




كلية الحوسبة والمعلوماتية
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
AND INFORMATICS

CONNECT MAGAZINE

July 2024

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Opening Remarks

Welcome to the fourth issue of CONNECT (July 2024), the magazine that celebrates the remarkable achievements and transformative impact of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah through meaningful connections with industry, community, and students. This is the second digital publication we produce in addition to our CASCADE magazine where we disseminate our faculty and students' success stories.

Inside, you'll find a feature on the TAGHEER Award honoring CCI as the best performing college in the strategy 22-23, and an overview of the Artificial Intelligence National Competition (AINC), which involved over 750 students and 17 competitions in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Additionally, we highlight BlackHat, held for the first time in the Emirate of Sharjah in collaboration with the Sharjah Cyber Security Center, and various interdisciplinary events in collaboration with all colleges at UoS, including AI Week, Cybersecurity Week, SEC 2024 (Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity), and the UAE Codes event.

Our CCI Partnerships section details efforts to maximize visibility and impact while exploring collaboration opportunities, and we outline strategic initiatives supporting the current SPRIT strategy. You'll also find updates on CCI Seminars, a Student Corner showcasing student activities, introductions to new faculty members who joined in 2023/24, and an Application Specialists Corner featuring impactful applications at the University, including the AI community platform available to all. Finally, we issue a call for papers for the IEEE/ACM BDCAT/UCC 2024 Conferences, which will be held in the UAE and the region for the first time. We invite you to explore these stories and more, as we highlight the innovations, collaborations, and milestones that define our vibrant academic community.

As we conclude this opening, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our faculty, staff, and students for their tremendous support, tireless efforts, and immense contributions throughout this academic year. Your dedication is shaping CCI's trajectory and maximizing our impact. We encourage you all to continue your remarkable work and create a lasting impact in the coming academic year.

Welcome to Connect, where connections change the way we work.



Prof. Abbas Amira
Dean, College of Computing
and Informatics

TAGHEER Award

The College of Computing and Informatics was honored with the TAGHEER award for exemplary strategic performance at the 5th Strategic Conference, under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and President of the University of Sharjah. This recognition underscores the exceptional dedication and collaborative efforts of our faculty, staff, and students in driving impactful interdisciplinary initiatives across all UoS colleges. It also reflects our commitment to providing high-quality student advising and achieving outstanding performance across various SPRIT KPIs. Congratulations to the faculty, administrative, technical, and support staff, as well as our dedicated and dynamic students who have contributed to this remarkable achievement.



Artificial Intelligence National Championship 2023

In a significant collaboration, the College of Computing and informatics hosts the national championship activities for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, minister of education pointed to the need for innovation and creativity in the field of AI and robotics, as it is one of the basic areas of knowledge that the country attaches special importance to, especially within the UAE strategy for AI 2031. He also stressed the importance of investing in education based on advanced technology, discovering talented students, and developing their abilities, so that educational institutions are an incubator environment for creativity and innovation. He also added "This championship contributes to qualifying students in the fields of advanced sciences to be able to continue the comprehensive and sustainable development process witnessed by the country. we will continue to work to support such competitions as part of our keenness to provide a pioneering model for society and to provide opportunities for learning, creativity and innovation for students to be able to employ these sciences in their academic journey and career efficiently and competently.

The ministry aims to organize these competitions on a regular basis to empower, nurture and guide students and talented people, to stimulate knowledge production and global competitiveness, in line with the UAE strategy for artificial intelligence 2031, which aims to transform the UAE into a global leader in the field of artificial intelligence in the future, by investing in individuals and various sectors.



Artificial Intelligence National Championship 2023

The competitions are designed according to specific criteria during which the focus is on sustainable competitions and programs in line with the country's objectives, while the focus was on open-source competitions with the aim of discovering students' different talents and identifying outstanding students to be sponsored, nominated and prepared to participate in competitions at the global level. The competition included four main categories: robotics, programming, artificial intelligence and open-source applications. The participating students competed in 17 diverse competitions, including robot competitions, which focused on testing students' talents and creativity in the fields of robot design, and programming competitions, which focused on a range of more widespread programming languages such as C++, python, tinker, programming and web design, in addition to artificial intelligence competitions and open-source application competitions that were added in this year's edition of the tournament.

In detail, 750 students from various academic levels in public and private schools at the state level participated in the competition, in addition to 218 supervisors, 200 volunteers and arbitrators, and the number of gold medal winners in the championship reached 36 students, including nine individual winners, and seven teams, where the ministry of education will work to train the winners and prepare them for global participation.



Artificial Intelligence National Championship 2023

His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, minister of education, attended the closing ceremony of the National Artificial Intelligence Championship 2023, organized by the ministry, at the University of Sharjah in cooperation with the College of Computing and Informatics, where he honored the winning students who competed in 17 competitions, in addition to honoring the judging committees, supervision, organization and volunteers. Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi congratulated the winning students in the competitions, which were held in a distinctive and stimulating organizational atmosphere, commending the students' performance and praising the high levels and competitiveness they showed in their quest to win the competition.

In turn, Her Excellency Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak congratulated the winning students for their success and excellence, and their leadership in the competitions, thus adding a new cohort of talented students with whom the country can compete in international forums, praising at the same time the students' outputs, performance and pioneering thought, and the added value of these competitions in drawing more creative and innovative features in the artificial intelligence sector.

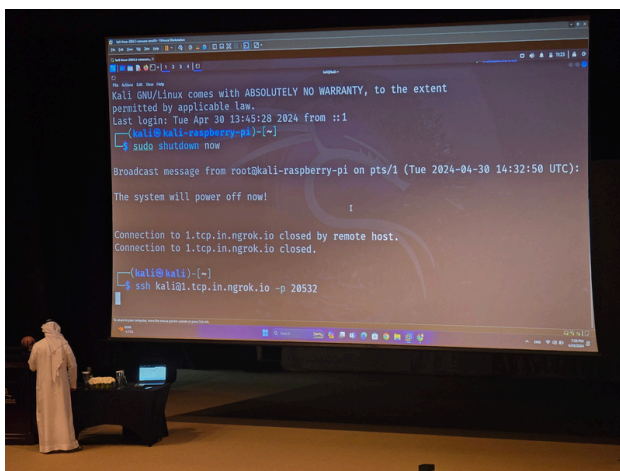


Black Hat MEA.971 Sharjah Edition

The College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) hosted the prestigious event, BLACK HAT - Sharjah Edition, in collaboration with key stakeholders and under the patronage of Sheikh Saud bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Director of the Sharjah Digital Office. This marked the first-ever occurrence of such an event in the Emirate of Sharjah and served as a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration within the cybersecurity community and beyond.



The event commenced with opening remarks by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sharjah, Prof. Yousef Haik, setting the tone for an insightful and impactful gathering. Dr. Grigorios Fragkos, Head of the Sharjah Cybersecurity Center, followed with a welcome speech, highlighting the significance of the event in advancing cybersecurity initiatives in the region.



The event featured a series of presentations aimed at addressing various aspects of cybersecurity. Mohammed Alshamsi delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled "Human Hacking: What is it and How to Prevent it?" shedding light on the evolving tactics used by hackers and strategies to mitigate such threats. Additionally, a showcase of a senior project titled "YMZ Network Auditing Tool" by Juma Alshamsi, a student from HCT college, captivated the audience's attention. The demonstration included a remarkable display of hacking a router using a drone equipped with a payload capable of capturing and decrypting passwords, showcasing the innovative approaches to cybersecurity research and development.

Black Hat MEA.971 Sharjah Edition

Furthermore, Vladimir Davydov presented on "Enhancing Security Operations: Leveraging TI Feeds for SOC Efficiency," providing valuable insights into leveraging threat intelligence feeds for optimizing Security Operations Center (SOC) efficiency.

The event was attended by a diverse audience, including graduate and undergraduate students, faculty members, and external visitors.

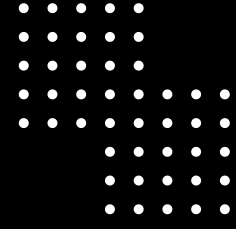
The event concluded with a closing ceremony, followed by an exciting prizes draw and a group photo, symbolizing the successful culmination of a day filled with knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration.

BLACK HAT - Sharjah Edition served as a catalyst for advancing cybersecurity efforts in the region, bringing together experts, practitioners, and enthusiasts to exchange ideas, explore emerging trends, and collectively combat cyber threats.

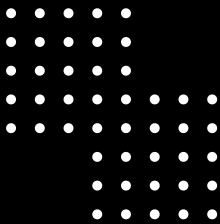




كلية الحوسبة والمعلوماتية
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
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INTERDISCIPLINARY EVENTS



AI in Education Workshop - for College of Law

On February 19th, a workshop led by Dr. Bassel Soudan, Associate Professor in the College of Computing and Informatics, along with the Application Specialist Eng. Dina Hejji, provided a comprehensive exploration of generative AI's application to enhance educational practices within the College of Law. The presence of Prof. Adnan Sarhan, Dean of the Law College, and Prof. Kotb Rissouni, Dean of the College of Shari'ah and Islamic Studies, was a welcome addition to the event.



Attendees, primarily consisting of faculty members from the College of Law, received a thorough overview of how generative AI could transform teaching, learning, research, and publishing within the legal domain. The session provided specific examples of integrating generative AI tools into various aspects of legal education and scholarship.



AI in Education Workshop - for College of Law



Furthermore, the workshop featured live demonstrations of several law-specific AI tools, enabling participants to gain hands-on experience with the technology. These demonstrations showcased the practical utility and potential impact of generative AI in legal academia.



Overall, the workshop received enthusiastic feedback from attendees, underscoring its effectiveness in revealing the transformative potential of generative AI in the legal field.

AI Week 2024

جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

كلية الحوسبة والمعلوماتية
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
AND INFORMATICS

AI WEEK

THURSDAY
7
MARCH

2024

Join us in an exciting celebration of knowledge and creativity:

- ✓ Inspiring Keynote Speakers
- ✓ Engaging Panel Discussions
- ✓ Insightful Post-Graduate Presentations
- ✓ Groundbreaking Senior Projects
- ✓ Thrilling Robotics Competition

LOCATION
FEMALE STUDENTS FORUM

TIME
09:30 - 16:00

QR CODE
REGISTRATION

AI Week 2024

Under the patronage of His Excellency Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah, the College of Computing and Informatics organized the activities of the Artificial Intelligence Week at the University's Student Forum. The event featured inspiring keynote speakers, stimulating panel discussions, student presentations, and pioneering research projects on artificial intelligence technologies and applications.



Additionally, it included the announcement of the winners of the Robotics Competition, in which Ghulam Mohammad, Hamid Muhannad, and Fatima Nadim from the College of Computing and Informatics won first place. In the second place, students Saif Al Falahi and Salsabil Bassel from the College of Computing and Informatics were awarded, while in the third place, Mariam Al Hosani and Jawaher Al Maheri from the College of Computing and Informatics won. In the third repeated place, students Eman Mushrif, Aya Dawood, and Arwa Ayman from the College of Computing and Informatics and the College of Engineering emerged victorious.



AI Week 2024

The events commenced with a keynote speech by Professor Marwan Dabbagh, Director of the 6G Research Center at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi, discussing the challenges in multisensory technology and the potential for a communications revolution and launching future networks through the utilization of available opportunities.

The first session discussed the topic "Transforming the Direction of Learning: Models of the Impact of Big Language on Education,"

In addition to the presentations of Graduate students on the topic of "Technologies for Artificial Intelligence Applications," which launched the "Digital Twin in Health and Smart Wearable Sensor" project, and the "Generative Flexibility of Intelligence" project. Industrial work has begun rapidly with the results and nature of the dataset being defined, the "Advancements in Cancer Detection Using Deep Learning: Comprehensive Current and Future Trends" project, and the "Large and Unified Transfer and Learning to Support and Post-Control Surveillance Towers" project.



The second group of Master's student presentations addressed projects like "Improving Heart Failure Prediction Using Feature Selection-Based Machine Learning Models," "Deep Learning Techniques for Detecting DoS Attacks on Industrial Internet of Things Systems," "Image Hiding Analysis Using Deep Learning," and "Arabic Fake News Detection Using Deep Learning Techniques."

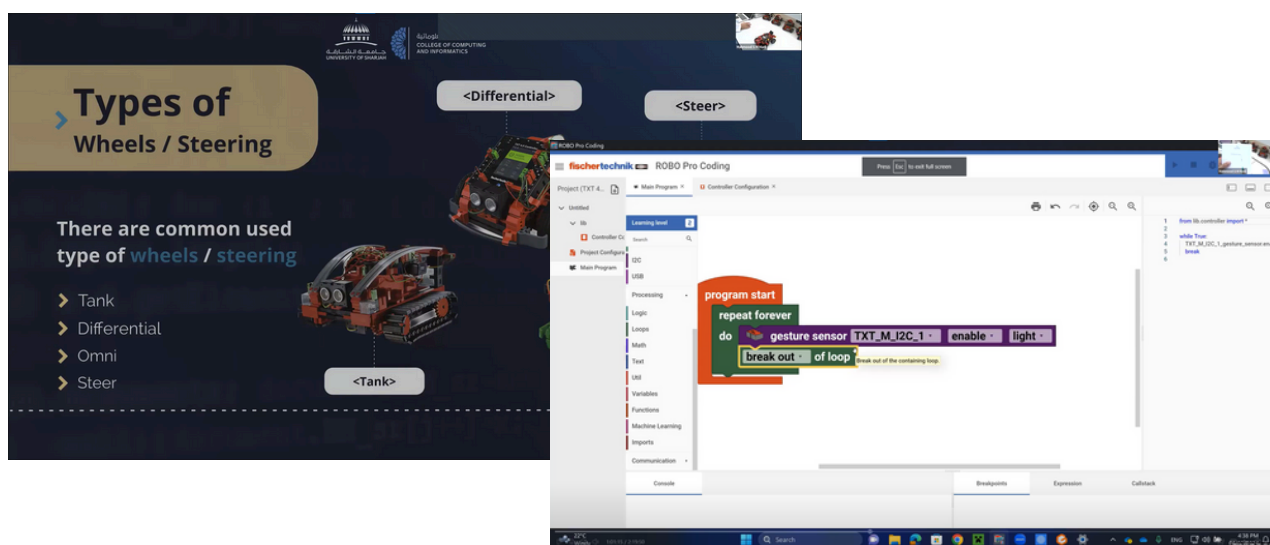
The event was attended by Professor Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University, Professor Maamar Bettayeb, Vice Chancellor For Research and Graduate Studies at the University, Professor Abbes Amira, Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, Professor Marwan Dabbagh, Director of the G6 Research Center at Khalifa University, Professor David Toman, Senior Advisor at the Artificial Intelligence Office, Dr. Shivajami Gujjan, Chief Technology Expert for the Middle East, Africa, and Turkey at AWS, Mr. Shintan Sarin, CEO and Founder of Shunya Ekai Technologies LLC, and Mr. Abhinav Borohit, Senior Strategy and Consulting Expert - Huawei.

