



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY:

Bayan College is home to a wide number of nationalities

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Where is the long awaited promised campus? [page 6](#)



Dream come true for Bayan student [page 7](#)

Snapshot

National Day Celebrations: Celebrations for the 43rd Omani National Day took place at the Bayan College Campus on Monday, December 02, 2013.

The programme began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Nasser Al Hajri, student at Bayan College, followed by a recitation of Welcome Poetry.

Tariq Al Haremi, Head of the Student Council, delivered the opening speech. He said: "This celebration shows our loyalty towards our country and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said."

Students Huda Al Jabri, Kader Al Shoudi and Salim Al Balushi recited prose in praise of the Sultanate. Students from The Higher Colleges of Technology also participated in the event. Bayan College students ended the celebrations by replicating traditional Omani marriages with traditional Omani songs.



Nahid Al Risi



Nahid Al Risi

BAYAN MEDIA SEMINAR: The Department of Media Studies at Bayan College organised a seminar on Monday - February 03, 2014 to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the Middle East generated by New Media and digital age.

The topics presented were Impact of the New Media on Traditional Media, The Impact of Social Media and Social Networking on Education and Social Media and Culture: The Changing Trends in Mass Communication.

Dr Jassim M Jaber, Dean of Bayan College along with Ms Wafa Saleh Al Buraiki and Mr Mundua Samuel, Lecturers at the Department of Media Studies addressed the audience. Dr Fassih Keiso, Head of Department of Media Studies moderated the seminar.

Dr Jassim concentrated on the Impact New Media has on print media, with special focus on the changing traditional newspaper model.

Ms Wafa covered a research on



Manwa Al Mawwaali



Manwa Al Mawwaali

The Rise of Social Media in the Arab World, The Use of Students on Social Media as a tool for Education, Role of Educators in using Social Media.

Mr Mundua Samuel highlighted significant themes such as Cultural Imperialism through Social Media, the growing popularity of Social Media.

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Bayan College enjoys a multi cultural and multi national environment with staff, faculty and students from around 10 nationalities.



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Cover Image: Sumaiyya Khalique/ Sundus Al Ghafri

BAYAN Post

The *Bayan Post* is produced by the Department of Media Studies at Bayan College. Please send in ideas for content and other ways we can improve the publication. email: fatima@bayancollege.net

Student Editor: Melanie Crasta
Coordination, Layout & Design:

Ms Fatima Husain

Editorial Supervision:

Dr Fassih Keiso

Ms Doreen Omony

Mr Samuel Mundua

Ms Antoinette Silveira

Ms Wafa Buraiki

Ms Fatima Husain

Editorial Team:

Qais Parker

Sumaiyya Khalique

Nahid Al Risi

Alaya Al Jardani

Zainab Al Balushi

Intesar Al Darmiki

Maryam Al Zadjali

Hadeer Al Balushi (Guest Writer)

Aisha Al Harthy (Contributor)

Khulood Al Hosni (Contributor)

Sumaiya Al Ghazali (Contributor)

Salwa Al Balushi (Contributor)

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Editor's Note



Good day Bayanites!
Welcome to the Dec 2013 – January 2014 issue of the Bayan Post for the Fall-Spring semester of 2013-2014.

The year passed by so quickly and to think we had just begun. We have sat through many of your contributions and have at last compiled them into the final issue for the year 2013.

Sift through the pages of this issue and know what happened in the past few weeks and months. They include field visits, workshops, outings and many more. Also, for our newer Bayanites, familiarize yourself with the ways of the Bayanites as we have a new building for more student activities....

Also learn about the incredible diversity that exists within the college, among the teachers and the students. How people are different, and yet so same in their thinking and the way they feel. How they are so open to other cultures and their freedom.

College life has been great and seeing it in writing makes it all the better as it leaves a more permanent mark on the pride and joy, of this, a media college. Not to forget the English department; it has conducted so many outings not just for its own students but the media students as well. This includes the Hunger Games movie outing, which was enjoyed by one and all. I had the great privilege of being a part of it and I must say, it was a movie worth watching.

These and other stories run rampant on the pages of this time's issue, guaranteeing a fun filled and active read with never a dull moment. We at the editorial desk have come across so much of your contribution this year to the past issues of the Bayan Post and it has been much appreciated. We finally come to the end of this year and your contributions until the next issue. We hope that you like this issue and hope more that this year has treated you well.

