

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

5 NOVEMBER 2017 – VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 1

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 1st issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

Last week, we celebrated the 2nd anniversary of the News Digest under the patronage of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja.



It was a fantastic event full of joy and sense of achievements. The first 2 volumes of the News Digest (104 issues in total) that have been produced so far could be considered as the best archives of the

University's events, activities, functions, and development that took place over the last 2 years. The third volume will be as comprehensive and informative of recent developments in the higher education sector in addition to our own events and news.



On 30 October 2017, a presentation on Enterprise & Entrepreneurship was delivered by Gups Jagpal & Linsey Cole from LSBU during their visit to ASU.



In this issue, I will be addressing the important role of Deans in the University. Deans are responsible for the delivery of top quality education in their colleges and deanships. College Deans play a pivotal role in driving the teaching and learning, research, and community engagement strategies and operations in their colleges. Our bylaws clearly document the roles and responsibilities of College Deans.

It is a universal practice that their roles should include amongst many other things the following leadership and overseeing tasks: strategic planning and providing clear directions and vision, motivation and management of staff, support to our students, staff development, engagement with external stakeholders and key decision makers, raising of University's profile considering that they are academic leaders in their disciplines, ambassadorial activities, assistance in achieving the University's objectives and goals, management of the preparation of course portfolios, auditing of course portfolios, programmes advisory boards, class observations, management of the preparation of exam questions, internal moderation, external moderation, college committee meetings, staff appraisal, annual programme review, periodic program review, timetabling, academic advising, internships, surveys: employers, etc, management of time allocated to academic staff to do research and scholarly activities, attendance sheets, college website is kept up to date, programme handbooks, external examining, advising on relevant books to their colleges, programme reviews, syllabus is up to date, QA issues, budgeting, operational planning, measurement of KPIs, NQF, solid understanding of University bylaws, policies and HEC requirements, informing marketing and PR about activities in their colleges, adherence to procurement rules, research and publications, masters thesis supervision and examining, any requirements relevant to institutional accreditation, any space requirements, orientation of new students, induction of new staff, validation and re-validation of academic programmes, development of new academic programs, facilities and labs, and professional accreditation such as AACSB, ACCA, ABET.

The Deanship of Admissions and Registration is responsible for: admissions of students, timetabling, admissions guide, academic advising, admissions criteria on website, website is kept up to date, operational planning, measurement of KPIs, dealing with Masters applications as they are received, surveys: students retention, progression, etc, daily updates on students admitted and registered, graduation ceremony, help with students recruitments, account managers for major students sponsors, students at risks, and committees meetings.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Catherine Hogan

Position: Acting Head of Governance, Strategic Planning & International Partnerships

1. Tell us about yourself: (Your childhood, academic background)

I was born in London and my family moved to several different places across the UK while I was growing up. My parents are still in the UK, but my sister lives in Spain and my brother lives in Australia. I studied Linguistics & Philosophy at the University of Essex, UK. It was a fascinating programme to follow and I really enjoyed my student days.

My whole career has been devoted to university administration, covering all aspects: governance, committees, strategic planning, recruitment, admissions, registration, examinations, finance, academic appointments/promotions, building management, conferences, publicity... It's amusing to think that as a student I had no idea how much administration went into making the university operate well!

I started my career at City of London Polytechnic, then London Guildhall University and after that I spent fourteen years at the University of Oxford. In 2011 I moved to Bahrain and spent three years at BIBF as Head of Quality Assurance and three years at Ahlia University as President's Assistant for Special Projects.

The Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies is responsible for: creation of research groups, research publications, research expenditure of 3%, research seminars, annual distinguished seminar, research incentives, masters supervision, masters examining, research handbook, graduate studies handbook, help with HEC monthly reports, operational planning, measurement of KPIs, QA issues, plagiarism, University scientific journal, AS-U-RAIN (Applied Science University Research and Innovation Newsletter), QS Arab region ranking, and committees meetings.

The Deanship of Students Affairs is responsible for: students' support, students clubs, alumni, career fair, financial aid, students handbook, student council election, helping with graduation, surveys: students satisfaction, exit, etc, student council events, students counseling, students with special needs, helping with students recruitment, operational planning, measurement of KPIs, help with internships, and committees meetings.

Deans are the backbones of any academic institutions. They should provide the leadership needed to ensure that their colleges and deanships are performing to the highest standards. Quality should be at the heart of all what they do as their reputation and that of the University could be affected if they fail to deliver. At ASU, the Deanship of Admissions and Registration, the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies, and the Deanship of Students Affairs support the college deans in order to ensure the smooth running of their academic and administrative affairs.

