

FP CHRONICLE

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



We started the 2011-12 academic year with new vigor and hope. It was challenging and exciting to welcome around 1300 students into the FP and to offer them our best attention!

We have chosen the theme of WOMEN for our fifth issue of the FP Chronicle. We were inspired by the three women Nobel Peace Prize winners this year, specially that one of them was an Arab woman. We believe that women in Oman, similar to those in other parts of the world, can contribute more to the wellbeing of their communities.

My message to our female students: "You have a great opportunity to be educated and serve your country. Acknowledge your responsibilities and be engaged by working shoulder to shoulder with your fellow men to bring more prosperity to Oman. Make us proud!"

Annie Lajinian-Magarian
Director of the Foundation Program
Dhofar University



Dear students...we have turned another corner and the semester is over! It was an exciting, fast-paced period. 2011 brought a lot with it and gave the world three women Nobel Peace Prize winners. That has left women everywhere feeling much stronger and successful. The trends are shifting and we can feel it, one can sense the difference in the essence of things. In this Issue you will read all about WOMEN - strong, self- motivated, successful, articulate and ambitious. The right mix to achieve almost anything!

Read on, and enjoy the stories, views and news. If you have something to say, feel free to contact me at: r_husain@du.edu.om

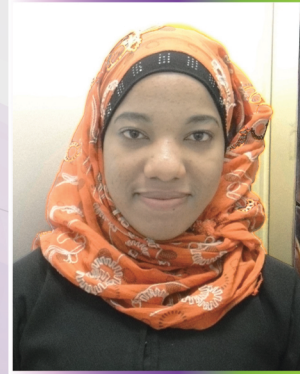
Remember:-

Don't shut yourself up in a bandbox because you are a woman, but understand what is going on, educate yourself to take your part in the world's work, for it all affects you and yours.

~ Louisa May Alcott, Little Women

Rehana Hussain, Chair, FP News & Publications Committee

Women are the architects of society. ~ Harriet Beecher Stowe



In our society women are very important because they are the mans' other half. Without them the society cannot grow. A society without women would be like a bodu without a head.

These days many women are conitnuing to study to improve our country and they are aware of everything around them specially education, jobs and thier future. It is difficult to find the women folk sitting at home. They are getting busy improving thier lives, education and life skills. They are helping in making this country better. People and society will never prosper without their women. A society without women is like the desert without water.

Salama Abdullah Saif Salim Al-Sinawi, Year II, English Language, CAAS

Women have great potential that can be seen in their achievements in thier own lives, benefiting the families and the society.

Sometimes women add the value that cannot be done by men. An example is the Omani Womens Association's chairperson - Noor Al Ghassani.

Her contribution to Omani society is huge. She has helped and contributed a lot. I think, everyone should accept the role women have to play and appreciate the effort put in by the women folk.

Elham Nasib, L3, S2, ELU, FP

EXCEPTIONAL BUSINESS-WOMAN



Assilah Al Harthy is an Omani businesswoman with almost 20 years of experience at the senior corporate executive level. Currently, Ms. Al Harthy is the Founder and CEO of Group 6 LLC, the first private equity firm in Oman. In 2006, she was chosen as one of the top 50 most powerful women in the Arab World by Forbes Magazine.

In October 2008 and 2010, the Oman Economic Review included her in their list of the top 20 most powerful women in business in Oman. As a board representative of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, she played an active role in the "Five Year Planning" process for the Omani government from 2001 to 2005.

Contributed by Veeraiyan, IT, FP

Women and Society

Women are very much important in life .They are playing different roles like that of girl, daughter, mother sister wife etc, They are the basis of the society because they educate the future generation, In Oman women play very important role in building the family/society/nation because they are working in different top positions,

Amani Masoud Mustahil Al Saadouni

L1/S12



The only thing better than education is more education.

- Progress to Freedom (1942) by Agnes E. Benedict, American educator, 1889-1950-

Omani Woman



Since Sultan Qaboos came to power in 1970, Omani society has changed significantly in different fields of life, whether social, political, economic or cultural. But I want to focus on developments in the social aspects and in particular the Omani women who are vital and effective members in the Omani society.