AI Week 2024

Robotics Workshop

The College of Computing and Informatics hosted as part of the AI week a series of engaging "Robotics Programming Workshop" sessions led by Eng. Mahmoud Madi, an application specialist at the college. The initial workshop, held virtually, attracted enthusiastic students from various colleges across the university. This introductory session covered fundamental aspects of robotics, focusing on both hardware and software components, including connections, sensors, and diverse applications in the real world.

Participants were introduced to the intricacies of robotics hardware, such as microcontrollers and sensors, and learned how software algorithms are essential in controlling robotic movements and functions. The workshop emphasized the importance of sensor integration for enabling robots to interact with their environment effectively.



Following the virtual session, a selective physical workshop was conducted for students who excelled in the initial assessment. This hands-on experience allowed these students to delve deeper into robotics programming. They engaged in practical tasks where they programmed robots to perform specific functions, reinforcing their understanding of theoretical concepts through real-world applications.

These workshops provided a comprehensive learning platform, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills in robotics. Eng. Mahmoud Madi's expertise and guidance were instrumental in inspiring and equipping students with the essential skills needed for future innovations in the field of robotics.



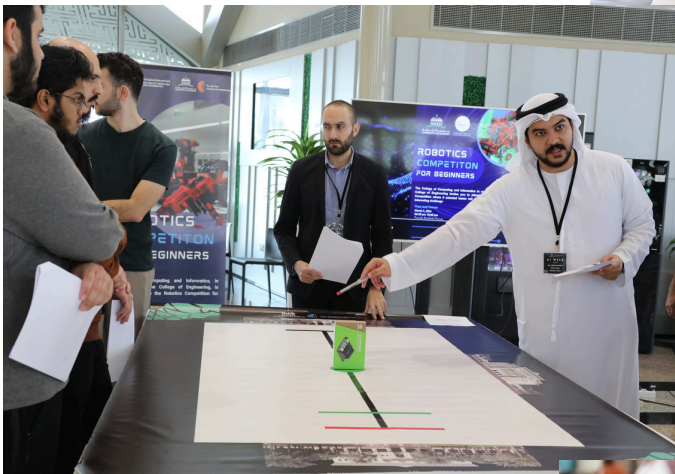
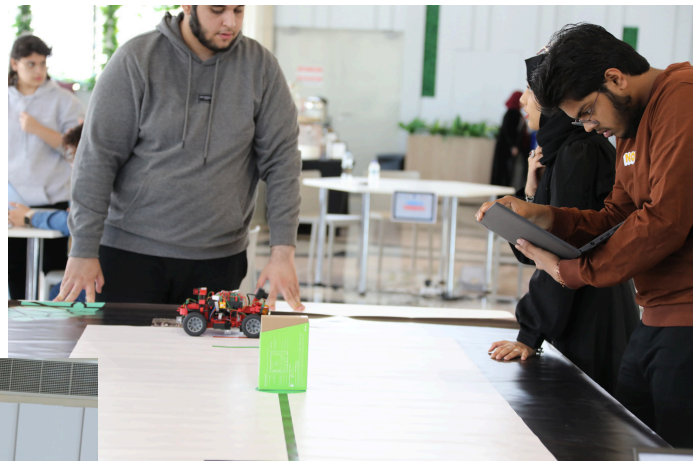
AI Week 2024

Robotics Competition

During AI Week, students who participated in the Robotics Programming Workshop showcased their skills in an exciting robotics competition. The challenge was to program an autonomous robot to deliver a box from the College of Computing and Informatics building (M5) to the College of Engineering Building (W9). The robot had to navigate by following a line, detecting and avoiding obstacles, and reaching the destination safely.

Eng. Mahmoud Madi, who led the workshops, oversaw the competition, which emphasized practical application of the students' training. The challenge required teams to demonstrate precision in programming and effective problem-solving skills as their robots maneuvered through the course.

The competition was judged on the robot's ability to follow the route accurately, handle obstacles efficiently, and complete the task in the shortest time. Extra points were awarded for additional tasks, adding layers of complexity to the challenge. This event highlighted the students' proficiency in robotics and their potential for innovation in the field.



Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity SEC 2024



جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

You are cordially invited to attend the:

SYMPOSIUM ON E-COMMERCE AND CYBERSECURITY (SEC)2024

Organized by the College of Computing and Informatics in collaboration with the College of Law, College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, and College of Business Administration

Date

22 April, 2024

Time

09:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Venue

Male Students
Forum

Register here



Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity SEC 2024

Under the patronage of Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah, and in the presence of Sheikh Saud bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Director General of the Sharjah Digital Department, the College of Computing and Informatics organized the E-Commerce and Cybersecurity Symposium (SEC-2024) with the participation of speakers, experts and specialists from King Abdullah University for Science and Technology in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sharjah Center for Cybersecurity, the RedTeam Hacker Academy, and Amazon Dubai, in cooperation with the College of Business Administration, the College of Law, and the College of Shari'ah and Islamic Studies at the University of Sharjah, and Harvard University.



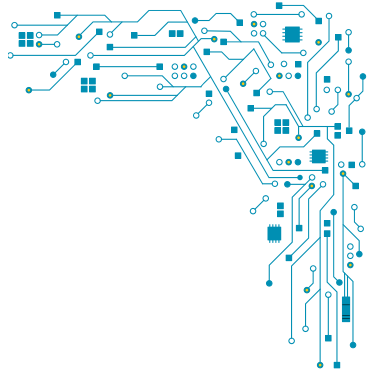
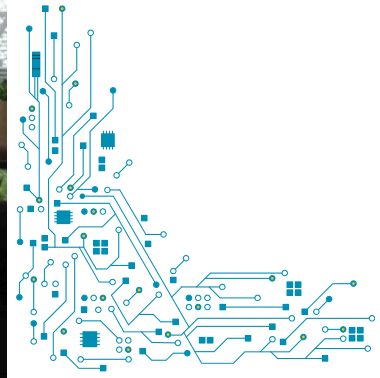
In his opening speech, the Chancellor welcomed the attendees, including speakers and participants, and added that organizing such important events that work to raise awareness of the importance of cybersecurity in digital transformation comes in response to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and President of the University of Sharjah, and stressed that the goal of the symposium is in line with the UAE's Vision 2071, which focuses on preparing leaders in all fields, including the digital economy based on cybersecurity and e-commerce.



Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity SEC 2024

Furthermore, the University Chancellor stressed that, given the critical role of cybersecurity in digital transformation and the rapid growth of secure e-commerce, the University of Sharjah, as a leading educational institution, is working to develop and offer relevant undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare graduates to become technology leaders in these fields.

At the end of the talk, the Chancellor renewed his thanks and appreciation to His Highness, the President of the University, for his guidance and continuous support. He thanked the speakers and participants, as well as the members of the organizing committee and the judging committee in the competitions accompanying the symposium.



In a speech by Prof. Abbas Amira, Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, he stressed that the symposium serves as a vital platform for academics and researchers to exchange ideas and discuss the latest technological applications and innovations in the field of cybersecurity and e-commerce from a multidisciplinary perspective, and this in turn works to enhance the country's strategy towards digital transformation, He also stressed that the college, based on its societal role, is currently developing innovative and distinctive programs in the field of E-commerce and Cybersecurity, enhanced by the research that will be conducted in the Center for Cybersecurity and Data Analysis and various research groups.

Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity SEC 2024

The dean added that the symposium is being held on the sidelines of Cybersecurity Week, which presents a variety of activities such as workshops, discussion sessions, and competitions. He stressed that the college seeks, through this symposium and various activities, to provide and develop students' skills in this field to meet societal needs, as well as increased awareness of the challenges. And opportunities in this field among community members.



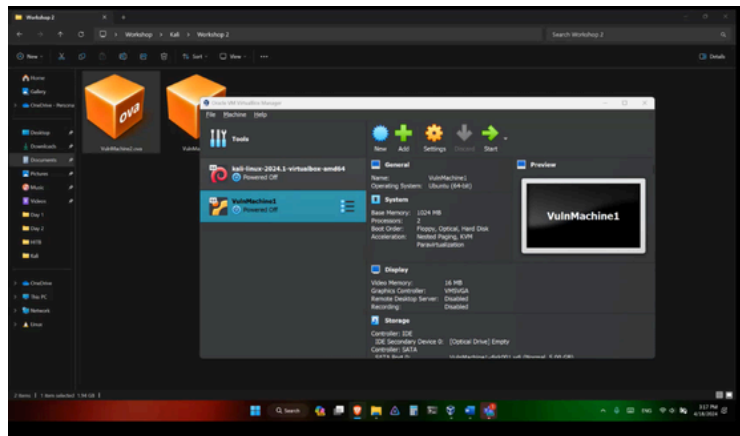
At the end of the opening ceremony, the keynote speaker, Professor Roberto Di Pietro, from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Grigorios Fragkos, Head of the Sharjah Cybersecurity Center, Mr. Giselle Ali, Director of the RedTeam Hacker Academy, and Ms. Hanane Lboukili, a strategic expert, at Amazon Dubai, were honored. The winning students of the e-commerce poster exhibition and the ethical hacking competition, which were organized on the sidelines of the symposium, were also announced and honored.



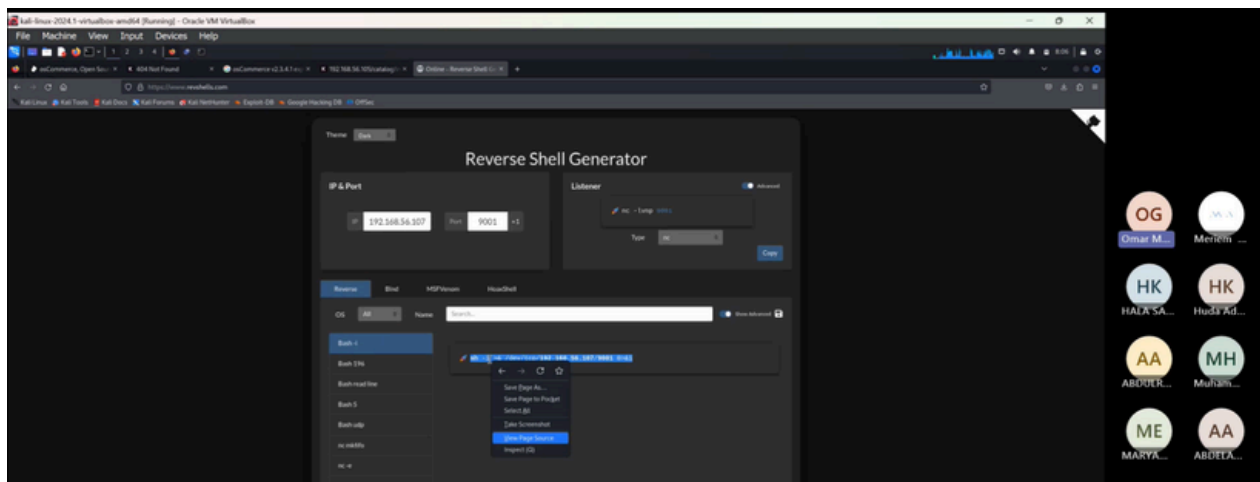
Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity SEC 2024

Workshops

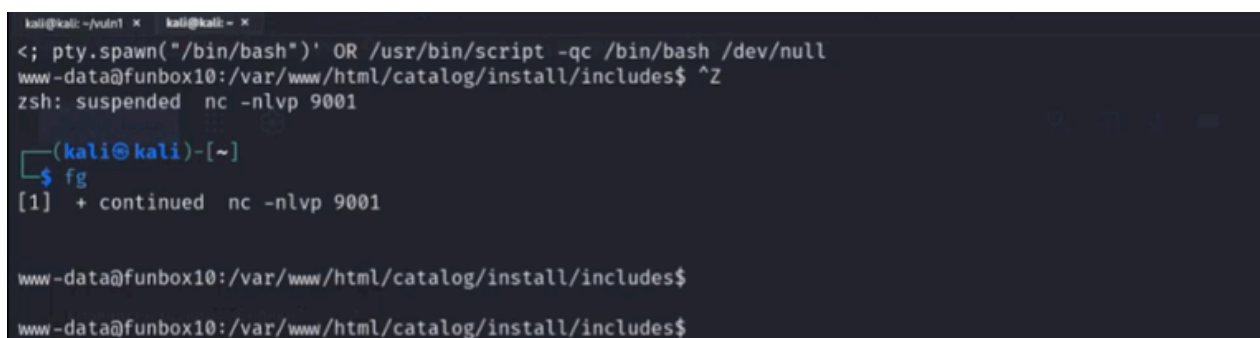
As part of Cybersecurity Week in conjunction with the Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity (SEC) 2024, The College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah has launched the 'Cybersecurity Essentials: An Introduction to Ethical Hacking' workshop series. Presented by applications specialist Eng. Omar Gouda, these workshops offer newcomers a chance to learn about



digital defenses and ethical hacking. Kicking off on April 15, 2024, participants embarked on an immersive experience, establishing their lab environments using Kali Linux virtual machines. They navigated through foundational Linux commands such as 'ls,' 'cd,' 'mk,' 'mkdir,' and more, laying a robust groundwork for subsequent exploration.



Advancing into the second session on April 18, 2024, participants delved deeper into practical cybersecurity applications, honing their skills to tackle real-world challenges and competitions head-on. Engaging in hands-on activities, they fortified their proficiency by launching attacks on simulated vulnerable web servers within a controlled environment. Participants also gained mastery over a diverse array of tools, including 'nmap,' 'dirbuster,' 'Metasploit,' 'Wireshark,' and 'Burp Suite,' among others. These tools provided invaluable insights into the ethical hacking process, enabling participants to navigate through its various stages effectively.



Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity SEC 2024

Competiton

The College of Computing and Informatics recently organized an exciting Capture The Flag (CTF) style competition as part of Cybersecurity Week, held in conjunction with the Symposium on E-commerce and Cybersecurity (SEC) 2024. This beginner-level event aimed to introduce university students to real-world ethical hacking through hands-on experience.

To prepare the participants, two intensive workshops were conducted prior to the competition, equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge. The competition itself centered around hacking a deliberately vulnerable web server, challenging students to navigate the five stages of ethical hacking: reconnaissance, scanning, gaining access, maintaining access, and covering tracks. The ten challenges included tasks such as scanning the server for exploitable services, decrypting encrypted passwords, and using a reverse shell to gain deeper access to the web server.

The event drew enthusiastic participation, with students demonstrating impressive problem-solving abilities and technical acumen. These rigorous challenges tested both their theoretical understanding and practical skills, providing a comprehensive introduction to cybersecurity.

Three standout performers emerged victorious, showcasing exceptional skill and determination. Their achievements were celebrated in a closing ceremony, where they received accolades and prizes. The College of Computing and Informatics praised all participants for their efforts and emphasized the importance of such competitions in preparing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. The success of this event promises more opportunities for aspiring ethical hackers in the future.