In addition, the various units and divisions of the University including HR, finance, quality assurance and accreditation, procurement, governance and strategic planning, and marketing and public affairs provide other support. Vice Deans and Heads of Departments in Colleges and Assistant Deans and Heads of Units in Deanships assist their Deans in undertaking their duties in addition to the overall mentoring and support provided by the 2 Vice Presidents and the senior administration. It is essential to have trust, respect, and team spirit in order to ensure a healthy and productive working environment. I have been fortunate in my career that I performed all sorts of academic roles including that of a dean and the secret ingredients of success are leadership, quality, drive, creativity and innovation, loyalty, trust, team working, pride and strong ownership.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

My ASU role involves coordinating several distinct aspects of ASU's work: the governance and committee structure which ensures we have appropriate oversight of our activities; the strategic and operational planning which enables us to move towards our goals; and the international programmes which are part of our strategy to become a major international university.

It is a challenging and rewarding role and I am looking forward to using my previous experience in the UK and in Bahrain and contributing to ASU's future.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

ASU is a strong university with a good reputation within the region and internationally. It is clear that we have great leadership and have been making significant strides forward since establishment. I am confident that ASU will grow and develop from its excellent foundations to even greater prominence and I am looking forward to working with colleagues to support to ASU's future growth.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I started at ASU in the middle of September 2017, so I am enjoying learning about ASU and about the job itself. I am also enjoying the variety of my role and working with colleagues right across the University.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I enjoy travel, reading, movies, singing and watching football. Also I have always been interested in different languages and am currently learning Arabic.

DEAN OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES IN ASU APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN MATHEMATICAL COMMISSION ON MATHEMATICS EDUCATION IN AFRICA



Professor Mahmoud Abdel-Aty, Dean of Scientific Research and Graduate studies in Applied Science University has been appointed as Chairperson of the African Mathematical Commission on Mathematics Education in Africa. The president of the African Mathematical Union (AMU) and AMU Executive committee, have announced that Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty has been appointed as Chairperson of the AMU Commission on Mathematics Education in Africa. In her letter, she writes, I would like to congratulate you for the trust placed in yourself by the AMU Executive Committee. We are convinced, that your rich experience and your organizational skills would be truly helpful for a revitalization of this commission, and that various events would be organized through Africa under your relevant leadership during your mandate (2017-2021), enabling a good progress of mathematics education in the continent. Let me emphasize that at the International level, the United Nations (United Nations, 2012), recognized Mathematics and Science Education as pillars for economic growth and national development; being the foundations for Science Technology and Innovation (STI), that is increasingly becoming knowledge-based. Mathematics skills, are essential for building modern knowledge, readiness to take initiatives, and ability to solve problems and to innovate products and processes; elements that labor market mobility and regional integration are increasingly demanding! Otherwise, according to PISA and TIMSS results, the African students' achievements are poor till now. This comes through some unsatisfactory educational conditions, but essentially through unqualified mathematics teachers. So the professional development of mathematics teachers should be among the commission objectives.

Short Biography: Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty completed his doctorate in quantum optics at Max-Plank Institute of Quantum Optics, Munch, Germany in 1999. After his analytical study of quantum phenomena in Flensburg University, Germany, 2001-2003, as a post doctorate visitor, he joined the Quantum Information Group in Egypt. He received the D. Sc. (Doctor of Science), in 2007. His current research interests include quantum resources, optical and atomic implementations of quantum information tasks and protocols.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

I would find it hard to pick a favourite, as I enjoy all sorts of food. I prefer savoury dishes, but I really like nuts, honey and dates, so I often joke that I must have moved to the Gulf for the Arabic pastries!

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Apart from all the ASU briefing documents (bylaws, policies, regulations, HEC documents...) I am reading The Captive Queen by Alison Weir, which is a fictionalised account of the life of Eleanor of Aquitaine, who lived in the 1100s and was Duchess of Aquitaine, Queen of France and Queen of England. I am very interested in history and I like novels which are based on actual events.

8. Final words

I'm delighted to have joined ASU and I look forward to meeting all my new colleagues. I am looking forward to being part of ASU's bright future.

He has published more than 197 papers in international refereed journals, 5 book chapters and 2 books. He is the Editor-in-Chief of an International Journal "Applied Mathematics & Information Sciences, USA and Editor of more than 20 International journals. Prof. Abdel-Aty is acting as a president and founder of Natural Sciences Publishing USA. Abdel-Aty's research has been widely recognized and he has received several local and international awards such as Amin Lotfy Award in Mathematics in 2003, the Mathematics State Award for Encouragement in 2003, the Abdel-Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Physicists in 2005, the Third World Academy of Sciences Award in Physics in 2005, Fayza Al-Khorafy award in 2006, the State Award for Excellence in Basic Science in 2009 etc.