The womans' role becomes complementary to the man's roles.

Before 1970, the role of Omani women was only in being a family woman. So, she was concerned only about her family and raising her children. Also, she had limited interaction with members of her family and her relatives. Therefore, we find the interaction is limited in the Omani society or almost nil.

After 1970, when Sultan Qaboos allowed women to continue with their education and to work next to the men in both governmental and private sectors, it led to the emergence of the present Omani woman. Therefore, her appearance is strong and we find her a student, professor, Director or an Officer, an engineer, doctor, an announcer, Secretary and so on. This emergence led her to the expansion of their interaction in the community that is not limited to dealing and communicating only with women, but merged with all members of the community and became significant in the interaction with the men next to her, to contribute to the progress and development of this society.

Several committees and associations which educate are interested in supporting Omani women and their participation in society. The Sultan dedicated October 17 each year to celebrate Women's Day in Oman. Therefore, I wish every woman who has a mark in any field of the Omani society to maintain the worthiness which the Sultan Qaboos gave her and not stop with only the first achievement. She must complete the journey to serve the people and the citizens to the fullest.

Salima Dhuhai Saleh Al Yahmadi, Year IV, BA, CAAS



Amazing changes

There have been amazing changes in Oman in the last 40 years in many areas. Two of these important changes have been in the field of education and the role of women in society. From my first class in Foundation in 2008, I have been interested in the difference that university education for women has made to their lives and Omani society as a whole. At the moment I am reading a lot about the background to these changes and I am investigating how these changes affect our students. Many students are the first in their family to go to university. Their mothers and fathers did not have the chance when they were younger and often their families are very proud of them.

It can be difficult for students to balance the responsibility of being a student with the many family responsibilities that they have as well. How will this balance between family and study; the balance between university culture and Omani culture, affect the lives of this and future generation? This is what I am interested to learn about.

What's your opinion? Feel free to send me an email at samantha_burns@du.edu.om I would be interested to know what you think about this topic.

Samantha Burns

Champions of Peace

Youngest & First Arab Woman Nobel Laureate

Tawakel Karman was born on 7 February 1979 in Mekhlaf, Ta'izz province, Yemen. She grew up near Taiz, which is the third largest city in Yemen. Karman is a Yemeni journalist, politician and senior member of Al-Islah political party, and human rights activist who heads the group "Women Journalists without Chains," which she co-founded in 2005. She has been called by Yemenis the "Iron Woman" and "Mother of the Revolution." She is a co-recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the first Yemeni and the first Arab and the second Muslim woman to win a Nobel Prize.

She told the Yemen Times in 2010 that

"Women should stop being or feeling that they are part of the problem and become part of the solution. We have been marginalized for a long time, and now is the time for women to stand up and become active without needing to ask for permission or acceptance. This is the only way we will give back to our society and allow for Yemen to reach the great potentials it has".

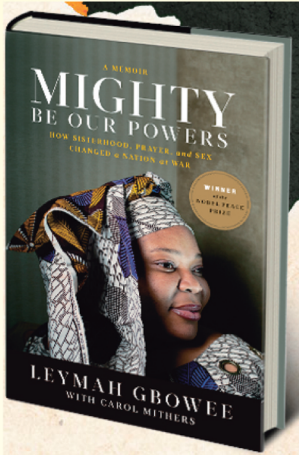
Scripting History: Tears to Triumph

Leymah Roberta Gbowee, a Liberian women's rights and peace activist, is one of the three women who were awarded Nobel Prize for peace 2011. She has been detrimental in organising war ravaged women of Muslim and Christian communities of Liberia to form Liberian Mass Action for Peace. The Nobel Committee for Peace 2011 notes that Leymah, along with other two women, has been awarded the peace prize "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace building work".

In her Nobel lecture Leymah observes that women had become 'the toy of war' for over drugged young militias in any war torn country/region and awakening women's consciousness. The award testifies to the fact that she showed in practice how a united sisterhood, under any horrific circumstances, can turn 'tears to triumph, despair into determination'. The book *Mighty Be Our Powers*, authored by her, chronicles the voyage of stark struggles she encountered in the peace building process.