UAE Codes Day 2023



جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

Under the patronage of
HE Professor Hamid M.K. Al Naimiy,
Chancellor of the University of Sharjah

<UAE> .Codes(2023) </Day>

The College of Computing and Informatics, in collaboration with the Colleges of Business Administration, Engineering, and Sciences are inviting you to the UAE Codes Day 2023

October 30th, 2023
09:30AM-02:00PM
M9-Albayrouni



UAE Codes Day 2023

Coinciding with the UAE Code Day 2023, the College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah organized a series of lectures and workshops in cooperation with the Colleges of Business, Engineering and Science. These events included the participation of specialists and faculty members at the university, in addition to panel discussions featuring Will Bader from Amazon and Web Services and David Toman from the Office of Artificial Intelligence, UAE Ministry of AI. Covering different sessions on "Innovation Using Technology" and "Programming in the Age of Evolution" and ethics and education.



H.E. Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University, reemphasized the university's celebration of the UAE Code Day in recognition of the role of programmers in enhancing the UAE's position as an attractive destination for programmers and empowering their talents. He extended his gratitude and appreciation to H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and President of the University, for his continuous support for all scientific activities. Prof. Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, noted the role of programming and technology in shaping the future of society and stressed the importance of providing digital skills to youth. For his part, Prof. Abbas Amira, Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, added that this initiative aims to understand the impact of artificial intelligence on programming, teaching methods and educational outcomes.

On the sidelines of these events, the CCI students club organized interactive activities in the fields of programming and artificial intelligence, and the College of Computing and Informatics announced the winners of the programming competition sponsored by the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center "Sheraa". Students Karam Al-Shura, Yasser Al-Esh and Muhammad Mukhadhi won the first, second and third places respectively.





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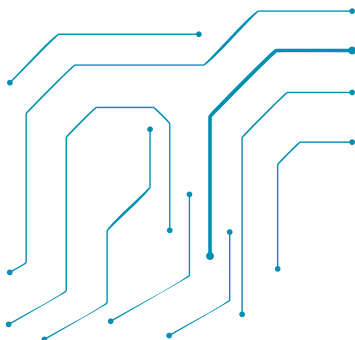
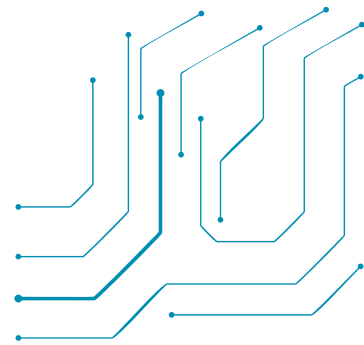
CCI PARTNERSHIPS

Meeting with Prof. Oussama Khatib and Prof. Kamal Youcef-Toumi

The Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI), Professor Abbas Amira welcomed Prof. Kamal Youcef-Toumi, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Co-Director of the Center for Clean Water and Energy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) – USA, and Prof. Oussama Khatib Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, and the Director of Stanford Robotics Lab, Stanford University, USA - Members of Board of Trustees.

The meeting focused on a comprehensive review of the achievements and challenges encountered by the college in the previous year. The discussion encompassed an assessment of academic accomplishments, research endeavors, and notable milestones. Particular attention was given to understanding the challenges faced by students and faculty members, aiming to address and overcome obstacles for enhanced academic and research experiences. To gain a hands-on perspective, the participants undertook a visit to the college's laboratories. This visit allowed for a firsthand inspection of the facilities, equipment, and ongoing projects. The Dean and other attendees engaged in discussions with students and faculty, fostering a direct exchange of insights and feedback.

The meeting served as a crucial platform for evaluating the overall well-being of the college, identifying areas of improvement, and appreciating the dedication and efforts of students and faculty members. This proactive approach toward understanding and addressing challenges demonstrates the commitment of the leadership to foster a conducive learning and research environment within the College of Computing and Informatics.

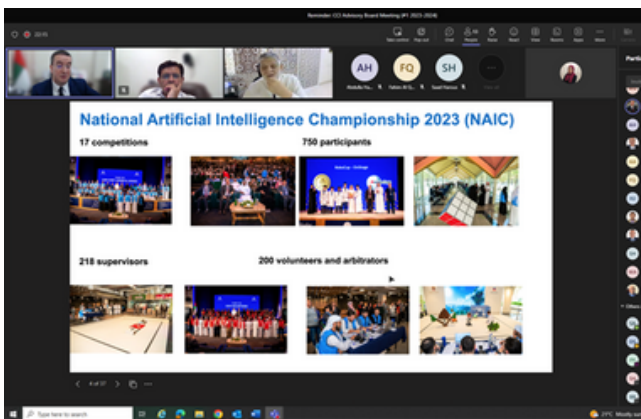


CCI Advisory Board

The College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah hosted three meetings for the Advisory Board. The esteemed gathering was chaired by His Excellency Sheikh Fahim bin Sultan bin Khalid Al Qasimi, Chief Executive of the Department of Governmental Relations in Sharjah.

The agenda was comprehensive, spanning continuation discussions from previous meetings, notably on upcoming conferences like IEEE/ACM BDCAT 2024, UCC 2024, and the International CCI Conference, new program introductions were also on the docket.

Crucially, the meeting delved into pressing matters, including employability, the preparation for the upcoming workshop on “Bridging the Gap with Industry” and presenting the College's priorities for 2024. With representatives from academia, government, and industry synergizing efforts, the College of Computing and Informatics stands poised to pioneer advancements in education, research, and technology deployment, contributing significantly to regional and global digital landscapes.



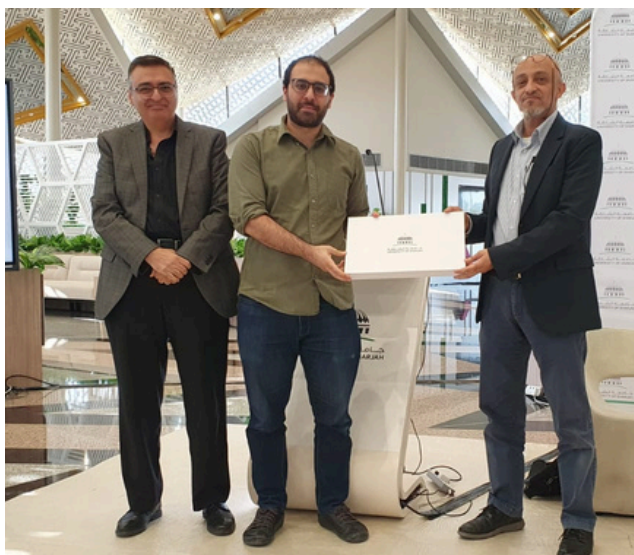
CE Department Advisory Board

The Computer Engineering Department at the University of Sharjah held its annual advisory board meeting, chaired by Prof. Ali EIMoursy. The meeting was attended by esteemed advisory board members, including Dr. Abdulhadi Shoufan from Khalifa University, Mr. Omran Ahmed Al Hammadi from Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, Ms. Sherry Tong from Huawei, Mr. Khaled Kamel from EMT Distribution Dubai, and Eng. Muhammed Abu Odeh from NYU Abu Dhabi.

The agenda focused on presenting key developments within the department and seeking valuable feedback from the advisory board members. Highlights included the achievements of the Computer Engineering Department faculty, detailing recent publications and ongoing projects. The department's comprehensive range of programs, including the Bachelor of Computer Engineering and the Master of Science in Computer Engineering (MSCPE), were discussed, emphasizing the latest curriculum enhancements and practical training changes.

The meeting fostered an engaging dialogue, with advisory board members providing insights and suggestions to further elevate the department's academic and research excellence. Their contributions are expected to significantly impact the strategic direction and continuous improvement of the Computer Engineering Department's offerings.

Prof. Ali EIMoursy expressed gratitude to the advisory board members for their participation and valuable input, reinforcing the department's commitment to maintaining high standards in education and research.



IS Department Advisory Board

The Department of Information Systems at the College of Computing and Informatics held an advisory board meeting on January 30, 2024. The meeting, led by Department Chair Dr. Mohamed Nour, included key faculty members: Dr. Rima Shishakly, Ms. Yara Diab, Ms. Asma Saif AlMazrouei, Dr. Amna Al Nakhi, Dr. Amel Al Ali, and Dr. Iman Akour.

The meeting commenced with a welcome to new members and self-introductions. The board approved the minutes from the previous meeting and received updates on departmental activities, including the new MSc in Business Analytics program and the Tagheer award received by the college.

Discussions focused on aligning the curriculum with the skills required by the Ministry of Education and the marketplace. Members were encouraged to provide continuous feedback to enhance programs, performance, and events.

Agreements were made on the meeting methods and the formation of subcommittees. Suggestions to improve departmental priorities were invited, and an overview of upcoming events was presented. The board also discussed the potential for a student exchange program, company visits, industry-related projects, and strengthening industry relations through collaborations and student competitions.

Plans were made to contact local entities for internships, invite industry speakers, and conduct high school visits to promote the department. Feedback from the board will be gathered through surveys.



Meeting with Red Crystal

The College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah recently hosted a productive meeting with Red Crystal, a leading digital transformation partner. Renowned for their expert teams, industry solutions, and application services, Red Crystal is committed to providing the skills and hands-on advice necessary for businesses to thrive in a dynamic environment.

The meeting centered on several key areas of collaboration. Firstly, discussions on training and consultancy opportunities highlighted mutual benefits, with faculty members from CCI both receiving advanced training and delivering expert sessions to Red Crystal's teams. This exchange of knowledge aims to enhance the expertise on both sides.

Additionally, Red Crystal expressed interest in funding cutting-edge research projects at CCI. This support will enable the college to advance its research capabilities and contribute innovative solutions to the industry.

Student internships were also a focal point, with Red Crystal offering valuable real-world experience to CCI students. These internships are designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and professional application, preparing students for successful careers in the tech industry.

Further, Red Crystal pledged to support CCI's strategic initiatives, fostering growth and development within the college. Lastly, they discussed providing scholarships for Ph.D. students, ensuring that emerging scholars have the resources they need to excel in their studies and research.

Overall, this meeting marked the beginning of a promising partnership, with both CCI and Red Crystal committed to fostering innovation, education, and industry growth.



RED CRYSTAL
TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Cyberbit Workshop

The Department of Computer Engineering, part of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah (UoS), recently hosted a one-day workshop focused on Cyberbit, a cutting-edge cybersecurity tool. This event was aimed at enhancing faculty preparedness in evaluating the tool's use for lectures and training. In collaboration with EMT Distributions, UAE, the workshop offered an insightful exploration into the capabilities of Cyberbit and its potential for integration within the university's curriculum.

Primarily comprising faculty members from the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI), attendees gained insights into how Cyberbit can serve as a valuable learning tool for cybersecurity-related courses. Specific scenarios illustrating the integration of Cyberbit into various aspects of training and assessment were discussed, providing a practical perspective on its utility.



cyberbit

Meeting with Microsoft



The College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah recently hosted a pivotal meeting with representatives from Microsoft Middle East to explore collaborative opportunities. Led by Prof. Zaher Al Aghbari, the Vice Dean of the College, and Dr. Bassel Soudan, Associate Professor at the College, the discussions focused on several key areas to enhance academic and professional integration.

One primary topic was funding research initiatives. Microsoft expressed interest in supporting groundbreaking projects led by CCI, particularly those with practical applications and innovative solutions to current technological challenges.

Student internships were also a major point of discussion. Microsoft is keen to offer internship opportunities to CCI students, providing them with invaluable industry experience and exposure to real-world projects. This initiative is expected to significantly enhance the students' employability and professional readiness.



Supporting CCI's strategic initiatives was another crucial aspect of the meeting. Microsoft committed to backing several of these initiatives, ensuring alignment with industry trends and demands.

The provision of training and consultancy opportunities was also highlighted. Both faculty and Microsoft experts will engage in reciprocal training sessions, fostering a robust exchange of knowledge and skills. This collaboration aims to keep faculty abreast of the latest technological advancements while allowing Microsoft to benefit from academic insights.

Finally, the potential for scholarships, specifically for PhD candidates, was explored. Microsoft's support could open new avenues for advanced research and development, empowering the next generation of innovators and thought leaders in computing and informatics.

Meeting with Huazhong University of Science and Technology



A pivotal meeting recently took place between the College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah and Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), highlighting several significant academic collaborations. The discussions centered on developing Dual Programs that would allow students to gain qualifications from both esteemed institutions, enhancing their global competitiveness.

Representing the college were Prof. Abbas Amira, the Dean, Prof. Zaher Al Aghbari, the Vice Dean, and Prof. Mohamed Saad, the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies. They played key roles in shaping the dialogue. The meeting also delved into Exchange Programs aimed at fostering cultural and academic exchange, providing students with broader perspectives and learning experiences.

A crucial agenda item was Faculty and Students Mobility, which would facilitate the movement of educators and learners between the two universities, enriching the academic environment and fostering international collaboration. Joint Research Projects were also discussed, with both parties expressing keen interest in combining their expertise to tackle global challenges through innovative research initiatives.

Furthermore, the meeting explored the organization of Joint Events, such as conferences and workshops, which would serve as platforms for knowledge exchange and networking among scholars and students from both institutions. This collaborative endeavor promises to strengthen the ties between the University of Sharjah and HUST, paving the way for future academic excellence and mutual growth.



Industry Expert Event

The Department of Information Systems at the College of Computing and Informatics proudly hosted its annual event, which featured a series of industry speakers. This year, the event spotlighted the esteemed Eng. Shaikha Binkhatim. Among the notable attendees were Professor Abbas Amira, Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, along with other esteemed faculty members, and a significant number of undergraduate students, making the event a comprehensive and enriching experience for all participants.

The industry speakers series, a revered tradition at the college, is designed to equip students with precious insights from field leaders. Eng. Shaikha Binkhatim, a Senior ICT Manager at Sharjah Asset Management, brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the seminar. With approximately six years in managing IT support, driving innovation, and leading digital transformation initiatives, her background was particularly compelling. She holds a bachelor's degree in computer engineering and a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Sharjah. Currently pursuing her Doctoral degree in Engineering Management at the same university, her expertise enlightened and inspired the students as they explored the complexities of event management and current industry trends. The event concluded with a ceremony honoring the expert speakers.



Huawei Tech Talk Explores "A World of Infinite Possibilities Enabled with AI"



In a captivating exploration of the thriving world of artificial intelligence, the College of Computing and Informatics hosted Huawei, which presented a technical talk regarding artificial intelligence under the title "A World of Infinite Possibilities Possible Using Artificial Intelligence." Led by respected broadcaster Abhinav Purohit, the session delved into the multi-faceted landscape of AI, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of its definition, economic impact and compelling use cases.

Throughout the talk, attendees were immersed in an enlightening discussion that traversed various aspects of AI. From its fundamental definition to its profound economic ramifications and from real-world applications to its implications for the future generation, every facet of AI's transformative potential was meticulously examined.

The talk commenced with an exploration of the essence of AI, shedding light on its core principles and functionalities. Participants gained invaluable insights into the economic impact of AI as the discussion navigated through its implications for productivity, market dynamics, and innovative business models.

One of the session's highlights was the presentation of intriguing use cases of AI across diverse industries. From healthcare to finance and beyond, attendees were treated to real-world examples that showcased AI's efficacy in driving innovation and value creation.

Moreover, the talk extended its focus to the implications of AI for today's students, offering valuable perspectives on future career paths and opportunities. By providing insights into evolving skill requirements and emerging career trajectories, participants gained a deeper understanding of the transformative role AI plays in shaping the future workforce. At the end of the event, Mr. Abhinav Purohit was honoured.



