



# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

10 APRIL 2016 – Issue 23



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last Week, Dr Assem completed a template for class observations (peer review of teaching) which is a major requirement for accreditation. This is a good practice in all institutions and can help academic staff get a fair assessment of their teaching instead of relying solely on students' feedback. Class observations will be implemented before the end of the semester with the help of the Deans, Vice Deans, Heads of Departments, Prof Hilal, and Prof Zedan. This is not about performance review but rather to get staff prepared for the accreditation panel visit who will attend classes and observe teaching. This will help us improve and get prepared for the visit. I rely on your cooperation as accreditation is by far the most important activity in the University and without it Universities cannot operate in Bahrain.



In addition, last week we hosted the third week of HEA (Higher Education Academy) training to help 20 of our colleagues achieving their fellowships and an additional 5 aiming for senior fellowships. This is a strategic investment in staff development by the University and I am grateful for all the great effort of Prof Zedan.

The University hosted last week another event organised by the British Council titled "UK Speaker Series 2016: Business for Social Change". On Wednesday, 6 April, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and I received a copy of the PhD dissertation of Dr Nada Bin Shams on Good Citizenship.

Congratulations to our ASU Basketball team for winning the Basketball Championship of Bahraini Universities organised by the Bahraini's Basketball Union. We are all extremely proud of our students' great achievement, well done indeed!! Many thanks go to Mr. Mohammed Najjar for his faultless work, and supervision. Also, many thanks and appreciations go to our Graduate Mr. Abdulla Jaber for his great work in coaching our winning ASU Basketball team.

The preparation for the graduation ceremony is underway, could you please pencil the evening of 23 May in your diary. This is an important activity and all academic and administrative staff are expected to attend and celebrate our students' achievements. Next week, I will be attending in Alain the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association of Arab Universities from 9 - 11 April. In my absence Dr Assem will be Acting President.

What's New?





## ASU BASKETBALL TEAM WON THE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OF BAHRAINI UNIVERSITIES

Congratulations to our ASU Basketball team for winning the BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP of Bahraini Universities which was organised by the Bahraini's Basketball Association on Saturday 9 April 2016 and held in the association court in Um Al Hassan. Five universities represented in twelve teams including two teams from ASU (ASU A and ASU B) participated in this event.



We are all extremely proud of our students' superb triumph. Many thanks to everyone involved in this great achievement, especially Mr Mohammed Najjar for his faultless work and distinguished supervision.

Many thanks and appreciations to our Graduate Mr Abdulla Jaber for his hard work in coaching both teams. The preparation for the championship has paid off, since ASU A team won all games throughout the championship till reaching the outstanding final win that made us all proud.



Congratulations to ASU, Well done indeed! 1-2-3 Viva ASU.





## FIRE EVACUATION DRILL

On Thursday, 7 April 2016, the Directorate of Administration and Finance carried out a fire evacuation drill in the university campus in order to familiarize staff and students with evacuation procedures, fire alarm and routes. Its purpose was to increase awareness among employees and students in the campus of how to exit the building in the quickest, easiest and safest way possible if a fire, smoke or other emergency did occur.

The fire alarm was set at 11:18am. The emergency doors were kept open to facilitate the evacuation process to run efficiently. At 11:24am, the building was fully evacuated. All personnel successfully reported to the fire assembly point located at the students' car park area.



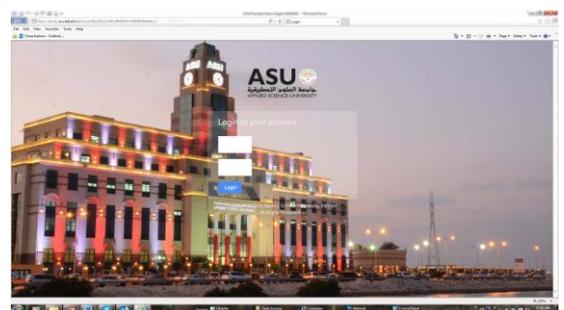
The fire evacuation drill was completed at 11:38am which took around six minutes to completely evacuate the buildings. All personnel returned to the buildings as soon as the drill is over to resume normal working activities.