Scanning through her biography I did feel that she is a woman who withstood all her disadvantaged social / political / geographical background and cultural / ethnic / religious constraints in life with an unflinching willpower and unmatched fortitude.

Compiled by AbdulLatheef, IT Unit, FP



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf: A Voice for Freedom!

She is the President of Liberia, born on 29th October 1938; the motivation for awarding the Nobel Prize to her was her non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for their rights and peace building work.

Her speech during the Nobel Prize ceremony was very moving. She said that her mentors and teachers have guided her to higher education and safeguarded her life. She also says, "My life was forever transformed when I was given the privilege to serve the people of Liberia – taking on the awesome responsibility of rebuilding a nation nearly destroyed by war and plunder. There was no roadmap for post-conflict transformation. But we knew that we could not let our country slip back into the past. We understood that our greatest responsibility was to keep the peace."

She urges all the women of the world to be brave, not be afraid and seek peace. She asks them to find their voices and invites all girls, women, daughters, friends from everywhere to pursue peace.

Compiled by Veeraiyan, IT Unit, FP

YOU MAKE US PROUD!



Today's Omani Woman



In the past there was no importance for the role of the woman in the society. The whole credit was only given to men. The role of woman at that time was to sit at home, to clean, to cook, to take care of her children and husband. In addition to that, she was wrong even to study.

However, after 1970 when his majesty Sultan Qaboos ruled Oman each woman got her rights those she didn't have before. Nowadays, women have a right to participate in any field she wants, because her role has changed. Since the Blessed Revival was began, the woman got a special and intensive care from His Majesty. And from this interest she can prove and show her capabilities and skillful working, to demonstrate that she is trustworthy when His Majesty allowed her to participate in the development and advancement of Oman.

Woman has obtained many achievements and she has got new positions in the society. Now, she has a vital role that is considered as a half of the society. There are many women in Omani society who rank a high position, for example, Khadeejah AlLawati, the first Omani ambassador to Holland and she did many wonderful things such as, establishing an international college of transportation and marine shipment in Sohar.

Another famous Omani woman is Natasha Naseeb who is the chief of the Business Womens' Forum in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Oman. One more great woman is Khamlah Ali Al-Oufiy, a successful business woman and the owner of a marble factory. In addition, she got an award for the best business woman. As an honor, 17/10 is considered as a day of Omani woman and I am proud to be one!

Intidhar Obaid Mubarak AL-Rushaidi, Year IV, BA, CAAS

The role of Omani women

The Omani women play an active and visible role in the society. They have received considerable support and encouragement from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and the government. The government makes no distinction between men and women in terms of their rights and duties. A lot of women now work in different jobs ranging from a minister to a doctor, a teacher etc. Moreover the Omani women have proved that they can work at any posts/ situations including the Army and the Royal Oman Police. His majesty's ardent support for women rights and the trust in their abilities and leadership qualities has helped Omani women make significant efforts to showcase their abilities and skills to the society and nation. It is to be noted that Oman, recognizing the role of women, has termed October 17 as Omani women's day. Within a short period, Omani women have succeeded in proving the trust put in their abilities and the government gives them all opportunities to ensure their place in society and play bigger roles in family and nation-building. It is obvious that Omani women have proved that they can face challenges of any sort like their counterparts.

Yasir Mohamed Said Al-Yafei, Instructor, ELU, FP

Fatima Al-Nabhani: Oman's Tennis Queen

A professional Omani tennis player and member of the Oman Federation Cup team, Fatma Al-Nabhani is an exceptional Omani lady. Born on May 20, 1991 and started tennis at the age of four, she soon climbed the ladder of fame both locally and internationally. Fatma is no stranger to tennis as she has been brought in a family that both loved and practiced tennis. On October 4, 2010, she reached her highest WTA singles ranking of 362 whilst her best doubles ranking was 429 on November 1, 2010. She won many tournaments; the latest was in Al Fujairah, UAE, in March 2010 against her opponent Katerina Avdiyenko and she was a runner up in Waterloo, Canada, in July 2010 against Julia Cohen. In a nutshell, Fatma epitomizes the enormous potential that many Omani women are endowed with.