Meeting with SRTA

A significant meeting recently transpired between the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah and the esteemed Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority (SRTA). This convergence marks a pivotal moment in the pursuit of mutual advancement and collaboration in fields crucial to the growth and development of Sharjah.

Established in 2014 under the directive of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, SRTA has diligently endeavored to align with Sharjah's burgeoning landscape, as envisioned by its esteemed leader. SRTA's multifaceted mandate encompasses the provision of vital transportation services, the management of road infrastructure, and the formulation of strategic plans to enhance the Emirate's transport sector.

The meeting presided over by the esteemed Dean, Prof. Abbas Amira, delved into various avenues of cooperation. Discussions ranged from potential training and consultancy opportunities, facilitating faculty training sessions, to fostering research funding and student internships. Moreover, the dialogue extended to supporting CCI's strategic initiatives and offering scholarships for doctoral candidates.

This collaboration not only underscores the commitment of both entities to academic and infrastructural advancement but also paves the way for innovative solutions and impactful contributions to Sharjah's continued progress. As academia and industry converge, the meeting between CCI and SRTA sets a promising precedent for future endeavors that will undoubtedly shape the landscape of Sharjah's technological and transportation landscape for years to come.

GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
Roads & Transport Authority



حكومة الشارقة
هيئة الطرق والمواصلات

Meeting with ITMO

ITMO

A momentous collaboration unfolded as representatives from the University of Sharjah and ITMO University convened to explore avenues of partnership, with a particular focus on advancing robotics education programs. Among the esteemed participants were Professor Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Sharjah, along with Professor Abbas Amira, Dean of the College of Computing and Information Technologies, and Professor Mohamed Adel Serhani, Deputy Director of the Office of International Relations.



From ITMO University, key figures included Professor Vladimir Vasilyev, the Rector of the University, and Vadim Malyshev, Director for Global Development. Together, these leaders embarked on a fruitful discussion, aiming to forge impactful collaborations in the realm of robotics education.

The meeting agenda encompassed a spectrum of initiatives, with a special emphasis on Dual Programs, Exchange Programs, Faculty and Student Mobility, Joint Research Projects, and Joint Events, all tailored to enrich robotics education. Both institutions recognized the potential for synergy across these areas and expressed a shared commitment to fostering innovation and knowledge exchange in robotics.



ITMO University's distinguished legacy in technical sciences, coupled with the University of Sharjah's dedication to academic excellence, positioned them as ideal partners in advancing robotics education. As they charted a course towards collaborative endeavors, these institutions aimed to cultivate a new generation of robotics experts equipped with the skills and knowledge to tackle real-world challenges.

The meeting heralded the beginning of a promising alliance, one that promises to catalyze transformative advancements in robotics education and empower students to become leaders in this rapidly evolving field.

Meeting with Sharjah Police Science Academy

The College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah (UoS) and the Sharjah Police Science Academy, recognized as one of the most important and modern security academic institutions in the region, held a meeting to discuss collaboration in developing their Bachelor's and Master's programs.

Esteemed attendees from the College of Computing and Informatics included: Prof. Abbas Amira, the Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, Prof. Ali ElMoursy, and Dr. Ala' Altaweel. The esteemed Representatives from the Sharjah Police Science Academy included: Colonel Dr. Ahmed Ghanem, Prof. Muhammad Fawzi Ibrahim, Dr. Amani Abdel-Ghani Al-Sabbagh, Ms. Sumayia Al-Balushi, and the Student Muhammad Matar from the University of Sharjah, who are currently undergoing practical training at the Academy, also attended the meeting.



During the meeting, Prof. Abbas Amira, the Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics presented an overview of all CCI programs, with a special focus on the Bachelor's and Master's programs in Cybersecurity Engineering, which are of particular interest to the Sharjah Police Science Academy. Following the presentation, it was agreed that the Academy would send their curriculum for feedback from the College. This collaboration aims to enhance the programs and explore future cooperation in developing Cybersecurity programs.



Meeting with InfraX

In a significant stride towards fostering collaboration and innovation, the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah recently convened a pivotal meeting with InfraX, the Information Communication and Technology arm of Digital DEWA. Digital DEWA, renowned for its steadfast provision of water and electricity services in Dubai for over five decades, leverages its robust infrastructure to deliver cutting-edge digital solutions to customers.



Chaired by the Dean, Prof. Abbas Amira, and attended by Dr. Bassel Soudan, Associate Professor, the meeting aimed at exploring multifaceted avenues of cooperation. Rashid Alahmedi, Chief Operating Officer, and Yaser AlBehandy, Director of Commercial, represented InfraX, bringing forth a wealth of industry expertise.



Central to the discussions were endeavors encompassing training and consultancy opportunities, funding research initiatives, facilitating student internships, supporting CCI's strategic initiatives, and offering scholarships for PhD students. These initiatives underscore a commitment to nurturing talent, fostering research, and advancing technological frontiers.

The synergy between academia and industry epitomizes a holistic approach towards innovation and growth. By pooling resources, expertise, and networks, such collaborations pave the way for transformative breakthroughs, empowering both institutions to address contemporary challenges and seize emerging opportunities in the ever-evolving landscape of technology and information.

Meeting with PAARS

A landmark meeting was held on the April 1st between the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah and the Pan Arab Association of Radiological Societies (PAARS). The meeting, attended by the Dean, Prof. Abbas Amira, focused on enhancing collaboration in the field of AI in healthcare and radiology.



PAARS, an alliance of radiology societies from 20 Arab countries, emphasized its commitment to education and professional development. They proposed a comprehensive educational plan featuring top experts in AI and radiology, free access to an extensive online library, and opportunities for further education. Additionally, PAARS invited students to participate in their annual conference in September 2024 and suggested launching a competition on AI and graduation projects, with the University of Sharjah playing a pivotal role. This competition would coincide with the PAARS AI Forum, scheduled for September 13-14, 2024.

The CCI expressed strong support for these initiatives. They endorsed the partnership and committed to involving eminent faculty members in the PAARS conference. They also proposed utilizing the college as a hub for pre-conference events, allowing free participation for students and a nominal fee for external invitees. Furthermore, the CCI suggested involving interns in organizing these events and recommended featuring Key Opinion Leaders from the University to present success stories and talks on AI and radiology during the PAARS AI Forum.

This meeting marks a significant step towards fostering innovation and excellence in the intersection of AI and radiology in the Arab region.



Meeting with Shunya Ekai Technologies

First meeting to introduce Shunya Ekai Technologies and evaluate the possibility of cooperation with CCI in the area of student training as well as prototype development for projects (Senior Projects, Graduate Projects, Research Projects, etc.)



Seven students from CCI spent the summer at Shunya Ekai for their Practical Training. Shunya Ekai was very happy with their performance, therefore they are approaching CCI for possible engagement in other areas, including workshops and invited speakers.



SHUNYA EKAI TECHNOLOGIES

Shunya Ekai Technologies Visit

Expanding the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) strategic vision, the dean, accompanied with faculty delegates visited Shunya Ekai Tech to explore areas of collaboration.

During the visit the discussion included collaboration on internship programs, entrepreneurship workshops, involvement in senior design projects, and research collaboration.

This partnership aims to provide students with practical industry experience, foster innovation, and advance research in technology and electronics. Stay tuned for further developments.



SHUNYA EKAI TECHNOLOGIES

Meeting with AI Office

The Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI), Prof. Abbas Amira, met with Mr. David Toman, AI Office Advisor, on Tuesday, 10 October 2023, at 3:00 PM.

The AI Office Advisor, who has started a new role focusing on enhancing capacity in the UAE, including Research, Master's, and Ph.D. programs, along with executive education, held a meeting with the Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah. The purpose of the meeting was to explore different options and areas for collaboration between the AI Office and the University of Sharjah.

During this meeting, the Dean provided a brief overview of the CCI efforts in this regard. The Dean discussed the possibility of cooperation of the AI Office with CCI in the area of student training as well as introducing more initiatives for research and graduate projects.



**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,
DIGITAL ECONOMY & REMOTE WORK APPLICATIONS OFFICE**

Meeting with Swansea University



The Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI), Prof. Abbas Amira, along with other faculty members from CCI met with Prof. Siraj Ahmed Shaikh on Wednesday, 18 October 2023, at 3:00 PM at M5-236.

Prof. Siraj Shaikh (Prof. in Systems Security, Swansea University – UK) who is an expert in Systems Security briefly presented the key research contributions of his team. Prof. Siraj also mentioned the collaborative efforts possible in the similar domain. It is intended to explore the collaboration in the area of cybersecurity.



During this meeting, the Dean provided a brief overview of the CCI efforts in this regard. The Dean discussed the possibility of cooperation of faculty with Prof. Siraj in the area of student co-supervision as well as introducing more initiatives for research and graduate projects.



Meeting with Mr. Javier Peman – NVIDIA



As part of the CCI efforts to extend faculty research and development to local and international partners, the Dean, Prof. Abbas Amira, welcomed the visiting team from Nvidia to discuss possible collaboration on several issues, including the Multimedia Lab currently under development for the CS department as well as the possibilities for student internships and collaborative research.



Meeting with Dahua Technology



The Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI), Prof. Abbas Amira and the Assistant Dean for Graduate Student, Dr. Mohamed Saad, met with Dahua Technology on Tuesday, 19th Dec 2023. The goal of the meeting between the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) and Dahua Technology, a well-known provider of AI solutions with a focus on AI security, was to establish a broad partnership that would include training workshops, events, student internships, and research collaboration. In order to promote mutual growth and development, both parties committed to offering meaningful internship opportunities for students, planning joint events to build industry-academic connections, supporting research initiatives that benefit both parties and holding specialized training workshops for faculty and students. The collaborative framework seeks to advance students' skill sets, enable innovative research, and support teacher and student professional growth. Formalizing precise plans and deadlines to execute these cooperative projects is what comes next.



A meeting was held to talk about a possible strategic alliance to investigate the following joint projects:

- **Technology Strategic Partnership:** In order to further the goals of the university, Dahua Technology seeks to be a technology strategic partner by providing cutting-edge AI technology, resources, and knowledge.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** formally committing by signing an MOU. This Memorandum of Understanding may cover initiatives such as knowledge exchange programs, internships, and innovation laboratories.
- To establish a cooperative relationship that is mutually beneficial, encourages creativity, and offers the community, educators, and students priceless opportunities.
- To have a thorough discussion of these ideas and customize the relationship to the goals of the college.
- To investigate how Dahua Technology and the College of Computing and Informatics might collaborate to further excellence and advancement, thereby improving education and innovation.



كلية الحوسبة والمعلوماتية
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
AND INFORMATICS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Made in CCI Exhibition



كلية الحوسبة والمعلوماتية
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
AND INFORMATICS

MADE IN



CCI

EXHIBITION

M11
GROUND
FLOOR

29th APRIL
2024

OPENING - 9:30 AM

AWARDING CEREMONY - 2:00PM

Made in CCI Exhibition

Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah, opened the graduation projects exhibition for students of the College of Computing and Informatics in its second edition under the title “Made in CCI Exhibition.” The exhibition aims to highlight the innovative projects of final-year students at the college, which focus primarily on artificial intelligence techniques. Furthermore, how to use them to develop innovative solutions to problems and issues facing society in the presence of the University’s Vice-Chancellors, Prof. Abbas Amira, Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, several College Deans Department Heads, and faculty and staff members.

The exhibition embodies the spirit of creativity, passion, and the use of artificial intelligence in various fields, such as health, transportation, data processing, drones, and security. The exhibition is also a platform to highlight innovative projects for college students. The exhibition brings together a variety of talents, ideas, and advanced technologies implemented within the college, from software applications to building actual models of projects. The exhibition included 28 projects, including 13 projects by Computer Engineering Department students and 15 by Computer Science students.



Made in CCI Exhibition

The efforts made by computer science students covered a large number of societal details, including smart parking systems, predicting emojis in tweets, applications to track, smart electronic games, a learning program to predict the synergy of digital anti-cancer drugs, heritage classification, and its application to planning a burn study, and the consultant Electronic programs, dialect programs in Arabic, virtual reality simulation of aneurysms, precise exploration using an integrated electroencephalogram (EEG) and smart learning.

Computer engineering students' projects also addressed several important issues, including a program for monitoring drones and delivering packages, an intelligent robot for picking fruits, a program for detecting skin cancer using artificial intelligence, an intelligent system for monitoring truck drivers' attention while driving, a medical robot, and an intelligent assistant system. For paralyzed patients, an AI-based motorcyclist violation detection system, an IoT machine learning-based intrusion detection system, a real-time drowning detection system, a campus courier robot, and an AI-based parking spot detection system.

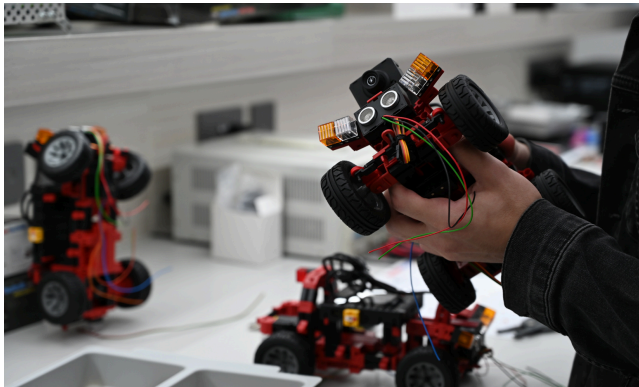
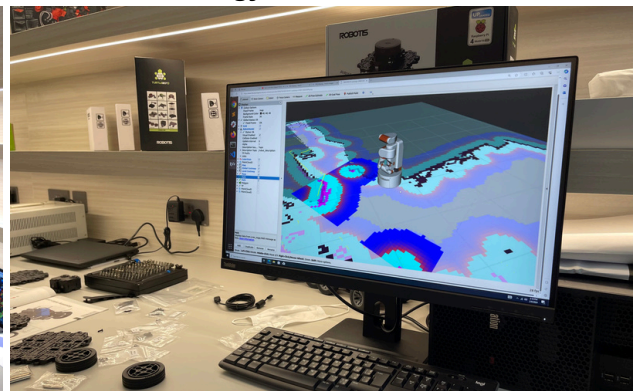


Robotics Lab Establishment

The College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah is thrilled to announce the opening of its new Robotics Lab. Designed and prepared by Eng. Mahmoud Madi, this cutting-edge facility marks a significant milestone in the college's efforts to enhance robotics education and research.

The primary goal of the Robotics Lab is to support a wide range of student activities. From interactive teaching sessions and hands-on training to competitive preparations, the lab is equipped to provide students with a practical and immersive learning experience. This initiative ensures that students can apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios, fostering a deeper understanding and interest in robotics.

One of the lab's standout features is its support for the newly launched Master's program in Robotics and Control Systems. This advanced degree program aims to develop the next generation of robotics experts, offering them a robust platform for research and project-based learning. The lab provides an ideal environment for students to explore and innovate, working on complex projects that push the boundaries of current technology.



The establishment of the Robotics Lab also aligns with the college's mission to promote interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. It is expected to attract students and researchers from various fields, all united by a shared passion for robotics and automation.

