PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018

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ASU
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

2018 HAPPY NEW YEAR

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 9th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

I would like to start this issue by wishing you a very Happy New Year. I sincerely hope that 2018 will bring you and your families (staff and students) happiness, success and prosperity. 2018 is an important year for the University as accreditation of our University by the HEC will take place during this year and we have to be well prepared for it.

In this issue, I will be covering the subject of students' motivation, which has been researched over the last thirty years, but it is still a hot topic. Student motivation drives academic performance in universities and schools and it is important to design learning environments that enable students to aspire for success. Motivation is the energy that drives behavior and performance resulting in a very enjoyable learning experience for our students.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs model (1943), which includes: the physiological, safety, love and belongingness, esteem and self-actualization is all about motivation. Higher education is the best place for people to achieve esteem and self-actualization by acquiring relevant knowledge and status. Through self-actualization, students can realize their potential and ultimate abilities.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln lists few tips on students motivation: know your students' names and use their names as often as possible; plan for every class and never try to wing it; pay attention to the strengths and limitations of each of your students and reward their strengths and strengthen their weaknesses; if possible, set your room in a U-shape to encourage interaction among students; vary your instructional strategies: use lectures, demonstrations, discussions, case studies, groups, and more; review the learning objectives with your students and be sure that students know what they are expected to learn, do, know, etc; move around the room as you teach; make your classes relevant and be sure students see how the content relates to them and the world around them; be expressive and smile; put some excitement into your speech and vary your pitch, volume and rate; give lots of examples; encourage students to share their ideas and comments, even if they are incorrect and you'll never know what students don't

understand unless you ask them; maintain eye contact and move toward your students as you interact with them and nod your head to show that you are listening to them; provide opportunities for students to speak to the class; be available before class starts, during break, and after class to visit with students; return assignments and tests to students as soon as reasonably possible and provide constructive feedback; be consistent in your treatment of students; make sure that your exams are current, valid, and reliable; tie your assessment to your course objectives; plan around 15-20 minute cycles as students have difficulty maintaining attention after a longer period of time; involve your students in your teaching and ask for feedback.

It is very important to understand that students come from different backgrounds and varying abilities and they have different learning styles as a result of their social upbringing, schooling and the academic disciplines they are studying for. It is therefore of crucial importance to know your students and how they learn and what they care about. We should be students centered, but this is not enough without demonstrating that we have the knowledge, experience, and style in dealing with our students. We need to motivate them to perform better and we need to praise them when they do well. We should avoid to discourage them or to criticize them when they are not performing well as they cloud be having family, health or personal problems. We need to show empathy and we should treat them as people who are capable of achieving well.

We need to work tirelessly to create a challenging, innovative, nurturing and rewarding environment for our students. In addition, we need to show respect to our students and greet them with warmth, affection and enthusiasm in order to motivate them. Creating a sense of belonging and setting high expectations demonstrated through our love and passion for our profession should be our top priority and this will help us in creating a motivated students community.

It is widely known that students fail mainly because of lack of motivation and problems with their home life. It is our duty as educationalists to provide students with proper counseling and coaching in order to help them overcome their problems and to focus more on their academic achievements. I strongly believe that through motivation and encouragement we can help our students achieve much better. Combining qualities like professionalism, integrity, strong knowledge of the subject, motivation and encouragement, and passion for our profession can help our students in developing similar values and succeed

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:

Name: Moath Hussain

Position: Acting Head of Knowledge Management Department, Information Communication Technology and Knowledge Management

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

I was born in Kuwait and then moved to live in Jordan with my family. I am the middle brother between six brothers. I have always had passion for inventions since I was a little boy. I loved computer and programming even before I even went to University. I proudly designed my first programme 14 years back. I obtained my bachelor degree in software engineering from Isra University in Jordan and following my graduation, I worked in the IT Department in the same University as web developer and administrator on e-learning system (Moodle) for 3 years. I also worked in several companies before I have joined ASU early 2015.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I have been working at ASU for the past 3 years where I have joined in January 2015. I have accomplished major achievements for the University and developed the website, e-learning (Moodle), procurement system, etc.

in their studies and in real life. Opportunities are always within the reach of our students and graduates, we just need to nurture and support them.

