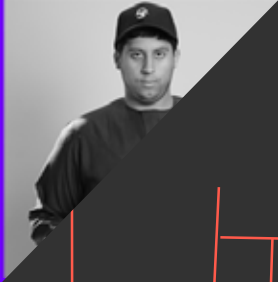
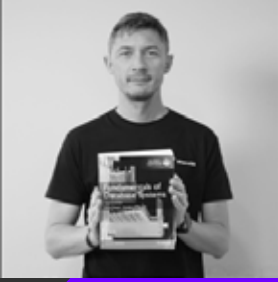
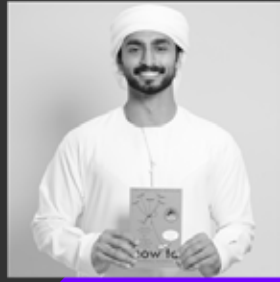


Decade

THE 42 ABU DHABI NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2023

42

أبو ظبي
ABU DHABI



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TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 1// MESSAGE FROM **THE CEO**
- 2// DID YOU **KNOW?**
- 3// **WHAT YOU MISSED** (EVENTS)
- 4// **CODERS SPOTLIGHT** – SHAMMA
- 5// **CODERS SPOTLIGHT** – HUSSAIN
- 6// **A CONVERSATION** WITH
DR. MARK RUSSELL

A Message from Marcos Muller Habig The Power of Patience

As we welcome the holy month of Ramadan, a month of gratitude, blessings, and most importantly patience, I wanted to remind everyone of the power that patience can have on our success in both our personal and professional lives. Many students join our school with zero coding background or knowledge. This can be truly challenging as learning a new skill takes time, and students will be required to start with the fundamentals and work their way up to mastering their coding skills. This is where the power of patience comes into play.

When you are faced with any challenges throughout your journey at 42 Abu Dhabi, I encourage you to remember that coding is like any muscle in your body, it needs to be built over time. Every day, you become more knowledgeable than you were the day before, and slowly you begin to master the art of coding. With dedication, commitment and perseverance, nothing can stand in your way!

We have had a number of success stories from students who have joined the school as complete beginners, and have now become one of our brightest coding stars. My piece of advice to you is: Don't be afraid to ask for help from your peers, and always remind yourself that patience is key to your success. I wish everyone a Ramadan Kareem, and may it bring you and your families peace, joy and prosperity.

A MESSAGE FROM **MARCOS MULLER HABIG**





Reading can reduce stress: Studies have shown that reading for just six minutes can reduce stress levels by as much as 68%.

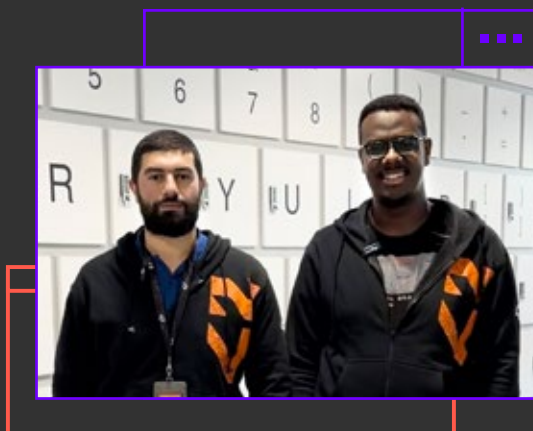
Did you know?

The World's Fastest Reader can finish 25,000 words in ONE minute In celebration of the UAE Reading Month, let's get to know the world's speed reading master! Howard Stephan Berg, widely acclaimed as the World's Fastest Reader, has been recognized in The Guinness Book of World Records.

Campus Pulse: Everything we did at 42 Abu Dhabi

Dubai Police CTF competition

We're excited to announce that our coding stars Ahmed Salem and Ahmed El Fahl were awarded with 5th and 9th place in the Dubai Police CTF competition. Dubai Police hosted a 3-stage CTF (Capture-the-Flag) event for schools, universities, and professionals, powered by CTF.ae. The competition covered a range of cybersecurity categories, including Web exploit, Steganography, Cryptography, reverse engineering, and the newly added category AI under the name FlagGPT. Kudos to our winners!