Eng. Mahmoud Madi's dedication to designing this lab reflects the college's commitment to providing top-notch education and resources. The Robotics Lab is set to become a hub of creativity and technological advancement, preparing students for future challenges and opportunities in the world of robotics.

With this new facility, the College of Computing and Informatics reaffirms its position as a leader in fostering innovation and excellence in the field of robotics. The lab stands as a testament to the college's ongoing efforts to nurture talent and drive forward-thinking solutions in technology.

Advising Event - Let Us Connect

The Student Success Committee at the Information Systems (IS) Department organized an advising event "Let Us Connect" for its students (major and minor in business information systems) to promote the awareness of academic advising and mentoring as an essential part of the educational process. The Dean of the College of Computing & Informatics (CCI) opened the event by welcoming the students and pointed out the importance of advising as one of the main key performance indicators in the CCI.

The Head of the IS department, Dr. Mohamed Nour, then talked about the importance of advising and the need to communicate with your advisor regularly to help students manage their study plan successfully.



The event included presentations from different IS faculty members that aimed at covering various issues that concern the students. Dr. Amel Al Ali explained to the students their study plan and pointed out the main issues that students should pay attention to when planning their schedule. Dr. Iman Akour demonstrated the different features of MyUoS portal and explained some important features such as where to find your advisor and how to find your study plan. Prof. Samar Mouakket explained the attendance policy and the under-probation rules.

At the end of the event, students from the IS Club provide brief information about the Club and its upcoming events. They encouraged new students to contact them for any questions they had and pointed out the importance of joining the club to the students. Dr. Iman Akour organized a questions-and-answers advising competition in which the students participated, and the winners were given small prizes.



College Strategy Development Workshop

This workshop provide an excellent opportunity for CCI faculty members to come together, share their ideas, and work collaboratively to develop innovative initiatives and effective strategies that are aligned with the Universities goals and objectives for the new 2024 – 2030 Strategy.

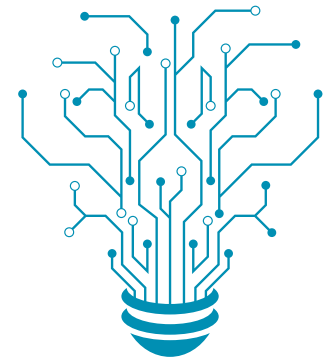


CCI First Alumni Gathering

The UoS Alumni Office in collaboration with the CCI Alumni and Student Affairs Committee organized the first CCI Alumni gathering which took place on October 10th in the Male Forum.

The alumni gathering aims to discuss, exchange, and transfer experiences, knowledge, and scientific and practical experiences to students studying at the college. This was in the presence of Prof. Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dr. Salah Taher, Vice Chancellor of Community Affairs, Prof. Abbas Amira, Dean of the College, Dr. Amal Al Ali, Director of the Office of the Alumni Association, several members of the Executive Council of the Association, and a large gathering of personalities from the college.

As part of the gathering's activities, a dialogue session was held moderated by Prof. Zaher AL Aghbari, in which Prof. Ahmed Bouridane, Dr. Naveed Ahmed and Prof. Samar Mouakket spoke. The session discussed ways to develop and improve the scientific and social relationship between the college and its graduates and how this partnership can positively impact research. Scientific, curriculum development, training, and providing scientific and professional consultations. The gathering concluded by honoring the speakers and participants and distributing prizes to the attendees.



First Meeting for the Members of Computing and Informatics Alumni Club

The College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) at the University of Sharjah, in collaboration with the Alumni Office, has established the Intelligent Systems Alumni Club (ISC) to strengthen ties between alumni and academia. The ISC aims to represent the university at technology-related events in the UAE and engage alumni from the CCI.

The opening meeting, attended by key figures including Prof. Abbas Amira, Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, Dr. Amel Al Ali, Director of the Alumni Office, Prof. Samar Mouakket, club coordinator, and several department heads, marked a significant milestone in the university's efforts to enhance its alumni network and foster collaboration within the CCI community.



The meeting featured contributions from the founding members of the ISC, highlighting their professional endeavors, and presentations by Dr. Amel Al Ali and Prof. Samar Mouakket, emphasizing the club's importance in fostering close relationships between industry and academia and defining the club's goals and vision. The center aims to facilitate direct communications among graduates, promote the exchange of ideas, research collaboration, and professional opportunities.



Prof. Abbas Amira, the Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, emphasized the importance of the ISC in bridging the gap between alumni and the university, highlighting the need for robust connections and cooperation to advance the institution in the evolving landscape of technology and innovation.



كلية الحوسبة والمعلوماتية
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
AND INFORMATICS

CCI SEMINARS

CCI Seminars

College of Computing and Informatics hosts CCI Seminars delivered by our dedicated faculty members.



Secured and Energy-efficient Communication for Internet of Things by Dr. Mian Ahmad

Dr. Mian Ahmad presented a seminar on the latest trends and advancements on the Internet of Things (IoT), emphasizing its impact on improving the standard of living and long-term benefits. However, he noted that this technology and its emerging applications face significant challenges. The lack of a universal IoT standard leaves many sensor-embedded IoT devices and their data vulnerable to malicious threats. Additionally, the resource constraints of these devices complicate the design of sophisticated security algorithms. Dr. Mian's talk focused on two critical challenges in IoT: security and energy efficiency. He discussed his contributions to address these challenges and highlighted future research directions for the research community to ensure the smooth integration of IoT into emerging applications.

Privacy Preserving Location Sharing by Dr. Osman Abul

Dr. Osman Abul conducted a seminar on the importance of protecting sensitive data, particularly focusing on the privacy of location history. He emphasized that any data capable of distinguishing an individual within a group is private and must be handled with care. Just like biometric features, location history is unique to each person and can be used to identify individuals, making it crucial to store, query, and share this data in a privacy-protected manner to avoid serious privacy violations. Dr. Osman explored various aspects of privacy-aware online location sharing in the context of location-based services. He introduced key challenges such as location cloaking, urban area mobility, speed-based attacks, nearby friend querying, and implicit location sharing. Dr. Osman also presented innovative solutions to address these challenges, highlighting the importance of safeguarding personal location data in the digital age.



CCI Seminars



Scheduling algorithms for NP-hard problems: real-life applications by Dr. Mehdi Jemmali

Dr. Mehdi Jemmali's recent seminar focused on developing environmental solutions for resource preservation and sustainability, crucial for enhancing life quality. He highlighted the challenge of resource optimization and emphasized time optimization in today's digital era, essential for mobility, smartphones, wireless communication, smart cities, and digital applications. Dr. Mehdi discussed scheduling algorithms' application across various domains like IoT, smart cities, cloud computing, transportation, healthcare, industry, and networks. His past research developed algorithms addressing scheduling problems with constraints, presenting heuristics, metaheuristics, and enhancement methods. Extensive testing validated their effectiveness, surpassing existing literature. He proposed open challenges, paving the way for future research in this vital field.

Achievements and upcoming Challenges by Dr. Bilal Arian

Dr. Bilal Arian gave a comprehensive overview of his past research experiences on various electromechanical systems, with a focus on applications in control and robotics research. Over the last 15 years, Dr. Bilal has actively participated in numerous research projects across different organizations and universities in Australia, addressing a wide range of robotics and control applications. Dr. Bilal delved into his experiences with high-fidelity modeling, development, and deployment of unmanned systems. He highlighted the integration of inertial and navigation sensors, sensor fusion, and the implementation of guidance, navigation, and control in real-time environments. Additionally, Dr. Bilal presented his research interests in robotics perception, particularly vision-based applications. He concluded by discussing potential research areas in robotics perception.



Hyper-Heuristic for Automated Algorithm Design by Dr. Ayad Turkey

Dr. Ayad Turkey conducted a seminar on the significant impact of automated algorithm design in the field of computational intelligence. The seminar focused on the automated design, configuration, and selection of machine learning and search algorithms. Dr. Ayad highlighted the role of hyper-heuristic (HH) methodologies, which search for problem-solving methods rather than solutions, and have proven effective in automated algorithm design. The seminar provided an overview of generation hyper-heuristics in automated algorithm design, delving into the latest advancements and challenges in the field. Dr. Ayad also explored potential research directions, offering insights into the future of automated algorithm design.

CCI Seminars



Information extraction and ontology populations to analyze and categorize car body damages by Prof. Sebti Fofou

Prof. Sebti Fofou gave a survey of his research activities in the past and the current research topics of interest. He then briefly presented an ongoing project that combines ontologies and information extraction to aid in decision-making. The ultimate goal of this research is to extract useful information from textual car damage reports to categorize the damage and estimate the repair cost. Prof. Sebti's team developed a domain ontology for car damage modeling and proposed an end-to-end system to extract information from these reports. The information extraction process employs named entity recognition (NER) and relationship extraction (RE) techniques to identify and extract relevant information. This information is then populated into the ontology, enabling a structured and standardized representation of the damage data. The proposed system is currently being tested on a real dataset of automotive reports.

Health 4.0: Smart and Connected Health the Next Revolution in Healthcare by Prof. Mohamed Adel Serhani

Prof. Mohamed Adel Serhani conducted a seminar on Smart Connected Health (SCH), a paradigm adopted by many developed countries to enhance healthcare efficiency. SCH integrates technologies like Cloud Computing, Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Blockchain to transform healthcare. Prof. Mohamed highlighted the role of SCH during the COVID-19 pandemic, where technologies such as AI, robotics, big data analytics, cloud computing, drones, and 5G were used to combat the virus. He introduced Health 4.0: Smart Connected Health, discussing its benefits and key enabling technologies. Prof. Mohamed presented Smart Health Monitoring systems developed by his team for continuous monitoring of chronic diseases, leveraging IoT, cloud, edge computing, big data, and mobile systems. Prof. Mohamed also addressed SCH challenges and concluded with future trends shaping next-generation healthcare.





كلية الحوسبة والمعلوماتية
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
AND INFORMATICS

STUDENT CORNER

Scientific Open Day

The College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) actively participated during the University of Sharjah Scientific Open Day, showcasing its six majors: Computer Sciences, Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity, Biomedical Informatics, IT Multimedia, and Information Systems.

Enthusiastic instructors and staff highlighted the unique prospects and qualities of each program, giving prospective students insightful information. In addition to showcasing academic options, the event highlighted robotics involvement among students by showcasing outstanding projects that demonstrated their practical skills and interest in the subject.

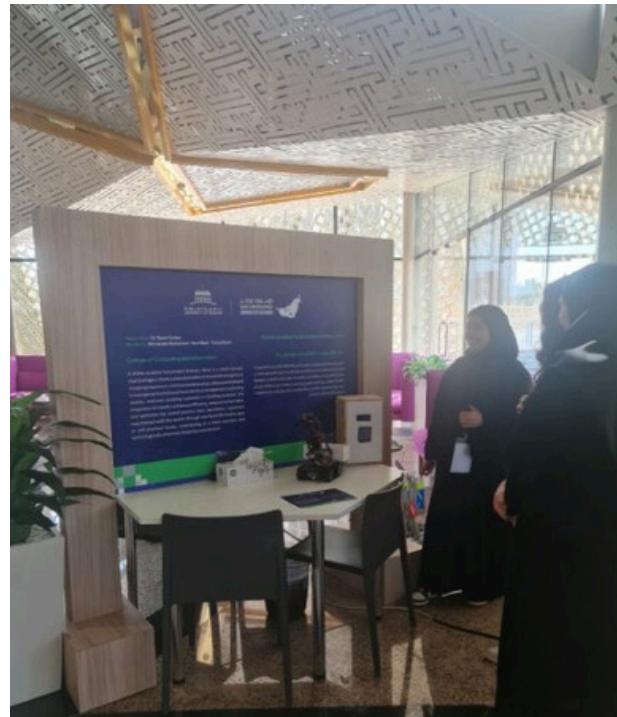
The Open Day also showcased student projects that showcased VR technology breakthroughs, showcasing immersive experiences, and possible practical uses. The goal of this extensive display of CCI's majors, extracurricular activities, and technology advancements was to enable potential students to make educated judgments about continuing their education at CCI College.



Innovation Week



The innovative project ideas also varied, including a program for applications of artificial intelligence in energy physics, a robotic guide for the College of Computing and Informatics, a program for distinguishing Arabic dialects through conversations, a program for analyzing the content of film materials and writing reports on them, an electronic robot for planning and organizing trips, specialized programs for identifying geographical locations through the analysis of written texts, applications of artificial intelligence in the medical field, following up on medical cases, assisting medical staff in making appropriate decisions, assisting surgeons in the operating room, and interpreting sign language. Also among the innovative projects is the design of a sustainable eco-wall using artificial intelligence technology.

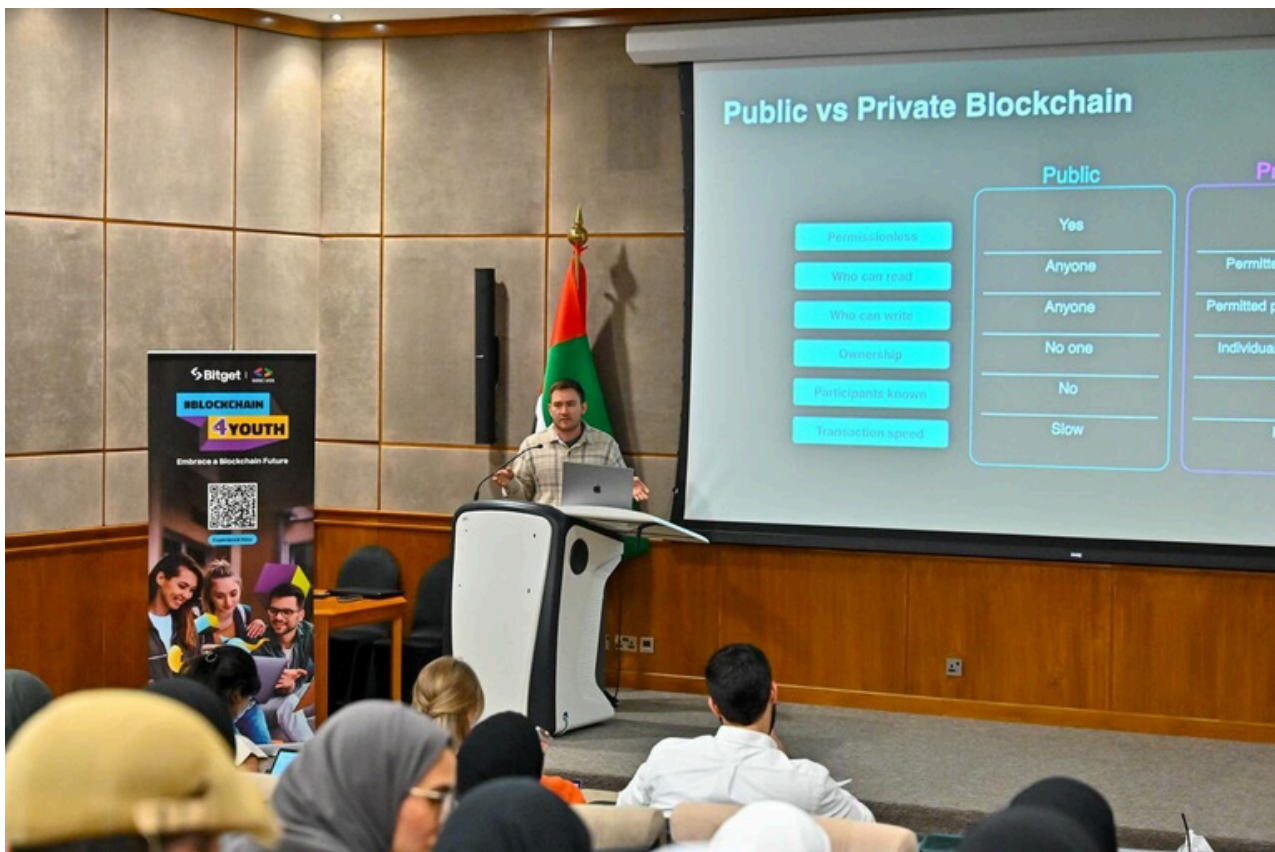


Introduction to Blockchain

The students Club at the College of Computing and Informatics recently organized a workshop in collaboration with Bitget on "Introduction to Blockchain." Bitget delivered an insightful session on blockchain technologies, aiming to engage students who are curious and passionate about this emerging field.



