



# 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

30 OCTOBER 2016 – Issue 52



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



It is my pleasure to introduce the 52nd edition of the President's News Digest.

52 issues of this weekly newsletter have been produced on time for the last 52 weeks in order to keep all staff, Board of Trustees members, students and alumni abreast of weekly activities and developments happening in the University. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work which has been put into this exciting initiative. Good communication is vital in a modern transformational university, and that's exactly what we do at ASU. We look forward to receiving the issues of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest. All the best for the future and let's all keep ASU a shining star.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 52nd edition of the President's News Digest.

This edition of the President's News Digest is a special one as we celebrate its first anniversary. This weekly newsletter has achieved its purpose by keeping staff, students and other stakeholders informed about the University's activities and events.

I would like to thank Professor Waheeb Akhaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, for his continuous support and all contributors who have helped a dream to become a reality. Special thanks must

go to the editor of the News Digest, Ms Tania Kashou, who has managed to release every issue of the first year on time. Her dedication, hard work and commitment have made the production of this publication a smooth undertaking.



**CONTINUE** ▶



**Last week, we hosted many visitors at the University:**

On 24 October 2016, Ms Christian Syme, Head of UKTI Bahrain visited us and a presentation was delivered by the President to give her an overview of the University and its facilities. In the afternoon of the same day, Don Ward from the UK, Chief Executive of Constructing Excellence UK, visited us to explore opportunities for collaboration.



On 25 October, Dr. Roy Blatchford CBE, Executive Director – Education, Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister visited the University in order to have a better understanding of what we do at ASU. A presentation was delivered by the President in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to brief him about the University and its facilities.

On 26 October, a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Bahrain Businesswomen’s Society (BBS) was signed. The President and Board members of this society attended together with a large number of staff and in the presence of Professor Waheeb Akhaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. After a welcoming speech by the Chairman of the BOT, the President gave an overview of the University, followed by a speech by Ms Feryal Nass, President of BBS and the event was concluded with a presentation by Ms. Monia Mensi of the BBS’s new Strategy which is the first outcome of the collaboration between the two organizations.



On 24 October, the President of the University and the Manager of Marketing and Students Recruitment visited HE Sheikh Hicham Bin AbdulRahman Al-Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate to discuss Manama Week being organised by the governorate. The University is a sponsor of this event and a workshop on entrepreneurship will be held on 31 October addressing entrepreneurial matters.

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies organised the 10th Students' Council Elections for the academic year 2016-2017, on the 26 October 2016. Many congratulations to all students who put their names forward to help the Council and the University. On the evening of that day, the results were announced in a lively and friendly type of atmosphere.

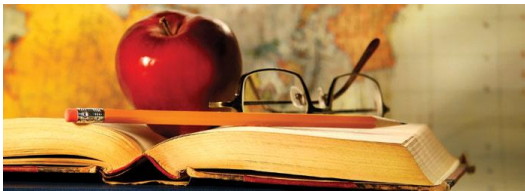


On the Evening of 24 October, the President, together with Dr Faiza Zitouni, Dr Mohammed Alhamami, Ms Ruqaya Mohsin and Ms Edyta Przybyla participated in the United Nations Day Celebration.

On the evening of 26 October, the President and around 10 colleagues participated in the dinner and exhibition of the Alumni Club which was organised under the patronage of HH, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister.



On 27 October, the President, Prof Hussein Zedan and Ms Ruqaya Mohsin visited the Nasser Vocational Training Centre to discuss opportunities for the new Engineering programmes.



I would like to conclude the final edition of the first year of the President's News Digest by reminding our colleagues of the importance of teaching (the most important pillar in our strategic plan) within a student-centered approach in preparation for the accreditation visit.

The accreditation panel will visit many classes and observe the quality of teaching. They will also scrutinize the course specifications and course portfolios including samples of exam questions, model answers and marked scripts. It is therefore vital to make students and teaching our top priority, as it is our moral duty to provide our students with the best educational experience.