Healathon Super Coders

We are thrilled to celebrate our coders Nousheen Ali, Ghaiath Abdoush and Ahmed Salem who won the Healathon that was held in honour of World Kidney Day[LH1]. The event was dedicated to advancing healthcare data science with a focus on several major projects including diabetic kidney failure prediction, prediction of cancer for diabetic renal patients, gender inequalities in bladder and renal cancer and machine learning for kidney cancer.



Resolve 2023

42 Abu Dhabi's acting CEO, Marcos Muller Habig, was recently invited to speak at RESOLVE 2023 on the topic of 'Decoding AI & What It Means'. Marcos shared his insights on the history of AI, its opportunities and challenges, its effects on society, the economy, governance, and its prospects in the UAE. We're honoured to have been part of this event which brought together over 2,000 local and global participants, representing the local and international dispute resolution community, as well as leaders from government, industry and academia.





Dr. Alamira Reem Al Hashimi Visits 42 Abu Dhabi

This month we had a very special visit from Dr. Alamira Reem Al Hashimi, a true inspiration to all women and one of the pioneers in her field. Dr. Alamira is an urbanist, architect and historian, and she is the first Emirati woman to be awarded a PhD in urban planning. She is also considered one of the leading researchers on the urban development of the UAE. Dr. Alamira connected with our 42 Abu Students as they discussed the potential of technology and AI in building smart cities.

Celebrating Reading Month

42 Abu Dhabi embraced the UAE Reading Month by partnering with Magroudy Bookstore to offer students with a 30% discount on its books. Students got to take their pick from a range of their favorite book genres, as there was a designated stand on campus where students were able to buy a range of the most popular books.

1st place champions of the Early Childhood Development Hackathon

Our students recently won the first prize in the Early Childhood Development Hackathon. The students were given a challenge to encourage the younger generation to take part in outdoor activities while reducing their screen time, and they came up with a mobile app called Eyalna as their creative solution. The app encourages children to explore the outdoors and engage in natural activities with their peers, parents, and other members of the community. The app provides a wide range of interactive features that help children learn about nature and develop skills through fun and engaging outdoor activities. Our students also integrated a social component that allows parents to connect with each other and organize outdoor activities for their children.

One of the most exciting features of the app is that it reduces screen time by encouraging children to engage with their natural surroundings. 42 Abu Dhabi students recognized that excess screen time can have negative effects on a child's development. Therefore, they designed the app to be a tool that encourages children to put their devices aside and enjoy the world around them.





BEACON RED Hackathon

We were thrilled to organize a large-scale hackathon in collaboration with BEACON RED, which was attended by over 70 Emirati and international students from 42 Abu Dhabi.

The hackathon served as a hands-on activity for students to set up a system to analyze a web shop, discover security vulnerabilities, and understand how attackers try to manipulate their code. During the hackathon, students tackled different challenges and showcased their innovative solutions to earn a number of prizes through the knowledge and experience that they gained during the two-day hackathon.

Congratulations to our winners: Ilia Mazourine who ranked in 1st place, Hussain Awadh in 2nd place and Yonaton Moges in 3rd place. Well done everyone!

Social Media Competition Champ - Mohammad Alshwayyat

Congratulations to Mohammad Alshwayyat for winning our social media competition and ranking in 1st place! Let's see if our newsletter readers can also solve the riddle below: How can $8+8=4$?