The workshop provided an opportunity for students to take their first step into the world of blockchain technology and explore its potential applications.



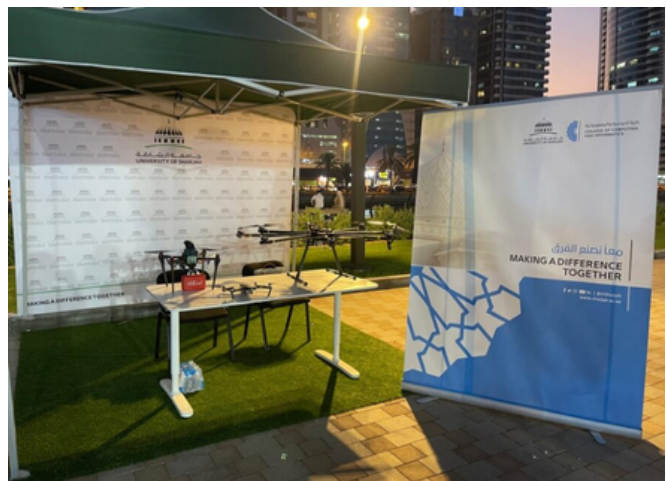
Drone Race Event

The University of Sharjah (UoS) has once again demonstrated its commitment to innovation and scientific exploration by participating in the recent Drone Racing Champions Race held at the Al Majaz Amphitheater, under the auspices of the Sharjah Government Media Bureau (SGMB). This thrilling event, organized in collaboration with MultiGP, the world's largest drone racing league, brought together enthusiasts and experts alike to celebrate the advancements in drone technology.

Led by the College of Computing and Informatics, in conjunction with the Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences and Technology (SAASST), the University of Sharjah showcased an impressive array of research projects and scientific models highlighting the diverse applications of drones. The exhibition featured the pioneering work of college students and underscored SAASST's use of drones in the identification of meteorites, contributing significantly to the advancement of space sciences.

His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, the Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and President of the university, along with Chancellor Professor Hamid Al Naimiy, graced the event, highlighting the university's commitment to innovation. The Chancellor praised the collaborative efforts between academia and industry, emphasizing the significance of research and innovation in shaping technological advancements.

The university's participation reaffirmed its status as a regional leader in technology and education, inspiring future generations of innovators and scientists. Through such initiatives, UoS continues to push the boundaries of knowledge and contribute to a brighter technological future.



IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit - Circulation of Blockchain event

The College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah made a significant mark at the 2024 IEEE Women in Engineering International Leadership Summit held in Dubai on April 25th. This premier event, dedicated to advancing women's leadership and innovation in technology, attracted global attention for its focus on empowerment and disruptive technology.

A delegation comprising 27 students from the college, accompanied by Dr. Manar Abu Talib, Associate Professor, participated actively in the summit. Their presence underscored the college's commitment to fostering mentorship, promoting collaboration, and providing training opportunities in the field of computing and informatics.

The students immersed themselves in insightful sessions, engaging discussions, and networking opportunities, gaining valuable insights into women's leadership, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies. Their participation not only enriched their learning experience but also highlighted the University of Sharjah's dedication to empowering the next generation of female leaders in the tech industry.



Open Day

His Excellency Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah, inaugurated the activities of the Open Day for high school students from public and private schools in the country. The event is organized by the Marketing and Student Recruitment Department over three days. The College of Computing and Informatics participated in the Open Day to introduce the academic programs and scientific specializations offered by the college and the career opportunities available for each specialization. The event was attended by the Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, Prof. Abbas Amira, along with several department heads and members of the teaching and administrative staff.



The Open Day targeted visits from more than 2,500 students to the university. It provides an opportunity for high school students to meet with the teaching and administrative staff to get their questions answered. A day is also dedicated to parents exploring the university campus with their children and learning about its scientific facilities.



Open Day

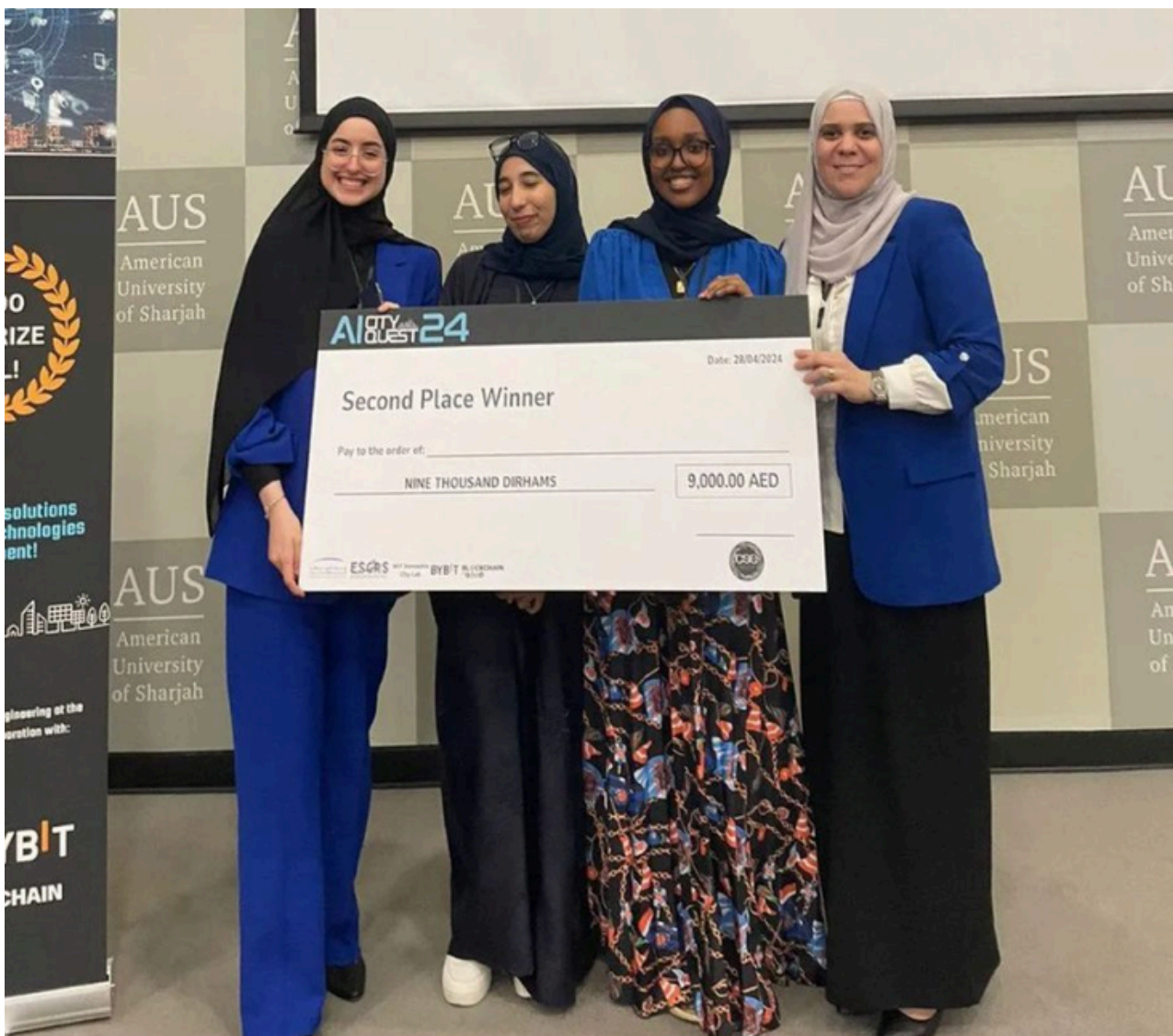


Competition- BlockChain

Students from the College of Computing and Informatics at the University of Sharjah showcased their innovation prowess by securing second place in the blockchain competition of the AI-City Quest held at the American University of Sharjah. The event, sponsored by CryptoOasis and co-hosted by prominent organizations including MBRSC and MIT Senseable City Lab, attracted 53 students from 13 UAE universities forming 20 competitive teams.

The winning team, named "Blossoms," distinguished themselves by creatively integrating blockchain technology into municipal services. Their solution aimed at enhancing the efficiency and transparency of urban systems, aligning with the vision of smart city development. The team, consisting of Meriem Aoudia, Majda Abdulkadir, and Joud Gamal from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Sharjah, demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication in their innovative approach.

Dr. Imran Zualkernan, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at AUS, emphasized the significance of such competitions in nurturing future innovators and advancing smart city technologies in the UAE. The achievement reflects the commitment of students and educators towards driving technological innovation for sustainable urban development.



Freshmen Orientation – Fall 2023/2024

As customary with the new academic season, the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) organized an orientation for the new CCI students. Chaired by Prof. Abbas Amira, the Dean of CCI, and attended by Vice Dean, Assistant Dean, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and our newly registered students, the event explored different essential areas of interest for the freshmen.



During his welcoming remarks, the Dean provided a brief overview of the College, support provided by faculty and staff, and shared tips to new students to ensure a successful academic journey.



The Heads of the departments also presented an overview of the undergraduate and graduate programs offered across the three departments.



GITEX Visit 2023

One of the area's top technology events, GITEX, was the destination of an insightful field trip arranged by the Information Systems Student Club on October 17, 2023. The program was a huge success, attracting the interest of twenty enthusiastic college students. Throughout the journey, the group—comprised of 15 females and 5 males—exhibited a contagious eagerness and enthusiasm.



Their main objective was to learn firsthand the most recent technical developments related to AI-based tools and ERP software systems. Seeing developments from leading global technology companies added more value to the event. They browsed through several areas, each devoted to a distinct technical innovation, ensuring they had a thorough grasp of the state of technology today and attending succinct but thought-provoking presentations hosted by big industry players like Microsoft, Google, and Oracle. In addition, the students explored in-depth the products and services offered by firms such as MicroStrategy and E-Promise.

Additionally, top telecom provider Etisalat gave them a sneak peek into the future. The field trip broadened the students' perspectives and gave them a deep respect for the direction and speed of technological advancement. These encounters highlight the Information Systems Student Club's dedication to offering its members opportunities to combine education with practical experience.



Seminar: Meet a Kaggle Grandmaster: A Data Science Event

UoS ACM Chapter Hosts Exclusive Seminar with Kaggle Grandmaster, Ravi Ramakrishnan, Sharjah, UAE - The UoS ACM Chapter, affiliated with the College of Computing and Informatics, recently organized a prestigious seminar featuring Kaggle Grandmaster Ravi Ramakrishnan, who currently serves as the Manager of Credit Risk at ENBD UAE. Ravi Ramakrishnan boasts an impressive track record in the Kaggle community. He holds the esteemed title of two-time Kaggle Grandmaster and is currently ranked as the World #1 in Discussions. he has earned the #1 spot in Kaggle Discussions and ranks #6 in Kernels Tiers globally. And he is hailed as the first individual from the UAE to achieve the Discussion Summit milestone.



CCI Students attended World Police Summit 2024

Recently, students from the College of Computing and Informatics participated in the Dubai Summit hosted by the Dubai Police under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The Global Police Summit 2024 provided a unique platform for police and law enforcement agencies to explore advanced dynamics in national security and public safety. By reevaluating crime-solving methodologies amidst evolving threats, the summit aims to facilitate strategic dialogue, enhance cooperation, and encourage the adoption of innovative solutions to prevent future crimes. This highlights students' interest in beneficial ideas for innovation.



NVIDIA Event 2023

The College of Computing and Informatics hosted an event organized by the Google Developer Students Club mentored by Dr. Manar Abu Talib, orchestrated to embark the attendees on a thrilling journey through the captivating world of Nvidia, where artificial intelligence seamlessly met creativity and innovation.

The esteemed attendees, including the venerable Prof. Abbas Amira, the Dean, and Prof. Saad Harous, the Chair of Computer Science, gathered alongside the eager CCI students and faculty. Among the external invitees was Wei Xias, from Nvidia's Developer Relations Team.

The event kicked off with a warm welcome from Prof. Abbas Amira. With his words, he set the stage for the attendees to embark on a fascinating journey, promising a day of exploration and learning within Nvidia's cutting-edge universe.

The day began with a riveting presentation by Wei Xias, who shared insights into Nvidia's rich history. With vivid storytelling, attendees traveled back in time, witnessing the humble beginnings of the tech giant and the audacious dreams that fueled its growth. Prof. Abbas Amira, the Dean, applauded Nvidia's resilience.



As the event drew to a close, Prof. Saad expressed his gratitude to the organizers, speakers, and attendees, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in nurturing the next generation of innovators.

The attendees left the event with hearts brimming with inspiration and minds buzzing with possibilities. The knowledge gained, and connections forged during this captivating journey through Nvidia's innovation would undoubtedly leave a lasting impact, shaping the future of AI, creativity, and innovation at CCI and beyond.

IEEE Opening Ceremony

The IEEE Computer Society Club hosted the Opening Ceremony for the academic year 2023-2024. The event was organized on 31st October 2023 at 2:00 PM at M9-Albayrouni Hall. The Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI), Prof. Abbas Amira, graced the event as the chief guest.

Prof. Ali ElMoursy joined the event as the Chairman of Computer Engineering Department. The current job landscape and need for joining the student club was highly emphasized by Dr. Bassel Soudan. Dr. Saddaf Rubab officially inaugurated the club for the academic year 2023-2024 and highlighted on the further events planned under the flagship of IEEE club.

During this event, last year's club efforts were also presented. Later, the students were entertained by fun and informative activities.



ESAAAL 28 CAMPAIGN EVENT

In efforts to raise awareness about paper receipt waste and encourage attendees to adopt digital receipts and expense management using the Esaal application, which was coordinated with the ACM student Chapter focusing on sustainability and how computing solutions are effectively showing a positive influence within this direction.

The event was coordinated by the supervising students of the ACM Club and presenters of the campaign (Esaal Solutions) from the solution provider.