May God bless the University and keep our community safe.

## EMPLOYEE PORTAL

We are pleased to let you know that the employee portal has now been activated within the new HR system (oracle) instead of the old system (Digital Campus) via link <http://survey.asu.edu.bh/pls/asuit/f?p=151>.

The features include allowing employees to access their personal data, banking information, benefits and visa expiry. It also allows them to view their annual leave balance and pay slips, etc...



Please note that the username and password for faculty members are similar to the Grade Entry of Admissions and Registration system. As for Admin staff, kindly contact Mr. Bilal Enab for your password.

## EARLY REGISTRATION

The Deanship of Admission and Registration has carried out recently an early registration task that resulted into a great success. Within three days, 1808 students successfully registered. This great achievement is the result of the hard work and dedication of all members in the Deanship. This early registration aimed to achieve a better planning schedule and support information for decision-making; in addition this will allow enough time to solve any students' eventual issues.



## THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO ASU

On 30 March 2016, and on behalf of ASU President, Prof. Ghassan Aouad, the Acting VP for Academic Affairs & Development, Dr. Assem Al-Hajj welcomed to ASU HE William V. Roebuck, the United States Ambassador in Bahrain. The Ambassador's visit was part of the event "The Impact of IT & Social Media Programme" hosted by



the university and organised by Ms. Huda Sangoor, CEO of Venus Interiors International, in collaboration with the US Embassy and ASU Community Engagement Office.



The Ambassador welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation to ASU for hosting the event and showed great admiration of the venue. Before the ambassador's departure, he was given a mini tour of the administration building and was presented with ASU souvenir by Dr. Assem.

## UK HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY VISIT

The HEA Senior trainer, Dr. Adrian Brockett, visited the University on 3 – 7 April (incl.) for his last training week. It was extremely useful and informative. The first four days focused on fellowship applicants where he delivered training on: Fellows of HEA Code of Practice, Plagiarism, Action Research.



In addition to individual tutorial session to every applicant discussing details of their fellowship applications, the last day was dedicated to senior fellowship candidates where they received individual tutoring discussing their applications.

## LETTER OF RECOGNITION FROM HEC TO ASU

The Scientific Research Directorate at the Higher Education Council has sent a letter of recognition and appreciation to the University especially to the Director of Admissions and Registration Mr. Siddiq Ahmed Babikir, and to the Head of Administrative Affairs Mr. Ma'an Alnasser, for their cooperation with the Ministry of Education and contribution they made to the success of the project called 'The Database of Higher Education Institutions'.





## **LIBRARY INTERNATIONAL DATABASES WORKSHOP**

ASU library has conducted a workshop for the faculty of law. The workshop aimed to introduce staff to the international databases the library provides and to train them on the different ways of searching and citing information extracted from these databases. ASU library subscribed in both Ebrary and Emerald databases, and also subscribed in the Arado database which is an Arabic database specialized in managerial information.



## **ASU LIBRARY PARTICIPATION IN BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR**

ASU library has participated in the Bahrain International Book Fair started on 24 March till 3 April 2016. ASU publications have been displayed in the book fair and was available for immediate purchase. The objectives of this participation were to introduce the ASU publications to the academic Bahraini community and to market the library as a contributing factor of the ASU research community.



## **TURNITIN LECTURE**



Library Director, Dr. Ammar Jalamneh has organised a Turnitin lecture in Abdullah Nass hall on 5 April 2016. The lecture was given by Technoledge Company on the importance of Turnitin and plagiarism for the university students and staff. The main goal of the lecture was to introduce the audience to the subject of plagiarism in research writing, and the importance of Turnitin database which is considered to be the largest database for academic research. The lecture also discussed how the programme calculations are made and the process of evaluation.