Here's to an awesome next year.
Melanie Marian Crasta

Visit to English daily Oman Observer



Journalism students in a discussion with Editor-in-Chief (Oman Daily Observer & Oman)

Aliya Al Jardani

Senior students undertaking Practicum in Journalism visited Oman Daily Observer on December 2 2013, supervised by Ms Fatima Husain to study opportunities in Journalism as a career.

Students visited many sections including Digital Media, Archives, and Editorial. The group also met Fatima Muneer, Head of Digital Media at Oman Observer.

Fahmi Al Harthi, Editor in Chief, Oman explained the development of Journalism through the ages and the role of Women in Journalism today.

CAMPUS NEWS

Additional building rented



Dr Jassim - Dean, Bayan College, enjoying a light moment at the student's activities centre

Fatima Husain

Bayan College recently acquired a new building adjacent to its existing college premises in order to provide additional and improved services to students.

Besides having spacious offices and classrooms, the third building houses a Students Activities area fitted with modern indoor activities for students to enjoy.

Academic Advising Awareness



L-R: Ms Sara, Ms Anuradha and Mr Jawdat at the meeting

Rejni Jeffrey

The Advising Committee conducted Advising Awareness meetings for Foundation Levels 1 & 2 on 4th December 2013, in Multi-purpose hall, and for Foundation Level 3 on 8th December 2013, in E- 201.

The Committee consisting of Ms. Anu & Ms. Sara Ahmed, focused on the constant denial from many students

that they don't know Advising, and tried to bring as much Advising Awareness as possible.

Ms. Anu, the Advising Committee Coordinator and Mr. Jowdat, HOD Foundation Dept. spoke on importance of Advising and conveyed the importance of maintaining an Advising system in our college.

Students visit Y Magazine



Publication Design Students listen to Ms Penny Fray, Editor - Y Mag

Sumaiyya Khaliq

Bayan College students undertaking Publication design visited Y Magazine at Al Seeb, under the supervision of Ms Antoinette Silveria on Thursday – December 5, 2013.

Ms Penny Fray, Editor at Y, welcomed the group and took them around the various departments including editorial and Public Relations.

As part of a learning activity, students were asked to form a mock editorial team comprising on an editor, news editor, features editor, mute media editor, journalist and photographer. Groups were created to think and plan stories to their areas of interest.

The visit ended with a tour of Al Wesal Radio Channel where students witnessed live radio broadcasting.

Our Students are diverse...

Melanie Marian Crasta

The College that began in 2006 had a very small population of expatriate students; it now has over a 100 foreign students, and this number increases with every intake.

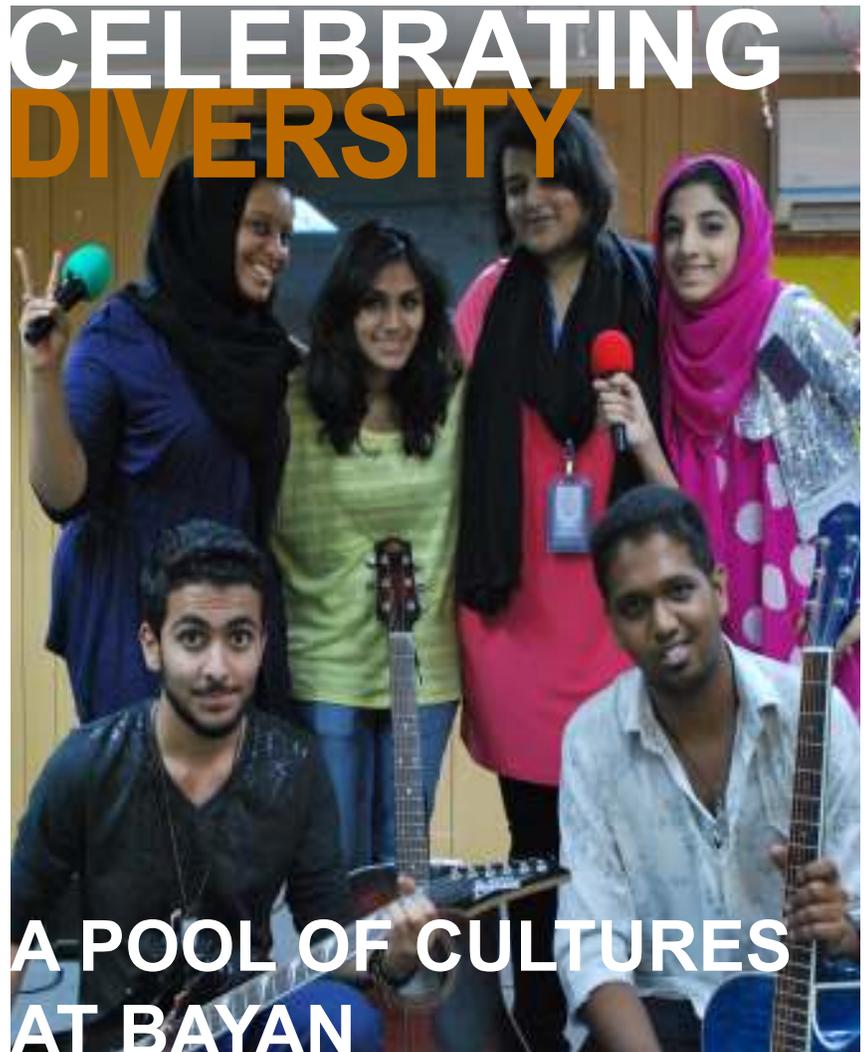
Diversity has opened the minds of the students to other cultures and different kinds of people. Not only has it dispelled existing stereotypes, but it has also made us acknowledge and appreciate the cultures of our peers. Marwa Al Maamari, an Omani student at Bayan stated, "It is so exciting to learn about different cultures. I have Indian and Pakistani friends since I joined the College and it has been a good experience to see something different from the Omani culture I have been born and brought up in."