In 2014 he was elected as a vice-President of the African Academy of Science, and in 2016 as a member of governor council of Egyptian Mathematical Society and managing editor of its journal. Web: www.abdelaty.com

ASU LIBRARY CONDUCTED WORKSHOP TO ITS STAFF ON PROQUEST

The library at ASU has conducted a workshop for its staff on Tuesday, 31 October 2017. The workshop aimed to introduce staff to ProQuest, an international database the library provides and to train them on the new features and different ways of searching and citing information extracted from these databases.

Mr. Anas Obaid, the representative of ProQuest international database focused in his presentation on the lately added features to the portal and how to administrate users access and how to extract helpful reports. ProQuest is an electronic book database, which covers various fields, and contain around 148000 academic books.



WORKSHOP ON "STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT IN LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS"

Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Executive Director of the Issa Cultural Center, a three-day workshop was held from 24 to 26 October 2017 titled "Strategic Management in Libraries and Information Centers" in cooperation with the Association of Specialized Libraries (Arab Gulf Branch) for employees of libraries and information centers in various governmental and private sectors. The workshop was attended by more than 60 librarians representing the public and private sectors. Dr. Ammar Jalamneh was chosen to be the official presenter for this workshop upon the request of the Issa Cultural Center and the Association of Specialized Libraries. The workshop was free and represents a part of Applied Sciences University's library efforts to serve the Bahraini community. Mr. Ezaldeen Aboualasal and Mrs. Mona Albana also attended the workshop.



DR AHMED AZZAM ELMASRI AWARDED PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP WITH BCS

Dr Ahmed Azzam Elmasri was awarded a professional membership with the British Computer Society (BCS).

The BCS is a professional body and a learned society that represents those working in Computer Science both in the United Kingdom and internationally.



INTERNSHIP

Dr. Adeeb Hamdoon Sulaiman, the internship course coordinator has carried out last week a series of site visits to students enrolled on this course for the first semester 2017/2018, doing internships at Ithmaar Bank, Bahrain Training Institute, Bahrain Petroleum Company, and the Land Surveying and Registration Agency. During the visit Dr Adeeb met with the onsite supervisors, who expressed their satisfaction with the students' performances, and praised the trainees' commitment to work and knowledge in their field of study.



LSBU DELEGATION VISIT TO ASU

On 1 and 2 November 2017 ASU was visited by three members of staff from London South Bank University's International Office: Ms Aissata Edmondson (Senior International Officer for Middle East, Africa & Brazil), Ms Tanya Perez (Partnership Manager) and Ms Zakirah Begum (Partnership Officer). The purpose of the visit was to discuss administrative and organisational matters for the collaborative Engineering programmes (BEng Architectural Design Engineering and BEng Civil & Construction Engineering) which had their first intake of students this academic year.



The LSBU Delegation was welcomed by Professor Waheed Alkhaja, Chairman of ASU's Board of Trustees and Professor Ghassan Aouad, ASU's President. Across the two days the LSBU team met with an ASU team consisting of the Vice President for Academic Affairs & Development (Dr Assem Al Hajj), Head of Governance, Strategic Planning & International Partnerships (Ms Catherine Hogan), Dean of Student Affairs (Dr Faiza Zitouni), Dean of Admissions & Registration (Dr Isa Al Khayat), Dean of Engineering (Dr Ashraf Hendy), Director of the Foundation Year Programmes (Mr Noel Lavin), Head of Department of Civil & Architectural (Dr Islam Abohela), the faculty members of the Department of Civil & Architectural Engineering (Dr Raad Kadhum, Dr Mohamed Mahgoub, Dr Mohammed Assiadi and Mr Yoonusraj Kodakkadan) and the Head of HR (Mr Yasser AbuSeneh).

The LSBU Delegates also met a group of students from the two programmes, to hear their views and gather their feedback.

During the visit, various organisational matters were discussed and agreed regarding programme management and arrangements to align ASU's LSBU programmes with programmes at LSBU. The LSBU delegates also had a tour of the engineering labs; and a demonstration of the SIS record system by Mr Siddiq Babikir. The LSBU team complimented the ASU team on our impressive campus and on the organisation of the programmes, as well as the high standard of quality and academic organisation already in place at ASU in accordance with Bahrain and international quality standards.

Overall, the visit was highly successful and contact will be maintained through the presence at ASU of the LSBU Link Tutor Dr Ashraf Hendy (who is also Dean of the College of Engineering) and Skype discussions and regular future visits by LSBU Partnership Office staff.

DR. AL-HAMAMI ATTENDED "عشانك سيدتي" EVENT

On 29 October 2017, Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-hamami attended "عشانك سيدتي" event that has been organized by Bahrain Deserve Voluntary Team in Bahrain Mobility International Center. The event aimed to spread awareness about breast cancer and included a lecture delivered by Dr. Neven Khadem Al-Masri and free different checkups. At the end of the event, Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami was awarded by Miss Hana Dawasan, President of Bahrain Deserve Voluntary Team for all his support to the event.