Turnitin is the leading plagiarism and evaluation programme in the market today and it also participates in universities classification through the evaluation of its scientific researches.

## **MR ALAA AL SKEIKH GAVE A SPEECH TO OUR MASTERS STUDENTS**

Prof Saad Darwish, course leader for Entrepreneurship invited Mr Alaa Al Skeikh to give a speech to our Masters students and share his experiences in Entrepreneurship. The speech was very interactive, where the students asked many questions about the future of Entrepreneurship in Bahrain. Mr Al Sheikh is an eminent entrepreneur and his conclusive remarks were very inspiring to our students. He is a Co-Founder and Managing Director of Vanguard Group; a Private Equity and Venture Capital Advisory Boutique. He is also a Co-Founder of Vmotion W.L.L., while a founding team member of Rizon Jet B.S.C., Chocolate & Co. Company W.L.L., Beaucraft W.L.L. and numerous other business ventures. He has advised through C-suite functions and delivered strategic leadership and managerial programs at family businesses, investment holding enterprises and new ventures.





## THE ASDU HELD A WORKSHOP TITLED "IMPROVING YOUR QUESTIONING SKILLS"

On Wednesday, 4 April 2016 the Academic Staff Development Unit (ASDU) held a workshop titled “improving your questioning skills” delivered by Mrs. Yvonne Johnson.

The workshop addressed core values (A2, A3, A5, K2) of the UK Professional Standards Framework. It examined the reasons lecturers question their students and the problems students have when answering their questions, offering strategies to overcome them. Lecturers learnt how to use specific question types for different purposes to accurately test meaning and to encourage language practice.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BRITISH COUNCIL CONDUCTED A ONE DAY EVENT AT ASU

On 4 April 2016, the Community Engagement Office in collaboration with the British Council conducted a one day event at ASU. Top speakers from the UK shared their knowledge with the audience and inspired the next generation of Gulf leaders. They gave models of how key figures in social enterprise addressed social challenges through the vehicle of entrepreneurship, and how we can drive social change as leaders in our communities. Speakers were Safia Minney, People Tree Founder, Zain Miah, Speaker for UnLtd, Tariq Al Olaimy, Social Entrepreneur, Co Founder of 3BL Associates and Sabeeka Al Shamlan, Entrepreneurship Expert, Assistant Manager at Business Advisory Development Services.



## USING TEXT RECONSTRUCTION TASKS TO CONSOLIDATE LEARNING

The Academic Staff Development Unit (ASDU) held a workshop titled “using text reconstruction tasks to consolidate learning” on Thursday 24 March 2016, delivered by Mrs. Yvonne Johnson.

The workshop presented a teaching strategy for revising lesson content which encourages teachers to make their classes more student-centered. This collaborative task encourages language recycling and ends with formative assessment and feedback. It can be used in any subject and repeated using different examples. It applies to standards A2, A3, A5, and K2 on the UK Professional Standards Framework.





## SITE VISIT TO E-GOVERNMENT FOR (BMIS) STUDENTS

Dr Ghossoon AlSadoon, has organised a site visit to the e-Government for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> level in Bachelor Degree in Management Information System (BMIS) students, on Monday 28 March 2016 . The purpose of the site visit was to provide students interaction with the professional environment and bridging practise with theory.



Dr AlSadoon and students met the Assistant Director of Marketing & Public Relations, and Senior Specialist of Strategy & E-Business Process Re-engineering, who conducted a presentation about the strategies used by E-Government and the channels of communication with users.



## NEW STAFF

The Deanship of Admissions & Registration welcome two new staff members, Miss Hala Abu Zyad and Miss Khadeja Natheer as administrators within its team. During their first week at ASU, they completed the induction programme that was conducted at the Deanship. We wish them a great time at ASU and successful career.



Hala Abu Zyad

Khadeja Natheer

## DATE TO REMEMBER

Graduation: 23 May 2016



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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*Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.*

*Albert Einstein*



*Enjoy Reading*

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