The accreditation group is working hard to put all the paperwork and preparation in place, but we need to make sure that the quality of teaching in the classes is maintained. The VP Academic Affairs, his Assistant and Advisor and the Deans will visit classes on a regular basis to observe the quality of teaching. The QAAC will audit all mid-term exams and the course portfolios group is auditing course portfolios on a weekly basis. The BOTs in their next meeting will scrutinize course specifications. In summary, what is needed from our colleagues is simple:

1. Make teaching exciting, relevant and engaging with students
2. Review course specifications to make sure that the students will achieve the learning outcomes
3. Make sure that your course portfolios are up to date and complete
4. Prepare assessment materials including exam questions to match the level you are teaching which will ensure that learning outcomes are achieved because assessment is rigorous and conducted at the right level.
5. Provide feedback to students



## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY



The College of Arts and Sciences represented by Dr. Bilal Zaqaibeh, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, and Dr. Ahmed Hassan El Shaarawy, Acting Head of Design and Arts attended the International Symposium of the Higher Education Academy which was held at the University of Bahrain at the e-Learning Centre on 18 October 2016.





## HIGHER ENGLISH AND ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR ASU STUDENTS



Applied Science University has set itself apart with the introduction of higher English language benchmarks for its students. Over the last year, our language specialists from New Zealand, with the support of the English team, have overhauled the entire ASU English programme. New Foundation courses for ASU's upcoming joint degree programmes with British universities have also been designed to improving students' language and academic skills for university study and future careers. The team have introduced a developmental approach to teaching academic discourse to better enable ASU students to be successful at university. The new methodology is used in American Freshman College Writing programmes and based on years of research (see Reynolds, Dolmage, Bizzell, & Herzberg's Bedford Bibliography, 2011).

ASU English lecturers aim to move from a surface to a deep approach to learning by engaging students and requiring them to tackle higher order thinking problems, while moving from Basic Interpersonal Communication to Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency. The focus in ASU English classes is moving from teacher-directed to student-centered interactive learning, and students are already responding well to this. ASU Director of Foundation and English Delivery Services, Garth Johnson, said, "The 'wow moments,' when our students realize how much they have achieved after successfully applying critical reading and thinking skills to their own research and writing, have been very encouraging."

## LIBRARY INTERNATIONAL DATABASES WORKSHOP FOR MASTER STUDENTS



ASU library has conducted a workshop for the College of law Masters' students on Thursday, 27 October 2016.

The workshop aimed to introduce students 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 is a subscriber to the E-learn Book which is an Arabic database of law and administrative sciences, ACM Digital Library for computer sciences and information technology and other different topics; EBSCO host that covers a variety of academic topics, Ebrary which is a huge database for electronic academic books, Emerald which provide administrative science books and case studies, and Arado database which is an Arabic database specialized in managerial information.

## MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Since June 2016 several workshops and meetings have taken place between Applied Science University (ASU) and Bahrain Businesswomen's Society (BBS) board members, with the contribution of the Supreme Council for Women, Economic Development Board, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and individual experts in the field of women's economic development to build a new strategy of the BBS.





This strategy was presented during the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between ASU and BBS which was held on 26 October 2016.

### **HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA AWARD**

On Monday 17 October 2016, Dr. Moaiad Khder, Acting Head of Computer Science Department represented ASU attending the coordination meeting with the organizing committee of his Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa award for outstanding graduation projects, scheduled to take place in December 2016.



The meeting was held at the University of Bahrain to show the importance of the competition, evaluation criteria and submission date of projects.



ASU and other nine universities are competing to win the first places in his Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa award for outstanding graduation projects, the second version of his award for graduation projects excellence opened to all disciplines of the faculties of Engineering and Information Technology. The participation is an ideal opportunity for all students to demonstrate their scientific innovation.

### **WORKSHOP ON “EVALUATING SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS”**

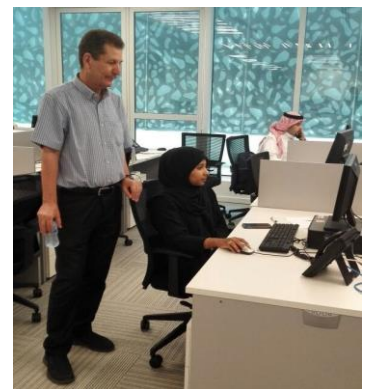
Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Director of Community Engagement Office participated in a workshop entitled” Social Media Clinic: Evaluating Social Media Channels for Governments and Business Organizations”.