NASS HORSE RACING FESTIVAL

The University represented by the President, the Director of Admin and Finance and Dean of Engineering were present at the amazing and enjoyable Nass Horse Racing Festival that took place on 29 December 2017. As always, the University supported this event and this year with 2 races which is an increase on previous years. The Annual Horse Racing event was an opportunity to publicize our University and programmes as sponsors of this event.

Seven rounds were held: : the Late Abdulla Ahmed Nass Cup (the Nass Group), the Nass Corporation Cup, the Sarens Nass Cup, the Blue Dawn Veterinary Cup, the Applied Science University 2 Cups, and the Gulf City Cleaning Cup.

HH Sheikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, HE Mr Sameer Abdulla Nass, Chairman of the Board of Directors of ASU, Mr Fawzi Abdulla Nass, who won two of the cups, and many sheikhs and dignitaries attended this event.

MBA PROGRAMME ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

On 27 December 2017, the MBA Programme held its advisory board meeting for the 1st semester of academic year 2017/2018 on campus. The board discussed topics related to the programme, and members provided recommendations to improve the programme to become one of the leading programmes in the region.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I believe that the University is moving towards an excellent direction under the leadership of Prof. Ghassan, the University President and the academic and administrative staff.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

To complete my tasks before the time limit or deadline. I also enjoy exploring new technology ideas and concepts and exploiting it to serve ASU.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Programming, swimming, kickboxing

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Mansaf, Dwaly (stuffed vine leaves), and sweets

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

The Yii Book: Developing Web Applications Using the Yii PHP Framework

8. Final words

Good luck to our University and all Staff

THE COMUTER SCIENCE PROGRAMME HELD THEIR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

On Wednesday 20 December 2017, the Computer Science Department held its advisory board meeting.

The following attended the meeting: Dr. Belal Zaqaibeh, Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Dr. Moaiad Khder, Head of Department, and Dr. Jamal Sultan, Programme Coordinator, and from industrial companies: Mr. Nizar Ma'roof , Mr. Nawaf AbdulRahman, Mr. Salah bin Jassim and Ms. Maha AlBanki.

Dr. Moaiad and Dr. Jamal presented the new study plan and the changes done to the courses contents since the last advisory meeting, including new improvements in the department.

Mr. Salah bin Jassim explained the types of memberships in Bahrain Information Technology Society (BITS), Mr. Nawaf AbdulRahman explained the types of memberships in Bahrain Internet Society (BITS), Ms Maha AlBanki discussed the support that can be provided by TAMKEEN to students, Mr. Nizar Ma'roof encouraged the Computer Science Department to arrange a visit to e-Government and lastly all of them showed their interest and willing to give a talk or workshop at ASU for Computer Science students.

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT MEETING ABOUT RESEARCH

On Tuesday 19 December 2017, the Computer Science Department had a meeting with the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies.

Dr. Mahmoud Abdelaty, Acting Dean of Research and Graduate Studies discussed with the Computer Science Department the importance of research and the University's support for research funding.

The main topic of the meeting discussed in the meeting was the initiations to start grant research projects, and issue a journal for Computer Science.

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT MEETING

On Sunday, 24 December 2017, the Computer Science (CS) Department had a meeting with the Dr. Adel A. H. Abdulla, Academic Director, Global Institute, Chair, IEEE Bahrain Section, and Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, the Manager of the Community Engagement Office at ASU.

Dr. Adel discussed with the Computer Department staff ways of cooperation between IEEE and ASU in general and CS in particular.

The Computer Science Department represented by Dr. Belal Zaqaibeh and Dr. Moaiad Khder emphasized on the importance of establishing IEEE student chapter and launching it. Dr. Adel welcomed the idea and explained the process, which will take place soon after the formation of a group of 12 students chaired by one of the Computer Science department staff.

ASU'S PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DAY FESTIVAL

In celebration of the 46th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain and 18th Anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and as part pf Applied Science University community engagement activities, the University presented by Mr. Thaer Mustafa AlRamini, member of the Community Engagement Office and Student Care participated in the National Day Festival that was held in the Public Security Officers Club.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Deadline for submitting progress reports for Arts and Science 4 January 2018

Deadline for submitting applications to the BQA for placing our Bachelors in Business Administration and Law on the NQF Framework 18 January 2018

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."

Franklin D. Roosevelt