computers. Then I was taught music and I learned how to play Harmonium and Tabla. Most of all I was taught the skill of weaving chairs and traditional woven beds and stools etc. I became so perfect, that I even contemplated starting my own business.

Shazia:- How did you manage running your own business being a student? And when and how did you start it?

Farhan:- There was a separate room in our house which I decided to utilize as a shop. I started my business over there when I was only 17 years of age. I started taking orders for the chairs, stools and seats etc. By doing these little things, I collected 50,000 rupees and I purchased my own material with that amount and started weaving and selling the beds on my own. I became so trained and perfect that I could weave a king-size bed with ease.

Shazia:- Which seasons are favorable for your business?

Farhan:- Usually summer is favorable, when a majority likes to sit outside on these beds. Otherwise, when the wedding seasons arrive, I get more and more orders.

Shazia:- On a scale from 1 to 10, what rating will you give to your perfection or excellence of weaving?

Farhan:- I'm capable to make around 4 beds a day and I do the task with money back guarantee. I weave versatile designs and my friends and family members give me the actual feedback about how good do they look. I would suggest that you take a look, and give me the marks my work deserves. I make designs from simple to complex and the rates for every category are different.

Shazia:- What made you go ahead in studies?

Farhan:- I wanted to groom my personality and I loved history. Presently I am studying history too. I just wanted to give a further boost to my family, as I am still in search of making my life better. I read a lot about the cultures and civilizations of Europe, Italy, Japan and America, and I dream of continuing my studies in one of these countries.

Shazia:- What other activities do you have, other than your studies and business?

Farhan:- I love listening to historical documentaries and historical audiobooks. I even have a favorite novel written by Abu Shuja Abu Waqar, named 'Janbaz'. I have listened to its audiobook multiple times.

Shazia:- What is your wish from this day onwards?

Farhan:- InshAllah I'll be doing my BS and then I would love to study abroad. And my greatest wish is to perform Hajj-e-Baitullah with my parents.

Shazia:- Where are you studying presently?

Farhan:- I secured 558 marks in my matric and joined Islamia College Civil Lines on merit. I'm studying my favorite subject history along with others, and I plan to continue studying history for my higher education too.

Shazia:- The area of Islamia College is really big, are you well aware of the infrastructure? According to the timetable of the colleges, students move from one class to the other, do you think you are capable to move around without any hesitation?

Farhan:- Yes Alhamdulillah, with the passage of time, I'm getting quite familiar to the infrastructure, and I'm comfortable moving around without any help. Although in the beginning, I did feel scared because of the distance between the classes, and usually I needed a friend with me in the beginning, but now I'm quite familiar, and can do it on my own.

Shazia:- So how do you manage your business and your studies at the same time?

Farhan:- Well, I'm completing my intermediate now, so presently, the activity other than my studies is my business. But previously, I usually found it slightly harder to manage my time. I have orders from customers, and at the same time I have homework, tests and assignments to do. But Alhamdulillah, I'm happy with what I'm doing it.

Shazia:- Do you think you've made your family proud with all the hard work you've done Farhan? As you mentioned that your elder siblings were special.

Farhan:- My parents saw me as the engine of the train, as my elder brothers were not only blind but mentally unstable too. I felt scared in the beginning as it felt too much for me to take in, but when I see look back, I can easily tell that I've climbed so many stairs to reach here. And I know my parents are proud of me, as I feel highly proud of myself today.

Shazia:- That's so refreshing to hear Farhan! I need to ask, out of all woven beds you've made so far, which of those were your favorite?

Farhan:- Well, I can't see any of the work I've done until now, but once my parents and friends told me about a woven bed I weaved. They said that it was in the shape of a beautiful star and that it looked very beautiful. I never knew what it looked like, but I guess that would be my favorite work that I've done so far.

I would personally request all the people reading this, if ever you witness someone special around you, treat them like normal people and encourage them to move forward. Every girl, boy, child, and even an adult, normal or special, has hidden talents that require a push with some motivation. And I also request parents of

these children to never give up on your sons and daughters. They are not a burden on you and are able to give the same amount of output or input to the family just like a normal person.

In the end, I thank UMT for giving me the opportunity to conduct this interview and bring the voice of Farhan to everyone.