However, some say that it is a little difficult when it comes to the aspect of communication. On one hand, it is nice that the locals make every effort to converse with expatriates in English. But on the other hand, some find it hard to speak in English and many expatriates don't know Arabic. Nayab Bukhari, a Pakistani student of our college says, "Diversity in the College is great as we are learning about Omani culture; however, it is sometimes difficult to communicate with some students as we do not know their language."

Expatriates from Arabic-speaking nations find it easier, but others are literally at a loss for words. Nonetheless, this is not necessarily a bad thing, as these expatriates are now asking locals to teach them Arabic. Learning the local language provides a new way of discovering Oman's culture and its people.

A bigger development in student diversity would be our very own Student Council, which has begun to show off diversity too. The President, Tarik Al Haremi is half Omani and half Palestinian, The Vice-President, Summiaya Khaliq is from India, and Qais Parker, another Indian, is a Council Officer. This is a good development as the Student Council has now a voice from the expatriate population of the College. Both locals and expatriate students are very pleased with the new Student Council and are looking forward to the fresh new changes and events.

The College is growing rapidly, and gaining recognition and popularity, especially as the first media college in Oman. Students no longer have the need to go abroad for higher studies; all they require is already here in their country of residence. Being an expatriate in a foreign country one has grown up in, makes that



Ghaliya Al Harasi

country more of a home to an expatriate than the country they are originally from. Moreover, being at Bayan means they can receive quality education without having to leave their homes and families, and that makes it all the better.

And so is the Bayan College Staff...

Qais Dilawar Parker

Advancement in science and technology has made our world a global village, where knowledge and relationships do not limit themselves within countries. This is helping to promote brotherhood, love, and education in a way never seen before. Here at Bayan College, teachers have come together from around the world to educate students in Oman in the disciplines of Media and English.

I remember my first day at Bayan: it was a Monday morning, and my first class was with Miss Sahira, an Iraqi lecturer. The next was with Ms. Krishna from

Continued from Page 4

India, followed by Ms. Doreen, from Africa. On my first day itself I had the opportunity to interact with teachers from three different countries and cultures. This intercultural exchange between teacher and student involves both learning from each other.

The lecturers at Bayan College learn a lot about the culture, customs and traditions of their colleagues too. Ms. Antoinette, a Pakistani lecturer in the Media Department said, "I enjoy sharing my experiences with students, while assimilating into the local lifestyle. It's very rewarding."

"It helps us grow as individuals and learn about different ways of life", said Ms. Wadha Al Hinai, an Omani. Being the Librarian at Bayan College gives her the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of students on a daily basis.

"I find it empowering as it helps us understand and accept each other", said Ms. Krishna. "We get to witness different accents, different customs, and strengthen our social relationships," added Ms. Sara Ahmed, another foundation lecturer, who comes from Sudan.

Being a part of a College with little diversity will keep you in close contact with individuals much like yourself and although that is not an issue, it may benefit one to meet individuals with different backgrounds, ethnicities, ideas and beliefs. These things will make you a well rounded person. Out of college, in the real world, you will most likely encounter diverse people. The only difference will be that nobody will hold your hand and help you navigate - something that Bayan will patiently teach you.