The workshop was organised by the Social Media Club Bahrain and delivered by Mr. Ali Sabkar, the President of the Club at the Capital Club on Tuesday 25 October 2016.



### **INTERNSHIP**

On Thursday, 27 October 2016, the Internship Academic Supervisor at the MIS Department, Dr. Adeb Hamdoon Sulaiman organised two site visits for two Intern students to do practical training, one at the Information System Department, Bahrain Foreign Ministry, and the other at the department of Standardization and Specifications, at the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Tourism. The students received positive feedback about their performance during the training.







## EXHIBITIONS IN EGYPT

Dr Ahmed Hassan ElSharawy, Head of Arts & Design Department, and a member of Community Engagement Office participated in two exhibitions: the Attila Cairo Saloon and the White and Black Saloon. The exhibitions took place in Egypt where all trends of the contemporary art were presented.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW STUDENT'S COUNCIL FOR ITS TENTH CYCLE



### The Organisational Structure for Applied Science University Student Council for its Tenth Cycle





## REMINDER OF THE WEEK

### Golden Rules for Great Educators

- Keep your course portfolios up to date
- Keep your curriculum up to date, informed by your research and community engagement activities, recommended reading materials should be updated all the time
- Make your teaching exciting and not boring, practical examples, problems solving, case studies, etc
- Make sure that your course assessment helps the students achieve their learning outcomes, grade your assessment material on time, make sure that answers respond to questions, have an answer model and follow strictly
- Make sure that the learning outcomes are fully met
- Make sure that quality is at the heart of all what you do
- Make sure that you are students centered, students should be at the heart of all what we do
- Post your course materials on Moodle
- Do not reschedule or cancel lectures, students do not like this
- Respond to students' feedback by improving what you do
- Respect your students, because respect given is respect earned. Students do not like it when we approach them arrogantly
- Always work as a team and encourage your team.
- Be loyal and committed to your organization
- Always remember that quality means institution is reaching the top of the mountain, Quality assurance means institution remains on top of the mountain
- Adopt a student centric approach that will create a real interactive platform for both diversified teaching & learning strategies that are capable to achieve our intended learning outcomes.
- Encourage the voluntary work for students to participate in events inside and outside the university.
- Co-operate with students who are members in national teams.
- Support ASU students' council members and co-operate with them.
- Instructors should keep in touch all the time with program leaders to share their opinions and make the educational process developed continuously





- Build common trust between you and your students
- Devote enough time for the student is a must. In this case there will be mutual understanding and deep concern from both sides. As long as the barriers are broken and there is commitment from both sides, the target can be achieved and the fruits of the real interacting will appear crystal clear on the surface.

### A Great Teacher from Dr Roy

- Is passionate about teaching and considers teaching his vocation rather than simply a profession;
- Has incredible knowledge of the subject matter he/she is teaching, keeping himself/herself updated through conferences, fora and other forms of continuing professional development;
- Establishes clear learning objectives for each lesson and endeavors to meet such objectives using varied and appropriate teaching strategies, as well as assessment techniques;
- Is thoroughly familiar with the university's curriculum and other quality standards he/she must uphold, and ensures that his/her teaching meets those standards;
- Sets high expectations of his/ her students and encourages every learner to excel, with consideration of students' varied learning styles and pace;
- Has good classroom management skills that can command desirable student behavior, as well as effective study habits, in a multi-dimensional and dynamic setting;
- Is inspirational, being able to motivate his/her students to become lifelong learners, creating a lasting inspirational impact throughout the personal and professional life of the students.
- Participates in reflective inquiry and is open to new ideas and experiences, works collaboratively with his/her colleagues, thus ensuring the best outcomes for the students;
- Undertakes research and creates research-based knowledge and scholarship emanating from a range of academic disciplines, which can likewise be used to inform the design and structure of curricular programs
- Further serves the society, not only through meaningful community engagement, but also by integrating community service with instruction to enrich the learning experience of students, teach civic responsibility, and thereby strengthen communities.



### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“The celebration... you cannot practice it or anything. It's a moment when the excitement of your goal makes you react to the moment.”*

***Peter Bondra***





Enjoy Reading