# Recognizing UMT Legacy Families

## Ali Usman (Brother)

BS - Clinical Psychology  
UMT Student

## Ali Shan (Brother)

Master of Project Management –  
Year 2022  
Data Processing Officer (BS-16)  
(Legislation Branch)  
Provincial Assembly of the Punjab





**Syed Iqbal Hussain**  
BS-Computer Science  
- Year 2022

**Humanitarian  
Public Speaker**  
Social Welfare Coordinator & Coach  
Advisory of Waduha Welfare  
Organization

## Success Story

**S**uccess to me is hustle, hustle to find the proper purpose of my very own life and I guess that is what keeps me sane whenever I feel lost. In a nutshell, going with the flow I believe in making my very own way of life. Everyone has to go through a certain process to achieve something and in my case, the storyline is the same but the challenges are different. It all started when an introvert like me used to get bullied because

I used to stammer a lot, at the age when no one knew that such words existed so I used to get back home and indulge myself in different activities such as watching documentaries on National Geographic or reading books as I believe the only good cover for me is the book cover day by day it started impacting my mind and soul and I started feeling a certain type of confidence in me due to the knowledge I was absorbing. After I was in my 7th standard my teachers awarded me with the "Readers of the Month" and I got Sheikh Saadi Book as a gift which made me more intrigued towards reading books then I started reading Urdu poetry, especially Allah Iqbal which changed my ideology of

life. I started participating in every creative writing competition along with the science competition and the highlight was the Fountain Magazine Winner in which 8th graders defeated the A levels as well as intermediate students. That was the thrill I was craving for "The Hustle to Win". I won more than 17 Awards Competition in my college and University life such as I started as a writer and then moved forward towards public speaking as being in an International School I got a chance to be part of Model United Nations which is model speaking on world affairs and current problems at the time where we used to discuss MDGs and later Sustainable Development Goals. I started participating in the United Nations Women's Council committee. I didn't win any award till my 7th MUN conference. Then I realized the fact that winning is a charm but failure is what gives you a better reward, "The Learnings". I started participating more and more and I won in total 2 Best Diplomats, 4 Outstanding Diplomacy, and many Honorable Mentions. UMT also played a key role in my public speaking career. The Office of Participant Affairs gave us the platform to represent our institution on the behalf of UMT MUN Society and I was honored with 1 Outstanding Diplomacy award, 4 Honorable Mentions, and 2 Special Mentions in Competitions like CIMUN, FORMUN, etc. I was honored with the position of Senior Advisor of UMT Model United Nations Society in my last year in which we secured 160+ Awards for UMT and I also got a chance to represent UMT on international platforms such as ARAB MUN but the highlight for me was grabbing the first ever Best Delegation trophy for UMT at FCCU. My journey from speaking to Judging those very conferences was the fruit of my 6 years of hardships and study of my public Speaking Career. I was able to get around 6 Assistant Committee Director Awards and 16 Committee Director Representations and Awards in events such as PTMUN, RYMUN, FORMUN, UETMUN, LCWUMUN, WYIMUN, GIMUN, AMUN, etc till date and many more to come In Sha Allah. I have contributed to Sustainable

Development Goal No 3,4,5,10,13,15,16 & 17 to date. I have planted more than 1000+ in my capacity. I am in social welfare for the past 7 years and served about 2800+ Community Hours which is documented under the banner of multiple NGOs forum mainly in SHKM, WWF, Allah Walay Trust, MilKar, Al- Khidmat, SOS Village, Meem Foundation, DOA, etc. I served at the UMT Blood Donor Society for 2 years as President and 1.5 years as Senior Advisor. I was part of the advisory of multiple NGOs such as Memar-e-Milat, and Tabeer-e-Pakistan. I served Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital as a volunteer for 1 year and Ambassador for 2 years and was recognized with the Badge of Honor and Best Ambassador Award 2021. I also served Alkhidmat Foundation CP Region and was ambassador head for 1 year. I received multiple honorary awards for my social services from multiple organizations like Alkhidmat, Allah Walay Trust, YIF, and Commissioner Lahore Chamber.

In 2022, I received a special mention award in Health Champion Category from Miss Saba Faisal National Director SOS Village at Governor House Lahore along with that I got a special mention award in PM Flood Heroes Awards 2022. I am also a social welfare coordinator and provided assistance to more than 1000+ volunteers to date and run my very own social welfare project "I Pledge Pakistan" whose mandate is to create awareness in society by addressing the problem statement and providing the right information and to great sense or motivation to be good.

"That's My Hustle: Purpose of my life."

Last but not least nothing could be done without the support of my family, teachers, and friends. I wish to see myself doing more for a cause and I want to see this country prosper. Pakistan Zindabad!