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Since I joined Bayan College and it has been a good experience to see something different from the Omani culture I have been born and brought up in.

Marwa Al Mamaari, Student - Bayan College

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UNITED WE STAND (L-R): Dr Fadhil - Media Lecturer of Iraqi origin, Mr Jawdat Balouch - Foundation HoD, a Pakistani - American and Mr Faris Al Hashemi - Foundation Instructor, an Omani national.

New experiences at Bayan...

Hadeer Khusaif Al-Balushi



Students enjoy group discussions after classes

Every individual goes through a million different experiences in a lifetime. Some experiences are memorable, some useful and a few life changing. In the end, all of them teach you a lesson. Having spent a few months at Bayan College, I can now say, without a doubt, that being here will be an experience I will never forget.

I was scared when starting College; afraid and sad that perhaps I will fail in this new life, but the truth is so much more than that fear. My life truly started here at Bayan; the first week in the College opened me up to new things. Everything has gotten better and better since then. I was also frustrated in the beginning, seeing the small population of the students, but I soon realized that this meant the teachers could give each student individual attention when required.

One of my favourite things at Bayan College is the teachers, as they are so friendly and kind. Their method and way of teaching is the best I have ever had; they make sure that you understand everything and spend extra time coaching you if you don't. This is the most important thing to me. They are available all the time and ready to help if you need them.

Although the college building is really small, it's not a big issue for me because it just makes me more comfortable here; it feels like home. More importantly, the college is at a very good strategic location in the city. The majors that the college offers are very much to my liking and useful in today's world. The media industry is growing and a lot of companies need professionals with degrees in Public Relations, Journalism, and Broadcasting. This makes me optimistic about my future.

Undoubtedly, one of the best people in this College is the Dean, Dr. Jassim. He is well loved by the students, not only because he's a very smart person, but also because he truly cares about us. He never fails to ask us how we're doing, and makes sure that we are all comfortably settled in a very good hostel with everything we need. All the new foundation girls, especially me, are grateful for everything he does for us. Recently, the senior students and the teachers put together a fun welcome party for us new students. It was a beautifully done event, and we had a great time. We felt appreciated by the College, students, and teachers.

There are many good things about Bayan College, and the list is ever growing. I want Bayan students to make the most out of this opportunity, and have the best experience possible - This is exactly what I am doing.

New Bayan campus still awaited...

Aliya Al Jardani, Nahid Al Risi & Intesar Al Darmiki

Students at Bayan College eagerly await shifting to the new college campus - construction of which is still due.

Students speak

Sami Awlad Thani, student at Bayan College - Majoring in Public Relations said: "When I stepped into this campus for the first time, I was not very comfortable upon seeing limited resources available for students. The library also has limited resources and there is limited or no foliage on campus to relax.

"I also heard about the new college campus f since the beginning of 2013, but I do not know the reason behind the delay of construction."

Amira Al-Mazruie, another student majoring in Broadcasting said: "When



Proposed College Campus

I first received acceptance at Bayan - I dreamed about it to be exactly what we see in films - a sprawling campus with a huge library, spacious parking, mini marts and an organised cafeteria. I also expected a mini theatre - for Bayan is a media college."

"When I saw the building for the first time, I was surprised, but what encouraged me was the idea of studying at the lush new campus. But it has been two years since I first heard of it and I am still waiting for some news regarding the new premises."

Dean's Word

Dr Jassim M Jaber, Dean of Bayan College said: "The new building will be

a large building fulfilling all the needs of students and staff.

"Students have raised a lot of questions regarding the reasons for delay in construction of the new college building and they have the right to know what has happened."

Dr Jassim said: "The construction was due to begin more than two years ago but after we acquired ownership of the land from the Ministry of Housing, we were asked to share it with other people as well.

"It took us a while to acquire the existing land and getting another piece of land will again take a while. On 21st of December

much of the needful was done but we are awaiting the Municipality's permission to start construction."

"Completion will take about 18 months and the new building have wonderful specifications - including large studios, classrooms and many offices - all designed by certified designers."

When asked about the current college buildings he said: "I am not satisfied with this building because it is meant for housing purposes, not for a college. But we are trying to provide what we can with facilities available to us currently until the new building is ready.

"If we look at private colleges in Oman we find that almost all of them start with modest buildings."