Maha, L2, Compiled by Faisal, ELU, FP

"I think the key is for women not to set any limits."

— Martina Navratilova

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My Extraordinary Aunt

I spent ten fun-filled days with my aunt Mona Al Shanfari last summer. She recalled her long, patient and tiring ascent to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. She says that being a Dhofari, married woman with children did not stop her from achieving what she had set out to do. Despite the risks, she managed to make it to the top - alone! She also says that she doesn't recognize any differences between men and women. Arab women can break down barriers and overcome difficulties and achieve their dreams. She accepts that men have an important role to play in encouraging women. I am proud that my aunt returned victorious, from her climb to Mt. Kilimanjaro and my ambition is to become like her one day - strong and successful.



Fatma Ahmed Said Al Rawas, L2, ELU, FP



Women in Omani society

The condition of women in our society is great because she is given some prominent places in different areas of life, but I'd like to see things a bit more improved. A few problems of women in Omani society are that her opinions are not always listened to and the capabilities of women are not yet fully trusted in career-field and labor market. I think the education of women in the family is very important because she has to act as a role model for her children and she often takes a key role in meeting children's educational needs at home.

Maryam Abdullah Rajab Al Amri

Role of women in society

Women are very important in society. In the past they used to limit their life to house work like cooking, looking after children. But today they work as teacher, doctor, banker etc and support family in many ways. Men and women are equally important in the society and the roles women play in shaping the life of her children are far greater than those of men.

Said Salim Bakhit AL Awaed & Suhail Ahmed Mubark AL Awaed, L1

Compiled by Merin & Abdul Latheef



Women and society

Women are very much important in life. They are playing different roles like that of a daughter, mother, sister, wife etc. They are the basis of the society because they educate the future generation. In Oman, women play a very important role in building the family/society/nation because they are working in various top positions.

Amani Masoud Mustahil Al Saadouni, L1

The power of women in the Omani society

The Omani woman today is a symbol of achievement. Years ago, she was a cog in the wheel of society, working as a home-maker. Life for the women in the villages was confined to looking after the family, fetching wood and water. But the whole scenario has changed dramatically: for today, the women go to universities to study and work in big companies. She is a manager, a doctor, a teacher and a scientist, and even ministers, all thanks to His Majesty's vision. We have more women taking up jobs in the government departments.

I think giving women their rights and privileges will help achieve not just their personal goals but help the progress of the nation.

Samar Adnan Abdul Razaq L2/ST - Compiled by Suchi

Another prominent woman in Oman is *H.E. Hanina Bint Mughairy Sultan*. She is the second Arab diplomat in the world. She was first appointed as a diplomat in Washington in 1999. She served as a minister and member of the Shura Council in Oman. She holds a bachelor's degree in Trade communications from the Polytechnic Institute, Cairo, and a Masters degree in Economics from the University of New York.

She served as the representative of the Omani Centre for Investment Promotion and Export Development in New York City and then Director General of the Centre for Investment Promotion. She worked as an Advisor to the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and an assistant to the economic advisor of the Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Successful women like her are an inspiration and strength to keep moving ahead and keeping our spirits high!

Mulouk Abdullah, L2 - Compiled by Faisal, ELU, FP



Fare thee well!

January, the 8th, 2012 was a special day at the Foundation Program. This day we bid farewell to our Director, Ms. Annie Lajinian, with mixed feelings and fond memories. This occasion also doubled as our end-of-semester luncheon when families get together to spend some time with each other. There was an array of activities, faculty members read poems, expressed their feelings and shared their thoughts. Mementoes were given to Ms. Annie on behalf of the entire staff of FP. Photo sessions, lunch, cutting of the cake were enjoyed by everyone.

You will be missed Ms. Annie and your words will always be remembered. Our warm wishes are always with you!

By Carmel & Maya

Editorial team:

Rehana, Faical, Suchi, Merin, Salman, Carmel, Maya, Veeraiyan and Abdul Latheef