Members of Bahrain Mobility International Center and the local community attended the event.

A SEMINAR ENTITLED "THE SPIRIT OF FORGIVENESS IN THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN"

On 24 October 2017, under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Farid bin Yaqoub Al-Muftah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs; ASU organized a seminar entitled "The Spirit of Forgiveness in the Kingdom of Bahrain" with the cooperation of the Community Engagement Office and the participation of the Deanship of Students Affairs in light of His Majesty King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa's article that was published in Washington Times journal in October 2017.

The event was attended by Prof Waheed Alkhaja, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Mohammad Yousif, Vice President for Administrative, Finance, and Community Engagement, and Dr. Assem Al-Hajj, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development; and the Scientific and Cultural Committee in College of Law.



The speakers of the seminar were HE Sheikh Dr. Abdul Latif Al-Mahmoud, Chairman of the National Unity Group, and HE Sheikh Dr. Rashid Al-Hajri, Head of the Sunni Waqf Directorate in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The seminar was managed by Dr. Murad Al-Janabi, Professor of Islamic Studies.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS VISITS / SCHOOL

On 22 October & 5 November, two private schools (Al Naseem & Howar School) have been visited by the Acting Manager of Marketing & Student Recruitment, Abdulhameed Baqi. During the visit a presentation was delivered about ASU existing and hosted programmes (LSBU and CMU) for more than 100 students. The students showed their interest towards the programmes offered and were impressed about the facilities provided by the university.



CONFERENCE ON "SUSTAINABILITY OF ACHIEVEMENTS ON NATIONAL GROUNDS ...TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS"

On 5 November 2017, Applied Science University, represented by Dr Faiza Zitouni (Dean of Student Affairs, Acting Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Development), Dr Islam Abohela (Head of Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering) and students from the same college (Ms Howra Murad and Ms Enass Asbee) attended a Bahraini Women and Engineering Conference on "Sustainability of Achievements on National Grounds: towards International Competitiveness" at Issa Cultural Hall. The conference was under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, the wife of the King of Bahrain and President of the Supreme Council for Women. The conference was well attended and was divided into 3 main sessions following an initial panel of discussion on "Empowering Women Engineers in light of the New Urban Agenda. The first session was on "Women's participation in Engineering", the second session was on "Labor Market Requirements in Light of Emerging Engineering" and the last session was on "The Role of Professional Civil Society Organizations and Networking with International Professional Organizations to expand women's Engineering Potentials".



Our students were inspired by the importance and the impact of women's contribution in Engineering for sustainable future.

ICDL DIGITAL MARKETING / TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP

Ms. Ruqaya Mohsin, Director of Marketing and Public Affairs attended three days' Train the Trainer workshop in Dubai "ICDL Digital Marketing".



The Workshop covered many vital topics about Digital Marketing such as: introducing principles of digital marketing, explaining the importance of web presence, Social media setup & management and online marketing and advertising. The workshop was organized by ICDL Arabia and delivered by Eng. Christian Farioli.

BRITISH COUNCIL DINNER RECEPTION

A dinner reception was held on Tuesday 31 October 2017 at Novotel Al Dana Resort organised by the British Council, titled "Study UK Discover You", where Applied Science University was invited as a partner of London South Bank University. The British Ambassador Mr. Simon Martin delivered an opening presentation and he mentioned the importance of the collaborations in the Educational sector to provide the market with well recognized international qualifications. The dinner was attended by the University President, Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Prof. Saad Darwish, President's Advisor for Special Projects, Dr. Faiza Zitouni, Dean of Student Affairs, Ms. Catherien Hogan, Head of Governance, Strategic planning and International Partnerships and Mr. Abdulhameed Baqi, Acting Manager of Marketing and Student Recruitment Office.

BRITISH COUNCIL EDUCATION FAIR

An Education Fair was held by the British Council Bahrain at University of Bahrain/ Sakhir Campus, where 19 Universities participated from the UK. London South Bank University was one of the participants in the fair and ASU took place in this exhibition as a partner of LSBU to promote its Engineering programmes in Bahrain. The exhibition was attended by the British Ambassador, Mr. Simon Martin, Assistant Secretary General of Evaluation & Accreditation, Dr. Mona Albaloshi and other officials. ASU was represented by Mr. Abdulhameed Baqi, Acting Manager of Marketing and Student Recruitment Office and Ms. Aissata Edmondson from London South Bank University.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

International Conference on Sustainable Futures: 26-27 November, the Grove Hotel, Amwaj Islands

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“A true leader does not derive power from his position, but from his ethics, from people’s love for him, and from his knowledge, education and excellence in his field of work.”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