The campaign was attended by students and faculty at the College of Computing and Informatics and other guests from different colleges in the university.



APP OLYMPICS - INFORMATIVE SESSION

An informative session was organized about the App Olympiad Competition organized by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, also exploring industry insights with Dubai Chamber of Commerce experts. The session also focuses on the "Create Apps in Dubai" initiative and the App Olympiad Competition "Unleash your potential in app development and your entrepreneurial journey." It is a competition organized by the Dubai Chamber within the framework of the "Apply in Dubai" initiative.

The joint initiative was coordinated by Google Club for Student Developers, the ACM Club, the IEEE Club, and the IS Club. The session was attended by Supervising Faculty, and Mrs Jawaher Barhima - Project Manager, and students at the College of Computing and Informatics.



Tour of the HPC Data Centre

A group of 20 computer science students from the University of Sharjah, along with their department head, Prof. Saad Harous, and academic supervisor, Dr. Ibrahim Abaker Hashem, visited AL HATHBOOR BIKAL.ai company located in Sharjah Research, Technology, and Innovation Park (SRTIP) as part of their internship program.

The purpose was to gain insights into the company's Data Centre, particularly its High-Performance Computing (HPC) facilities. Eng. Ahmed and his team provided an in-depth explanation of HPC technology, demonstrating its applications and resources to the students. The visit successfully enhanced the students' understanding of HPC and its practical implications in the industry.



Workshop by Shunya Ekai Technologies

The Department of Computer Science at the University of Sharjah, in collaboration with Shunya Ekai Technologies Company, organized a workshop titled "From Idea to Product: Prototyping in Technology." This insightful session held on 03/02/2024, was conducted by Mr. Chintan Shunyaekai. Over 50 students participated in this workshop, gaining invaluable insights and practical knowledge to bridge the gap between conceptualization and product development in the realm of technology. The collaborative efforts between academia and industry exemplify the commitment of both entities to produce the next generation of tech innovators and entrepreneurs.





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NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

New Faculty Members

Dr. Kais Belwafi



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Dr. Kais Belwafi is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of Computing and Informatics, University of Sharjah. He specializes in smart communication systems, secure embedded systems design, and satellite technology (CubeSat). He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Paris Seine University and an MSc in Intelligent Communication Systems from the College of Engineering of Sousse, both with the highest honors. With over seven years of academic and research experience, Dr. Kais has taught at Khalifa University, Cergy Pontoise University, and King Saud University. Dr. Kais's research spans embedded systems, radar signal detection, brain-computer interfaces, zero-trust security for embedded systems, signal processing, and machine learning. He has published extensively, with over eight papers in international conferences and 25 articles in prestigious journals.

Dr. Mian Ahmad Jan

Dr. Mian Ahmad Jan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sharjah, UAE. He earned his Ph.D. in Computer Systems from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, and an MSc in Mobile Computing from the University of Bradford, UK. His research has featured in over 3500 articles globally with an h-index of 36. He has supervised numerous PhD and Master's students. His contributions have earned him a place among the World's Top 2% Scientists for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023, a list compiled by Stanford University, United States. Dr. Mian has also served as an editor for prestigious journals and as an invited speaker at international forums. His research domains include Internet of Things and Internet of Vehicles with specialization in secured communication, energy-efficient routing, AI-enabled edge intelligence, and big data analytics, respectively. His research has published in the world leading journals that include but not limited to ACM Computing Surveys, IEEE Internet of Things Journal, IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics, IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems, IEEE Transactions on Green Communications and Networking, Elsevier Information Fusion. He is a senior member of IEEE.



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New Faculty Members

Dr. Bilal Arain



Contact: barain@sharjah.ac.ae

Dr Bilal Arain received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy in 2009. From 2009 to 2021, he served as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and the Queensland University of Technology Brisbane, Australia. During this period, he also worked in the defence, mining and precision agriculture industries in Australia. Before joining the University of Sharjah, he worked as a Senior Robotics Engineer - Perception at the Dubai Future Foundation, Dubai UAE, from 2021 to 2023. Currently, he holds the position of Assistant Professor at the University of Sharjah, UAE. His research focuses on addressing practical problems in robotics, with a specific emphasis on visual robot perception, unmanned System navigation, and control systems.

Dr. Bouziane Brik

Dr. Bouziane Brik is a distinguished computer scientist with a stellar academic background. They earned their Engineer degree, ranking first, in computer science from Laghouat University, Algeria, followed by an MSc degree in 2013 and a Ph.D. degree in 2017 from the same institution. Currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the Computer Science department of the Computing and Informatics College at the University of Sharjah, UAE, they previously held the position of assistant professor at the DRIVE department of Bourgogne University in France. His professional journey includes impactful roles as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Troyes, CESI School, and Eurecom Research Institute in France. Dr. Bouziane is deeply engaged in cutting-edge research, particularly focusing on the resource management and security challenges of 5G network slicing within H2020 European projects like MonB5G, 5GDrones, InDiD, and 5G-INSIGHT.



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His research interests extend to 5G and Beyond networks, Explainable AI, and machine/deep learning for wireless networks. Dr. Bouziane is an active participant in numerous conference organizing committees and has contributed significantly to various prestigious journals and conference workshops as an organizer and reviewer.

New Faculty Members

Dr. Mehdi Jemmali



Contact: mjemmali@sharjah.ac.ae

Dr. Mehdi Jemmali received an engineering degree from the National Computer Science School of Tunisia, in 2003, an M.S. degree in mathematics engineering from the Polytechnic School of Tunisia, in 2005, and a Ph .D. degree in computer science from the University of Tunis, in 2011, in collaboration with Lorraine university in France. He is currently an Associate Professor at the College of Computing and Informatics, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. He held a position as an associate professor for 9 years at Majmaah University, in the computer science department in Saudi Arabia. He has also gained valuable experience as an assistant professor at the University of Monastir in Tunisia. He occupied the position of head of the computer science department for 3 years. In addition, He practiced his computer science skills as an engineer and head of service for 6 years in the Ministry of Industry and an international oil company in Tunisia. His research interests include algorithms, scheduling problems, big data, smart cities, operations management, and artificial intelligence. He is attracted by the application of several scheduling techniques to solve and implements real-life hard problems from different domains.

Dr. Osman Abul

Dr. Osman Abul is a faculty member at University of Sharjah, Department of Computer Science. He received the PhD degree in Computer Engineering from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara-Turkey. Prior to joining University of Sharjah, he served as a faculty member at Computer Science Department of TOBB University in Ankara for 16 years, where he completed three externally funded research projects, on data engineering/data privacy as the principal investigator. His publications appear in renowned data engineering venues, including ICDE, IEEE TKDE, InfSystems, KAIS, DKE. His research interests include bioinformatics, data engineering and data privacy.



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New Faculty Members

Dr. Karam Sallam



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Dr. Karam Sallam is an accomplished computer scientist specializing in computational and artificial intelligence. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of New South Wales, Australia. His academic journey has been marked by excellence, reflected in his numerous honors and awards. Dr. Sallam's career spans prestigious academic positions, including Assistant Professor at the University of Sharjah and former Lecturer at the University of Canberra. He also worked as a Research Associate at the Capability Systems Centre and School of Engineering and Information Technology, University of New South Wales, Australia. He was the winner of the IEEE-CEC2020 and IEEE-CEC2021 Competitions for "Single Objective Bound-Constrained Numerical Optimization." Dr. Sallam's primary research focus areas include computational intelligence and evolutionary algorithms, optimization, machine learning, deep learning, and reinforcement learning, the Internet of Things, cybersecurity, and cloud and fog computing.

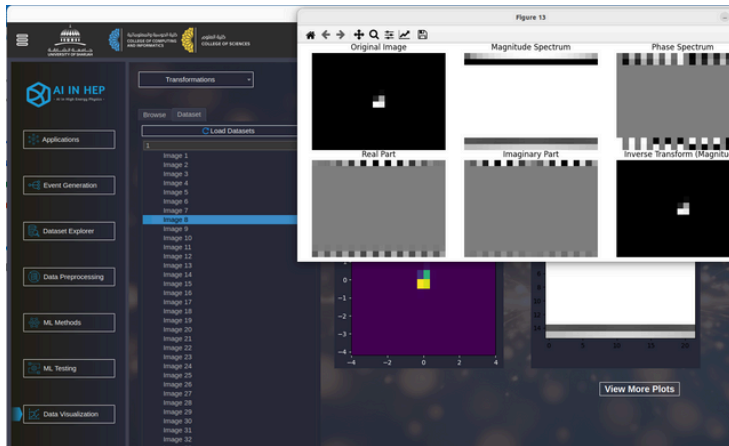


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APPLICATION SPECIALISTS

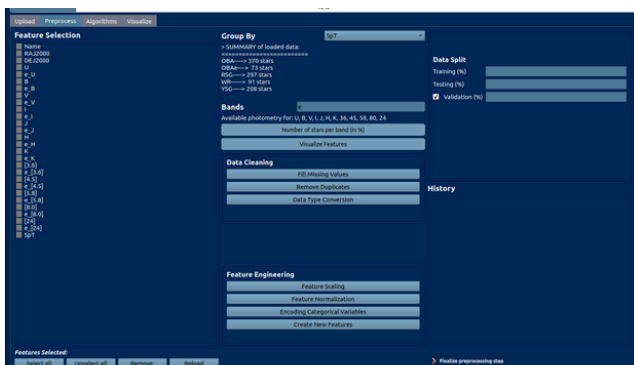
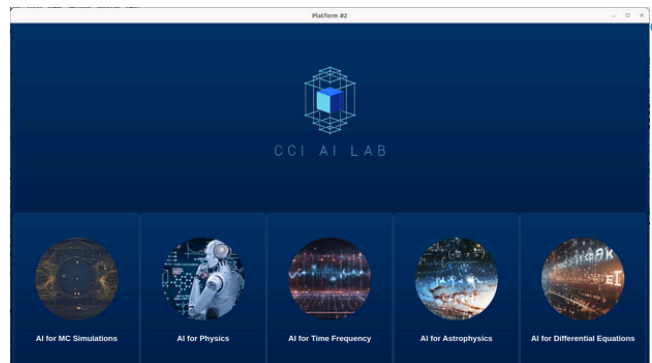
Eng. Dina Hejji

Eng. Dina took the lead on February 19th, 2024, hosting the "AI for Education Workshop - for College of Law" as part of the College of Computing and Informatics' AI for Education workshop series. The workshop provided a comprehensive exploration of generative AI's application to enhance educational practices within the College of Law. The session provided specific examples of integrating generative AI tools into various aspects of legal education. The workshop featured live demonstrations of several law-specific AI tools, enabling participants to gain hands-on experience with the technology.



Eng. Dina also made significant strides in enhancing the AI in HEP (High Energy Physics) Platform, introducing AI in HEP v2.0 incorporating advanced features and refining existing functionalities based on student feedback. This ensures that the platform remains a valuable resource for student experimentation and learning.

Additionally, Eng. Dina led the development of a new educational platform planned to be introduced by CCI. The platform aims to integrate AI into various scientific fields, such as astrophysics and mathematics, promoting interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. The platform will provide students with access to AI tools and resources that enhance their educational experiences.

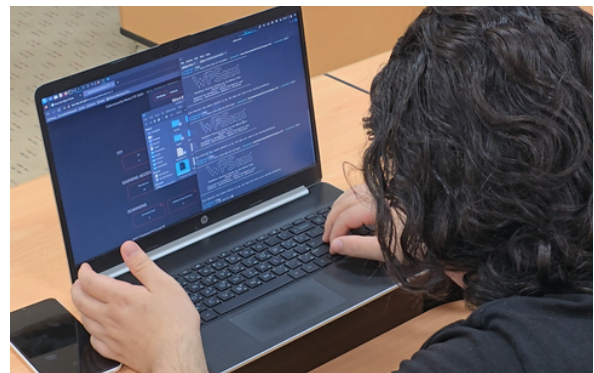


Eng. Omar Gouda



Eng. Omar Gouda has made notable contributions in advancing the students' practical skills in cybersecurity through his workshops and competitions, while also developing applications that benefit the CCI and other colleges and departments within the university. As part of Cybersecurity Week and the SEC 2024 Symposium, Eng. Omar presented the "Cybersecurity Essentials: An Introduction to Ethical Hacking" workshop series.

Starting on April 15, 2024, participants learned foundational Linux commands and established Kali Linux environments. By April 18, they advanced to practical applications, using tools like 'nmap' and 'Metasploit' to simulate attacks on vulnerable web servers. Eng. Omar also designed and hosted a Capture the Flag (CTF) competition, challenging students to hack a vulnerable web server through five stages of ethical hacking. The event, preceded by intensive workshops, saw enthusiastic participation and highlighted students' problem-solving abilities.



Beyond cybersecurity, Eng. Omar led the development of an application in collaboration with the Media Department to automate the graduation picture process. This tool verifies student IDs and ensures they are graduating. It assists the editing team by automatically detecting students' images and linking them to their IDs, minimizing human intervention and making the process faster, more efficient, and less prone to errors. Additionally, Eng. Omar is leading the development of the RIHSS Arabic Research Database with the Research Institute of Humanities & Social Sciences (RIHSS). This innovative system for managing Arabic scholarly publications automates retrieval and includes features like author profiles and departmental analysis, promoting Arabic academic excellence.

The screenshot shows a web application interface with the following elements:

- Logos for the University of Sharjah and the College of Computing and Informatics.
- Text: "Filled IDs: 2/3449" and "Percentage: 0.06%".
- Text: "Searched ID Status: Done" in green.
- Form fields: "Enter ID:" (with value "U19104867"), "Name:" (with value "عمر محمد كمال احمد جوده"), "College:" (with value "الحوسبة والمعلوماتية").
- Form fields for "Picture 1:", "Picture 2:", and "Picture 3:" with "Clear" buttons.
- Buttons: "Choose Excel File", "Update Excel", "Choose Folder to Watch", "Reset", "Choose Destination Folder".

Eng. Mahmoud Madi

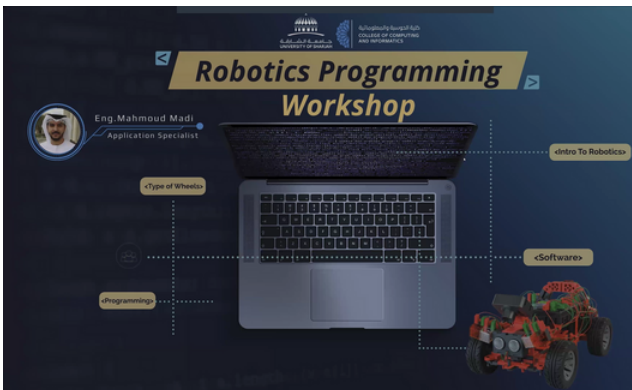
Eng. Mahmoud Madi, an Application Specialist at the College of Computing and Informatics, University of Sharjah, has made remarkable strides in AI and robotics education.

He led the Artificial Intelligence National Competition (AINC) Project, a three-year collaboration between the College and the Ministry of Education. This initiative, aligning with the UAE's AI strategy for 2031, saw 750 students competing in 17 diverse AI and robotics competitions, fostering innovation and creativity.

