CCE marks 15 years, founders honoured

Caledonian College has carved out new milestones. It was recently ranked as the top engineering college in Asia. It has gone on to establish new collaborations with other institutions.

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MUSCAT: Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE) celebrated its 15th anniversary on Tuesday evening by honouring its founders and introducing new scholarships and awards to lead its students into the future.

In an event that featured the founders’ recollections, the unveiling of portraits of the founders and past deans, and the announcements of new scholarships, many of the staff and students gathered to mark the occasion.

“We deserve to celebrate for many different reasons including the college’s achievements and high standings. We have a right to be proud,” said acting dean, Dr. Ahmed Al Bulushi.

Caledonian College was had just 27 students its first semester and just a couple of classrooms. It now has about 3,000 students, almost 300 staff, and plans to move to a new campus in Airport Heights later this year.

Al Bulushi said it is thanks to the high hopes and expectations of the college’s founders that the Caledonian College has grown to what it is today.

Dream comes true

“It was the belief, vision and dream that shaped the college; a dream that started 15 years ago and we see the reality today,” Al Bulushi said.

Caledonian has also marked new milestones. It was recently ranked the top engineering college in Asia, it established new collaborations with other institutions and it received more funds for research.

Sheik Salem Al Araimi, one of the founders, said the college was established as a way to aid Omani society and its development.

He and the other founders wanted to benefit the Omani people, not just open a private college as a business opportunity.

“Our inspiration was to contribute to the education of the country with a specialisation, engineering,” Al Araimi said.

Deputy dean Nizamuddin Ahmed, who has worked at the college since 1990, said he was proud to attend the 15th anniversary celebration.

He noted that he has witnessed Caledonian College graduates go on to achieve great things, such as being elected to the Majlis A’Shura and becoming the first Omani to visit Antarctica.

Ahmed said he hoped the 6,000 graduates who are expected at Caledonian College over the next 15 years will also make the institution and Sultanate proud.

“Should we not produce a Nobel Laureate one day? And produce graduates who are leaders in society? Inshallah, we will do this,” Ahmed said.

Though the college was celebrating its past 15 years, it also used the occasion to announce four new awards and scholarships which will benefit its students in the future. A memorial scholarship for master’s students and a citizenship award were announced in honour of the late founding member, Mohammed Rashid Al Fannan Al Araimi.

Dr. P. Mohammed Ali, one of the other founders, also announced two awards in his name, one for academic excellence and one for international internships.

Long-serving staff members were also recognised. Staff who had served for over 10 years received certificates and gifts. Associate dean for professional development, Jenny Walker, thanked them for their dedication to the college.

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