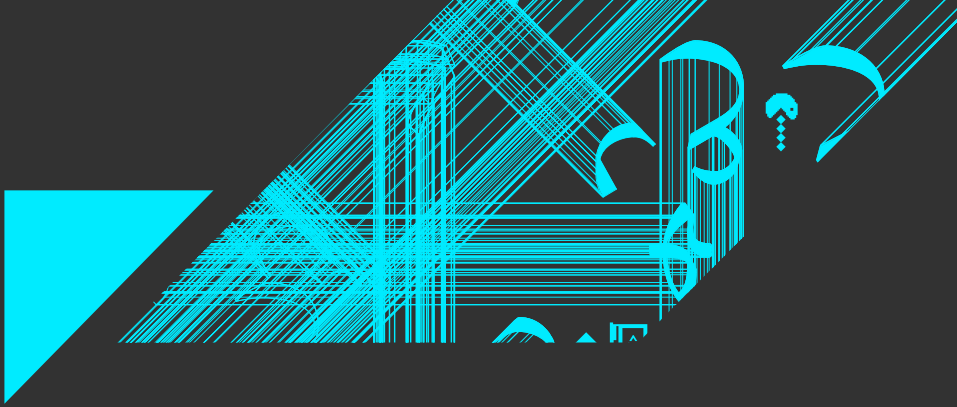


Coders Spotlight – Shamma

Q1. What inspired you to join 42 Abu Dhabi and enter the coding field?

I have always been fascinated by how technology works and constantly curious about how to make it better. Coding can be a very intellectually stimulating field that requires solving complex problems regularly. I enjoy challenging myself and the greatest challenge was learning and obtaining a degree without having to attend any classes! Add to that, 42 Abu Dhabi provides the opportunity to learn a variety of programming languages and build skills in different areas of software development.





Q2. What was the most difficult challenge that you faced when starting your journey in 42 Abu Dhabi and how did you overcome it?

At 42 Abu Dhabi, students come from different backgrounds and may have varying levels of knowledge and skill. To me, it was a bit challenging to learn coding without any background in the field, as I felt that my learning journey was taking me more time than other students. I was able to overcome this by being patient and recognizing that learning coding is a process that takes time and practice. I got to know my peers personally and recognized that I can reach out to them for guidance and assistance as this is part of the learning journey at the school. With persistence, dedication, and hard work, anyone can succeed in a peer-to-peer learning environment.

Q3. What is your message to women who would like to switch careers and become coders?

I want you to know that it is never too late to pursue your dreams and change your career path. If you have a passion for technology and innovation, then a career in coding can be a very rewarding and fulfilling option.

You may feel intimidated by the idea of entering a male-dominated field, but it's important to remember that many successful women in tech are making a difference every day. Don't let anyone tell you that you don't belong in this field simply because of your gender. With hard work, determination, and a passion for learning and tech, you can achieve great things in this field.

Q4. What are your plans after completing your learning journey at 42 Abu Dhabi?

The tech industry is growing rapidly, and there is a high demand for skilled software developers. Pursuing a career in coding can offer the potential for high-paying jobs and career growth. With a strong background in application engineering and the skills I am acquiring at 42 Abu Dhabi, I will be well-positioned to succeed in this field. I also want to use the skills and knowledge gained at 42 Abu Dhabi to launch my tech startup, which will create innovative software products to solve problems and fill gaps in the market.





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Coders Spotlight – Hussain

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Q1. What inspired you to join 42 Abu Dhabi and enter the coding field?

The collaborative peer-to-peer methodology was one of the factors which encouraged me to join 42 Abu Dhabi. Working in a team to overcome the challenge of learning to build working scalable software inspired me to to pursue the software development field. I learned a lot about myself and my abilities, and that even though I joined the school with zero knowledge or experience, I was able to grow and thrive in the field.



Q2. What are the major benefits of the Talent Hub app which you developed alongside your peers?

Transparency, accountability, and a shorter time to hire candidates in the interview screening process.

Q3. How do you plan to utilise AI technologies to further enhance your app?

The possibilities that AI offers are endless. We plan to take advantage of NLP and visual recognition to make a more streamlined experience for all users.

Q4. What was the most difficult challenge which you faced during the development process of your app?