**UAE Alumni**



**Multan Alumni**



**Canada Alumni**



Canada Alumni

# ALUMNI CHAPTER MEET-UPS



London Alumni

## Mah e Nao



Bachelor of Science (H) in  
English Literature – Year 2018  
Master of Philosophy in English  
Literature – Year 2022  
Lecturer  
University of Management and  
Technology

بے زبانی کا سامنا ہے مجھے  
نظم لکھنی مجھے نہیں آتی  
پر تجھے کھو کے ان بہاروں میں  
ہو چکی ہوں دل بریدہ میں  
لکھ رہی ہوں تیرا قصیدہ میں  
کہ تیری عاجزی سے سیکھا ہے  
خاک کا ظرف کتنا اونچا ہے  
تیرے لب کھولنے سے جانا ہے  
تیرا ہونا تو ایک زمانہ ہے  
تو معلم تھا کتنی نسلوں کا  
تو مسیحا تھا خام عقلوں کا  
یہ تیری جہت کا قرینہ تھا  
اب تو منجر ہار میں سفینہ تھا  
یاد ہے مجھ کو ایک فنکشن ہے  
تو نے یوں گفتگو سمیٹی تھی  
یہ درس گاہ تیری بیٹی تھی  
اب یہ بیٹی یتیم حالی میں  
غم کی ماری نڈھال پھرتی ہے  
کبھی جاتی ہے تیرے آفس میں  
تیری خوشبو سے بات کرتی ہے  
جن درختوں کو تو نے بویا تھا  
ان کے سائے میں جا کے سوتی ہے  
جب کوئی تیری بات کرتا ہے  
اس کے قدموں میں گر کے روتی ہے۔۔

## Naila Asif



MS Biotechnology  
- Year 2022

اے میری زمیں اے میرے وطن  
معطر رہیں تیرے گل و گلشن۔۔  
شادر ہیں تیرے کوہ و دمن۔۔  
اے میری زمیں اے میرے وطن۔۔  
یہ حوالے یہ نسبتیں منسوب تیری شان سے ہیں۔۔  
یہ شادمانی و کامرانی کے سب جز بے تیری آن سے ہیں۔۔  
اے میری زمیں اے میرے وطن۔۔  
سب باب سخن کی چاشنی تجھ سے ہے۔۔  
لفظوں کی زباں، آب و تاب تجھ سے ہے۔۔  
اے میری زمیں اے میرے وطن۔۔  
نہ ہوسا یہ ظلمت کا نہ خزاں کا کبھی گزر رہو۔۔  
نہ ہو کچھ زوال ہستی، نہ کچھ وبال جاں ہو۔۔  
اے میری زمیں اے میرے وطن۔۔  
نہ قید کوئی سوچ، نہ کوئی عذاب ہوں۔۔  
نہ کوئی رنج و ملال ہو، قلم سب آزاد ہوں۔۔  
اے میری زمیں اے میرے وطن۔۔  
خوشی تیرا ترانہ، بہار تیرا نصیب ہو۔۔  
اے! ارض پاک تیرے شب و روز میں نہ کوئی خستہ حال ہو۔۔  
اے میری زمیں اے میرے وطن۔۔  
"نائلا"



# HASAN MURAD MEMORIAL



# ILM, AMAL, ZINDAGI

A Moral Guide To A Meaningful Life, As Witnessed By

**Dr Hasan Sohaib Murad** (*Shaheed*)

# علم، عمل، زندگی

ڈاکٹر حسن صہیب مرادؒ



ڈاکٹر حسن صہیب مرادؒ

علم، عمل، زندگی





## UMT RANKED NUMBER 1 PRIVATE SECTOR UNIVERSITY IN PAKISTAN

(Times Higher Education World  
University Rankings 2023)

UMT celebrated the success of being ranked the number 1 private sector university in Pakistan with an exclusive cake-cutting ceremony, fun activities, food stalls and a mesmerizing drum performance.







## Office of Alumni Relations

# MEET *the* TEAM



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# WRITE FOR US

## Write for the Next Alumni Magazine

- An article based on your skills/expertise
- A short story
- A travelogue with photos
- Any other suitable literature for the magazine

### **Write-up Length: 1000 words**

Target Audience |- The upcoming issue will be emailed to 31,000+ alumni (from fresh Graduates to CEO level), 31,000+ students, and will be published on social media. This will be a good opportunity for you to showcase your expertise.

Send us your write-ups at [alumni@umt.edu.pk](mailto:alumni@umt.edu.pk)



# UMT

**RANKED**  
**#**



World  
University  
Rankings 2023

**PRIVATE  
SECTOR  
UNIVERSITY  
IN PAKISTAN**

**Times Higher Education** ranked UMT the **number 1 private sector university** in Pakistan in its **World University Rankings 2023**.

THE further recognized UMT's academic and research strength by including it among the world's top universities in its 2023 subject-wise rankings.

Social Sciences

**301-400**

Top ranked in Pakistan

Physical Sciences

**301-400**

Computer Science

**301-400**

Engineering

**301-400**

Business and Economics

**401-500**