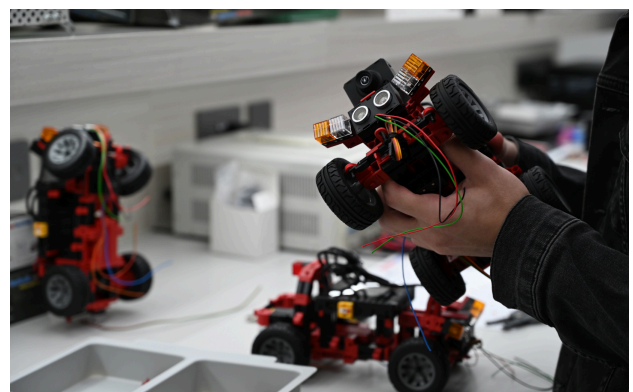
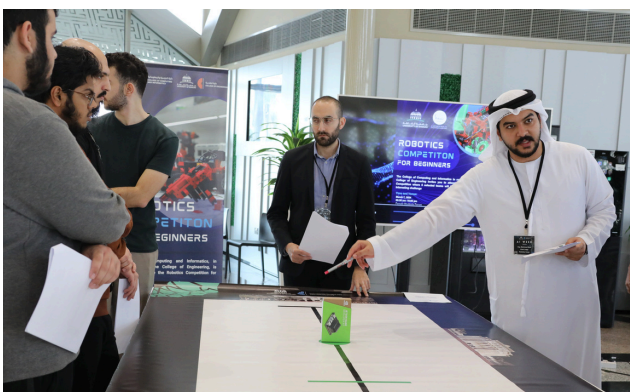


In addition to his leadership in national competitions, Eng. Mahmoud led the establishment of the Robotics Lab at the College of Computing and Informatics. He prepared the lab, selecting and ordering essential equipment and designing a space that facilitates hands-on learning and experimentation in robotics.

He also conducted a series of highly successful workshops on robotics, known as the "Robotics Programming Workshop" sessions. These workshops, initially held virtually, introduced students to fundamental aspects of robotics, including hardware and software integration. Select students later participated in hands-on sessions, programming robots to perform specific tasks



During AI Week, Mahmoud further demonstrated his commitment to student engagement by hosting an exciting robotics competition. Participants were challenged to program autonomous robots to navigate a complex course, demonstrating precision and problem-solving skills. This competition showcased the practical applications of the skills acquired in the workshops and emphasized the students' innovative potential.



UOS AI Community Platform

The CCI proudly announces the launch of the UOS AI Community Website, an innovative platform tailored for university students, faculty, and staff from all colleges. Developed by our three dedicated application specialists, this website aims to become the go-to resource for anyone interested in leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for their academic and professional tasks.

Key Features of the UOS AI Community Website:

Bilingual Platform (Arabic and English): The website offers content in both Arabic and English, ensuring that it is accessible to all students, regardless of their preferred language.

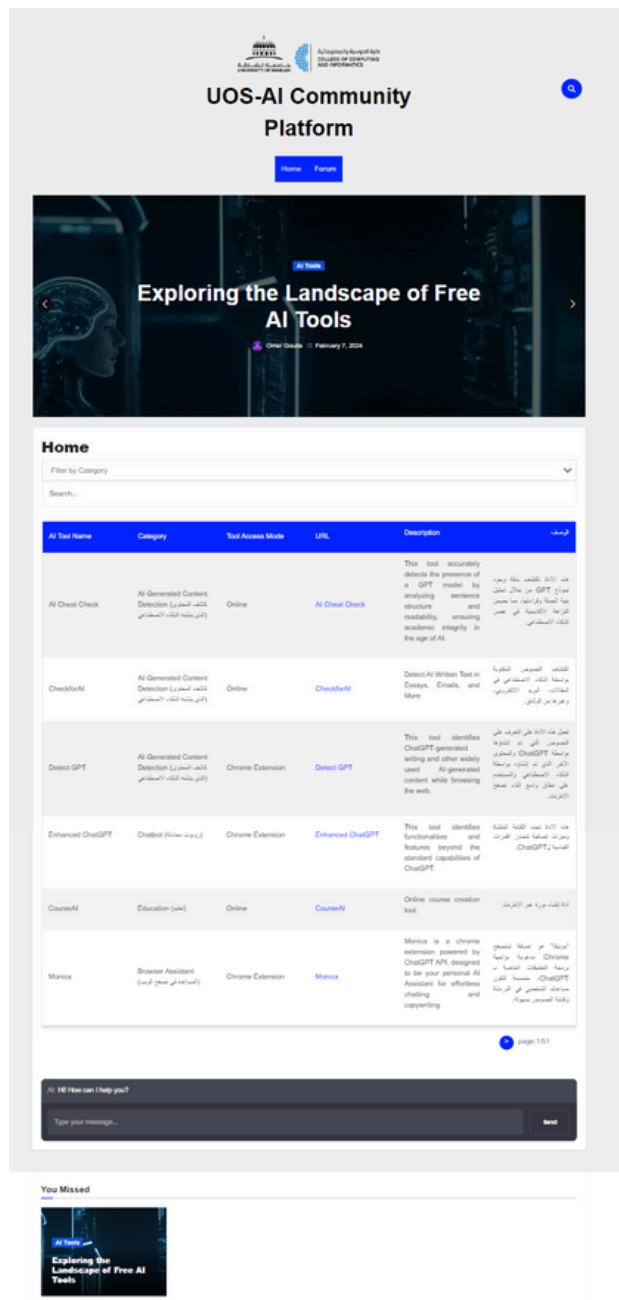
Comprehensive Hub for AI Tools & Resources: The platform provides a vast array of AI tools, resources, and educational materials, making it easier for students to find the perfect tool for any given task.

Collaborative AI Forum: A dedicated forum where students can share ideas, discuss innovations, and collaborate on projects. This feature promotes engagement and knowledge sharing among the university's diverse student body.

Open-Source Chatbot for Assistance: An AI-powered chatbot is available to help students navigate the platform, answer queries, and provide guidance on utilizing AI resources effectively.

The UOS AI Community Website aims to foster a collaborative and innovative environment where students from all disciplines can explore the latest advancements in AI, participate in meaningful discussions, and access a wealth of tailored resources. By offering a bilingual platform, the University of Sharjah is committed to making AI knowledge accessible to all students.

The UOS AI Community Website is now live and available to students of the University of Sharjah. Visit <https://aicommunity.sharjah.ac.ae/> to explore the platform and join the growing community of AI enthusiasts.





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BDCAT/UCC 2024 CONFERENCES

CALL FOR PAPERS

The IEEE/ACM International Conference on Utility and Cloud Computing (UCC 2024)

The IEEE/ACM International Conference on Utility and Cloud Computing (UCC) is a premier annual conference series aiming to provide a platform for researchers from both academia and industry to present new discoveries and high-quality contributions in the broad area of Cloud, Edge and Computing Continuum utility computing and applications. The conference features keynotes, posters, workshops and a student symposium. UCC 2024 will be held in conjunction with the 11th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications and Technologies (BDCAT 2024).

The theme of this year is Self-adaptive and Autonomic Cloud, Edge, and Utility Computing in the Era of Large Language Models (LLM). The theme will explore new synergies between self-* and autonomous management of cloud, edge and their computing utilities and LLM approaches and solutions. We invite novel contributions with excellent balance between sound and rigorous foundational research and experimental results that relate to this year's theme and to the general UCC topics, as below.

UCC 2024 topics of interest include but not limited to:

1. Resource Management for Cloud-Edge Continuum
2. Resource Management and Scalability
3. Autonomic, Adaptive, Self-*, SLAs, Management and Monitoring; Designs and Deployment Models
4. Artificial Intelligence for Cloud-Edge Continuum and Utility Computing
5. Applications, Systems and new Computing Paradigms for Cloud-Edge Continuum

For more details about specific topics of interest and paper submission please visit the conference website:

www.ucc-conference.org

A selection committee chaired by the UCC 2024 conference co-chairs will select and acknowledge the best paper to receive an award during the conference. Authors of highly rated papers from UCC 2024 will be invited to submit an extended version to special issues in ACM Transactions on Autonomous and Adaptive Systems (TAAS).

Important Dates

Time zone: Anywhere in the world!

Paper Submissions Due: 10 August 2024

Acceptance Notification: 7 October 2024

Camera Ready Papers Due: 20 October 2024

Conference inquiries should be sent by e-mail to the conference co-chairs

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CALL FOR PAPERS

IEEE/ACM Int'l Conf. on Big Data Computing, Applications, and Technologies
BDCAT

Recent years have seen significant interest in using Machine Learning and AI techniques for large data analysis, focusing on various phases of data processing. This includes in-memory systems, distributed environments like MapReduce/Hadoop and Spark, stream processing environments like Flink and Kinesis, and Serverless options like OpenWhisk and AWS Lambda. Additionally, there is recognition of the importance of computational systems for processing small data volumes with complex interdependencies and relationships.

The **IEEE/ACM International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications, and Technologies (BDCAT)** is a premier annual conference series aiming to provide a platform for researchers from both academia and industry to present new discoveries in the broad area of big data computing and applications. Previous events were held in London, UK (BDCAT 2014), Limassol, Cyprus (BDCAT 2015), Shanghai, China (BDCAT 2016), Austin, USA (BDCAT 2017), Zurich, Switzerland (BDCAT 2018), Auckland, New Zealand (BDCAT 2019), Leicester, UK (BDCAT 2020), Leicester, UK (BDCAT 2021), Vancouver, USA (BDCAT 2022), and Taormina, Italy (BDCAT 2023). The BDCAT 2024 will be held in conjunction with the 17th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Utility and Cloud Computing (UCC 2024) in Sharjah, UAE.

Authors are invited to submit original, unpublished research manuscripts in all areas of Big Data computing, applications and technologies, as well as on related scaling data analysis.

Topics of interest include (but not limited to):

1. Machine Learning and Data Mining
2. Data Infrastructures and Platforms
3. Scaling Data Applications
4. Scaling Data Visualization

For more details about specific topics of interest and paper submission please visit the conference website:

www.bdcat-conference.org

Important Dates

Time zone: Anywhere in the world!

Paper Submissions Due: 10 August 2024

Acceptance Notification: 7 October 2024

Camera Ready Papers Due: 20 October 2024

Conference inquiries should be sent by e-mail to the conference co-chairs

Antonio Liotta <antonio.liotta@unibz.it>

Sebti Foufou <sfoufou@sharjah.ac.ae>

Awards and Special Issues

A selection committee chaired by the BDCAT 2024 conference co-chairs will select and acknowledge the best paper to receive an award during the conference. Authors of highly rated papers from BDCAT 2024 will be invited to submit an extended version to special issues of prestigious journals.

Doctoral Symposium

17th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Utility and Cloud Computing (UCC 2024) www.ucc-conference.org

11th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications and Technologies (BDCAT 2024) www.bdcat-conference.org

Welcome to the Doctoral Symposium of the 17th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Utility and Cloud Computing (UCC), and 11th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications and Technologies (BDCAT). The Doctoral Symposium is a forum for PhD students to present their work in the early stages of their research. It aims to provide a safe place for PhD students to meet and interact with peers, and more importantly, to receive constructive feedback about their work from experts in the field of cloud computing and/or big data analytics. The Doctoral Symposium for UCC 2024 and BDCAT 2024 are planned during the main conferences, both co-hosted by the University of Sharjah in United Arab Emirates (UAE) in December 16-19, 2024.

We invite submissions from PhD students, at any stage of their doctoral studies, to submit their early works in accordance (in-line) with UCC and BDCAT main tracks. Submissions should be **no longer than three single-spaced double-column pages when using the IEEE conference style template (10-point size font on 8.5x11 inch pages)**. The three pages include all texts, figures, tables, references, etc. related to each submission. The paper template can be found for [BDCAT](#) or [UCC](#). We encourage all submission to follow the subsequent structure:

- Title
- Abstract
- Background and Related Work
- Problem Statement
- Proposed Solution/Method/etc.
- Preliminary Results (if any)
- Future/Planned Work

Manuscripts should be submitted via the
***** Conference Management System: *****

<https://edas.info/newPaper.php?c=32292>

All manuscripts will be reviewed and judged according to their correctness, originality, technical strength, quality of presentation, and quality of results, as well as the interest and relevance to the conference attendees.

Authors of accepted papers can opt to prepare a poster for their paper and show it during the conference as well. A dedicated time and place will also be provided to authors to have a one-to-one chat with an expert in their field to further discuss their work, and get feedback on their progress or future directions.

Important Dates

Time zone: Anywhere in the world!

Submissions Due Date: 10 August 2024

Acceptance Notification: 7 October 2024

Camera-Ready Due Date: 20 October 2024

Doctoral Symposium inquiries should be sent by e-mail to the Doctoral Symposium Co-Chairs

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Georgios Dimitrakopoulos <gdimitra@hua.gr>

UCC/BDCAT Workshops

17th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Utility and Cloud Computing (UCC 2024) www.ucc-conference.org

11th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications and Technologies (BDCAT 2024) www.bdcat-conference.org



16-19 DEC
2024

Sharjah, UAE

Welcome to the Workshops of the 17th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Utility and Cloud Computing (UCC), and the 11th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications and Technologies (BDCAT). These workshops are designed as a platform for participants to engage with cutting-edge research and developments in the fields of cloud computing and big data analytics.

The workshops aim to provide an interactive environment where researchers, practitioners, and students can exchange ideas, present their work, and receive valuable feedback from experts. It is an excellent opportunity to network with peers and enhance your understanding of the latest trends and challenges in these dynamic fields.

The workshops for UCC 2024 and BDCAT 2024 will be held during the main conferences, hosted by the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from December 16-19, 2024.

We invite researchers, practitioners, and students to participate and submit their work in line with the main tracks of UCC and BDCAT.

UCC Workshops

- 2nd [Intelligent Systems and Paradigms for Next Generation Computing Evolution](#) Workshop (INSPIRE)
- [Enhancing Data Security and Defences in the Digital Age](#) Workshop (EDS)
- 3rd [Blockchain for Smart Cyber-Physical Systems](#) Workshop (BlockCPS)
- 6th [Cloud, IoT and Fog Systems and Security](#) Workshop (CIFS)
- 13th [Cloud and Edge Computing, and Applications Management](#) Workshop (CloudAM)
- 4th [Distributed Machine Learning for the Intelligent Computing Continuum](#) Workshop (DML-ICC)
- [Trustworthy And Secure Cloud Services](#) Workshop (TSCS)

BDCAT Workshops

- [Next-Gen Healthcare](#) Workshop (NGH)
- [Artificial Intelligence for Secure Software and Systems](#) Workshop (AI-SSS)
- [Embedded Intelligence: Bridging Big Data and Embedded Systems for Future Technologies](#) Workshop (EI-BBDESFT)
- Advancing Machine Learning Applications for Resilient Collaborative 6G-based IoT Networking through Federated Learning Workshop (AMLA)

Workshop inquiries should be sent by e-mail to the workshops chairs

Josef Spillner <josef.spillner@zhaw.ch>
Lu Liu <l.liu@leicester.ac.uk>

CCI Social Gatherings





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