Cafeteria Woes at Bayan College

Somaiya Al Ghazali

Bayan College is one of Oman's most prominent educational institutions.

Students are given every possible service and facility, from convenient classrooms, to multimedia labs. This ensures they perform at their academic best.

However, there is a problem that has been plaguing Bayan students for quite some time. Despite the presence of a cafeteria within the College, many students prefer to buy their lunch elsewhere.

The owner of the cafeteria, Mr. Mohammed Abdulhath said, "We have a wide selection available here: pastries, sandwiches, rice, chicken mishkak, juices, and much more. The pastries are prepared and available very early in the day, but customers have to wait till midday to order the rice and other lunch dishes. In the beginning, we received a lot of criticism about high prices and food being unavailable, but we have done our

best to meet the needs of the students and staff at Bayan College. We hope our profits will increase every year with the growing number of students."

The students, however, had a very different perspective. Al Ghaliya Al Harrasi said, "We do have different options to choose from, but the food is all very oily and therefore unhealthy. Also, prices tend to vary - sometimes we don't get our money's worth. Students often have to look for other options around the college. We hope the management will follow up on these issues."

Sami Awlad Thani is a health-conscious young man who works in the Media industry and also studies at Bayan College. He says he would only visit the cafeteria if he needed water or fruit juice, as the food is very unhealthy.

However, Samar Al Zedjali disagreed with her peers, saying, "I like the food in the cafeteria.

I always eat there during my breaks. The samosas, shawarma and sausages are delicious! The only problem is the lack of space".

Mr. Mohammed Ragheb, the Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Bayan College gave us more details about the current situation. "We have a one year contract with Elsaфра Restaurant that is subject to renewal. We haven't had many complaints, except for a few requests for a more varied menu."



Students pay high prices at the cafeteria

Grab an Opportunity...

Salwa Al Balushi



White House in Washington DC

Opportunity knocks once and there are a lot of opportunities awaiting us as students, but we tend to either procrastinate or overlook them.

I decided to shed the cloak of excuses from my shoulders and be bold enough make the decision to enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Along with several students from Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine, I was selected for the STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTION (SUSI) programme. This programme is for students leaders in "New Media In Journalism", and we studied at Washington State University (WSU) from June 17 to July 23, 2011.

This programme was introduced to us by the American Embassy in Muscat. Like any other day, I was going over the notice board to check out the latest news and updates, and I saw a notice titled "Studying in America". To tell you the truth, I didn't want to apply at first, but my friends encouraged me and I decided to register.

The day I heard that I have been chosen for the SUSI programme, I was incredibly excited yet very nervous at the same time. Thousand of thoughts went through my head, and my expression was one of disbelief for days. I kept asking myself, "Is it real, or am I dreaming?" My family was thrilled when they heard the news and saw it as a great opportunity for me to expand my knowledge. They supported me wholeheartedly and further encouraged to make the most of this opportunity.

When we arrived at our destination, Pullman, we were all worn out and sleepy; I could barely open my eyes. The next day, our group was split up and we were all sent to our host families. To be totally honest, I thought they wouldn't like us since we were "different" and I expected to be treated differently too. Shortly, this thought vanished. My host family, Jeff and Angie, were extremely nice to us and welcomed us with warm hearts. We talked and got to know more about each other; I was amazed that they were so eager to learn about us, our religion, lifestyle, celebrations and many different aspects of our culture.



Alcatraz, San Francisco

After 4 weeks of studying and enjoying fun activities, it was time to say goodbye to our dear Pullman and pack our bags for a new adventure. We visited next, Seattle, the land of Grey's Anatomy, the TV show. It's one of my favourite places, we had lots of fun and each day there was full of excitement.

After Seattle we went to San Francisco, which has breathtaking scenery. We also

visited Alcatraz, which was unforgettable. The first thing you encounter when you enter Alcatraz is the famous saying on the wall: "Break the rules and you go to prison, break the prison rules and you go to Alcatraz." Until today, whenever I read it, it creeps me out because it is not just any prison; it held the most dangerous prisoners. The story behind Alcatraz is horrifying because once upon a time, it was a slaughter house.

The last stop was Washington DC. Visiting the "White House" and seeing it up close was a pleasure. My friends and I spent the last night together; we went out for dinner and had a joyful time. I will never forget that night.

If you ask me if I ever regret being in America, even for a moment, I will say I would have regretted not seizing this opportunity. If I had the chance to do it all over again, I certainly would. I learned to be independent and self-confident through this experience.