At that point in time, I had no experience or knowledge in web development, so I had to learn a new language and all the concepts involved in building a web application in a very short period of time. Thanks to my team, and the 42 mindset, I was able gain insights about what we needed to consider for building a successful app, ranging from user experience, malicious intent, security, optimisation, and cross-browser and device compatibility.

Q5. What are your future plans after completing your learning journey at 42 Abu Dhabi?

I am planning to continue the mastery curriculum here at 42 Abu Dhabi to specialize in systems, automation and security, and to continue developing innovative software solutions. I also look forward to continue working on the Talent Hub as a start-up company.





A conversation with Dr. Mark Russell, Director of Learning at 42 Abu Dhabi

What do you think is the key factor that enables the peer-to-peer model to succeed?

Without a doubt, placing students firmly at the core of their educational experience is a significant enabler of successful peer learning. And yes, for some students, this can be an uncomfortable positioning.

Just as with some aspects of the world of work, students need to become comfortable being uncomfortable and develop the requisite skills and capabilities to successfully operate within a peer learning environment. To enable student development, we are careful not to interfere too much, but rather we allow (and expect) our students to experience peer learning first hand, reflect on those experiences, and plan for continual improvements.

What makes a great 42 Abu Dhabi student?

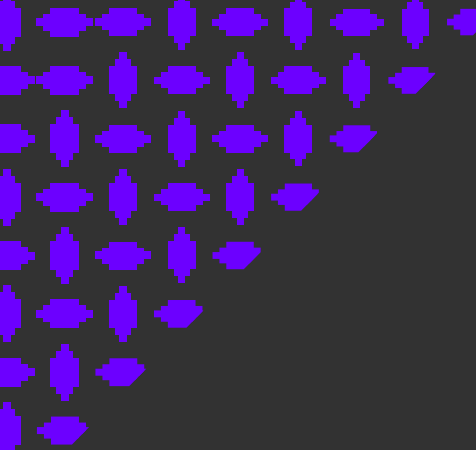
Good students are committed and have great coding skills / technology capabilities. Great students, however, couple these skills with some additional attributes. Three such attributes include:

- a desire to learn from anyone, irrespective of their age, gender or background
- a willingness to learn from failure, often referred to as a Growth Mindset
- emotional intelligence and an ability to communicate and collaborate across cultural boundaries

What are some of the key trends in the education sector?

The term 'paradigm shift' is, in my mind, used a little too frequently. However, the education sector has been rocked to its core by two recent events.





First, the covid-19 pandemic and the global ‘emergency pivot’ to online education must surely have provoked educational institutions to reflect on their used teaching, learning and assessment modalities and see how well those modalities best reflect the vision of education they want to convey.

Second, the rapidly maturing and readily available artificial intelligence (AI) tools must also be provoking educational institutions to look at their positioning – notably in the area of student assessment.

Broadly, I’d imagine some institutions will seek to develop or deploy tools to catch and penalize students’ use of AI tools, other institutions will seek to reframe their assessments with a view to make them less amenable to benefit from AI tools, whereas other institutions will take a more educative approach and discuss with students how such tools could-and-should be used as enablers of learning and as enablers of professional development.

Beyond these two events, the importance of future proofing our careers suggests a need for increasingly more training. Such training allows us to continually hone our capabilities and update our knowledge and skills.

As a response and to support the ‘busy professional’, a growing trend in education and the field of learning and development is to create ‘bite sized’ learning or micro-credentials. Bite sized learning, as its name suggests, can be characterized as being learning activities that are much smaller than conventional programs of study. Micro-credentials are certificated awards of smaller learning units. These micro-credentials can subsequently be combined (stackable) to form a larger award.

What is apparent, both of these events (covid and availability of AI tools) and the prevalence of micro credentials have already started to create a paradigm shift in what education today and tomorrow will look like. Such a paradigm shift will undoubtedly impact policy makers, institutions, teachers and students. In these cases, a paradigm shift is exactly what is happening.

Upcoming Piscine Dates

1st May - 25th May

10th Jul - 3rd Aug

4th Sep - 28th Sep

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42

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