I advise every Bayan student to grab opportunities like this, because at the end of the day, it benefits you and your future.

From Bayan to Purdue

Maryam Al Zadjali



Umaima is the first Bayan Student at Purdue

Umaima Salim Al Hosni is the first student from Bayan College who applied for the 2 + 2 Program at Purdue University. An Advertising major, Umaima has moved to the United States and will now graduate from Purdue in Calumet, Indiana.

Umaima reminisces on how it all started for her: "I still remember seeing a flyer for the 2 + 2 Program next to the Dean's office. I was immediately interested and got in touch with Mr. Mohammed Ragheb, so I could get more information. I was ready to apply then and there."

Students are eligible to apply for the program if they have completed two years at Bayan College with a GPA of 2.5 or more. They should also have an IELTS score of at least 6.5. Purdue University offered Umaima some financial aid, which was a sum of 10,000 USD. It doesn't cover the complete tuition cost, which adds up to a little over 30,000 USD a year.

She also said, "I was so excited because my dream had always been to graduate from Purdue University and to study in America." After the smooth acceptance process, Umaima said goodbye to Bayan College and began her journey to Purdue. She joined the Fall Semester in 2013; admittedly not easy since there were a lot of new things to get used to.

I asked her about her experiences during the few weeks, and she responded, "the first weeks were scary because I wasn't familiar with anything. However, the mentors in the international office were very welcoming, and helped students with anything and everything. I also had the constant support and guidance of my family. I kept my main goal in mind at all times: to return to Oman with a Purdue degree in two years. I knew time would fly by very fast, like it always does when good things are happening."

Umaima offered advice to the students of Bayan, saying that they should apply for this program because it's a good opportunity to study in the US. "Time flies by very fast so don't waste it on useless things."

Review: Student Documentaries

The Dark Side

Hassan Ali Al Balushi

Drugs are entering homes that are closed in many other ways and destroying the youth of our times and threatens our community. This documentary also identifies how drugs enter the Sultanate, how they spread and the issues and problems they create. Psychologists involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts share their perspectives as well.



Religion in Oman

Melanie Marian Crasta

Religions in Oman are very diverse and have flourished under the rule of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said. Islam is the state religion of Oman. Christianity and Hinduism also practiced among a large number of expatriates. This documentary illustrates the traditions and celebrations of these three religions through interviews, and a combination of drawings and voiceovers.



A Cross Border Couple

Syeda Nayab

I grew up listening to stories about the Partition from my maternal grandmother - stories of friendship, spirituality, a loving multi-religious community, and of visits to fairs and even cinemas. These would then change into stories of loss, lament and of missing old Hindu, Sikh and Muslim friends. But the fact is that hearts remain connected though their lands may have been divided.

Omani Women & Work

Najia Abdullah Al Saadi

Women have long been fighting for equal rights in every sphere of society. One of the things that women were fighting for is the right to work, as society argues that the role of women is confined to the care of her home and family. This examines the changes in womens' roles in society from past to present. It includes interviews with working women in different industries and also unveils the opinion of the general public.

Photofeature: Trip to Nizwa



Members of the Photography Club at Bayan College visited Nizwa for a photography trip on December 05, 2013 under the supervision of Dr Fassih Keiso, HoD Media Studies.

The objectives of the trip were to familiarise and train members of the group to use the DSLR camera, create a responsible photography group and to cover various topics in photography in a vast area.



They visited several places including Nizwa market for Artisans, Nizwa Fort and Dares Falaj.

Nizwa – the largest city in Ad Dakhiliyah Region is known for traditional art ware, historic mosques, souq and its enormous fort.

Here are a selection of their mesmerising pictures.

Courtesy: Bayan Photography Club

The Hunger Games

Zainab Al Balushi



Students imitating the 3 finger sign

Bayan College students specialising in English Literature visited Al Bahja Cinema to watch Catching Fire, sequel to movie The Hunger Games on Wednesday – November 11, 2013.

The English Club organised the trip which

was part of a film review coursework for students undertaking The American Novel and Introduction to Popular Culture.

The Hunger Games – Catching Fire is part of a popular trilogy written by Suzanne Collins in 2008. After being converted into a blockbuster movie it grossed a total of \$743 million so far at the US Box Office.

The novel showcases the theme of power the upper society has on the lower society and how with great wealth they force them to compete in dangerous games for their own entertainment. It also demonstrates sacrifice and love.