

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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**ASU**  
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية  
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

## What's **INSIDE** this ISSUE

- Message from the President
- ASU Undergoes the HEC Institutional Accreditation Inspection Visit
- The Royal Guard Commander HH Brigadier-General Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa Received Royal Guard Affiliates
- Alumni Reunion of ASU
- The Community Engagement Office Activities
- Interview of the Week
  - Dr. Mohamed H. Mahgoub
- Quote of the Week



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 35th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of "Teaching Support".



As you are aware, we had last week a very fruitful institutional accreditation inspection visit by the HEC in collaboration with the British Accreditation Council. We are optimistic about the outcome of this visit but we have to await the results from the HEC.

Support for teaching and learning is crucial for the development of our University and in the provision of an exceptional learning experience to our students. Over the next few months the following will be undertaken:

1. The HEA Fellowship Accredited Centre will become operational and functional with a plan to train all staff to become Associate Fellow, Fellow, or Senior Fellow of the HEA. Dr Faiza and Dr Adel will have ownership of this activity.
2. The 3rd Good Teaching Conference will be organized by Dr Faiza and Dr Adel as part of academic staff development
3. The appointment of teaching champions across all the colleges will be undertaken by the President and VP for Academic Affairs and Development
4. The 2nd "Innovation in Teaching Awards" will be organized by the VP for Academic Affairs and Development
5. A rigorous phase of class observations will be undertaken headed by the VP for Academic Affairs and Development
6. A Workshop on "What makes good teaching" will be organized with emphasis on using technology and learning resources. It will be headed by the VP for Academic Affairs and Development and Director of ICT & KM
7. A comprehensive audit of course portfolios, teaching materials and lesson plans will be undertaken by the Director of the QAAC

8. Random visits to classes will be conducted by the President, VP for Academic Affairs and Deans
9. An Action Learning Group headed by the President and including the 2 VPs, Deans and program coordinators will be formed in order to share good practices across the University
10. A comprehensive staff development plan will be developed based on training needs analysis and feedback from students. The work will be coordinated by Dr Faiza, Dr Adel and Mr Yasser

All the above activities will be very helpful in the preparation for the next cycle of Institutional Review by the BQA. In addition, it will enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the University, which will lead to a memorable learning experience for our students.

## ASU UNDERGOES THE HEC INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION INSPECTION VISIT

ASU has received this week the institutional accreditation inspection panel to undergo the site visit from Sunday, 24 June 2018, to Wednesday 27 June 2018. The inspection team was comprised of four inspectors appointed by the British Accreditation Council (BAC), accompanied by two representatives from Higher Education Council (HEC).

Back in 2015, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between HEC and BAC in order to set standards for academic accreditation at higher education establishments in Bahrain. His Excellency Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi, Minister of Education, Chairman of the Higher Education Council, has signed agreements with Mr. Paul Fear, Chief Executive Officer of The British Accreditation Council, aiming to put this memorandum into action and ensure the implementation of necessary procedures and mechanisms for academic accreditation in higher education institutions in Bahrain, including international experts visits to those establishments as well as accreditation decisions.

The inspection team was in fact composed of the following four international experts:

**Lead Inspector:** Amanda Greason;

**Inspectors:** Professor Robert Craig; Robert Harris; Mary Spence.

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Dr. Mohamed H. Mahgoub

Position: Programme Coordinator, BEng Architectural Design Engineering

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

Well I was born in Cairo but my family moved to Vienna when I was six years old for five years before moving back to Cairo. I always wanted to be a pilot but when I started university, I realized I loved architecture. That reminds me, during university I had this amazing travel abroad experience to Italy, where I got amused with the mix of arts and architecture. So once I got my bachelor degree from Helwan University in Cairo, I joined the master degree in Palermo University in Italy, where I spent the almost 2 years sharpening my design skills before joining the PhD program in School of Architecture, Newcastle University in 2011 which is one of the top 10 in the UK

### 2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in September 2017 as a Programme Coordinator, BEng Architectural Design Engineering in partnership with London South Bank University. In addition to my teaching duties, I can't ignore the key role of the Programme Coordinator of ensuring the high quality of modules delivery and guaranteeing the highest standards to fit within the Bahraini contexts

I enjoy coordinating the work and we feel like home as one family.

This site visit came as the final stage in a lengthy process that started with ASU's submission of its application for institutional accreditation back in March 2017. ASU's application underwent a thorough review by HEC staff and was effectively accepted after providing few more updated documents during the first semester of AY 2017/2018. ASU was then asked to submit its self-evaluation report (SER) and all its supporting materials (SMs) which was successfully accomplished in April 2018. Now that the site visit took place, a report of this inspection will be written by the visiting panel and then submitted to HEC. As explained in the Accreditation Handbook, the report will be reviewed and edited by the HEC accreditation team and sent to ASU for a factual accuracy check, and then the final report will be considered by the Academic Accreditation Committee (AAC). By Higher Education law, this committee is formed of members recommended by HEC and approved by the Prime Minister. The Academic Accreditation Committee shall review the final inspection report and its recommendations are then presented to the HEC. The decision on accreditation is made by the full Higher Education Council which subsequently notifies ASU of the final decision.



### **3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University**

Apart of achieving the Institutional Accreditation by the HEC, ASU prioritizes good teaching practice, is committed to research and training and provides dedicated pastoral care of students. All these made me raise the bar of my aspirations towards ASU to exceptional heights

### **4. What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I enjoy reading, the knowledge and perspective that my reading gives me has strengthened my teaching skills and presentation abilities.

### **5. Tell us about your hobbies**

I love being outdoors doing exercise and health related activities. I find being outside is a great way to de-stress.

### **6. Tell us about your favourite food**

I am a big fan of the Italian, Indian and Lebanese kitchens in addition to koushari from the Egyptian cuisine.

### **7. Tell us about the book you are reading now**

I guess recently all the ASU staff members were busy reading the HEC self-evaluation report □ However the last book I read was Architecture: Form, Space, and Order By Francis D. K. Ching

### **8. Final words**

Hard work beats talent every single time. WORK HARD and sooner or later you will achieve you dreams.



It is worth-noting in this context that the preparations for institutional accreditation at ASU started much earlier, with the setup of the accreditation group back in January 2016. The accreditation

group kept meeting regularly on a weekly basis ever since which turned out to be instrumental in engaging all the colleges and administrative departments of the University in the ongoing preparations for accreditation and ensuring maximum compliance with the standards and key indicators presented in HEC's Institutional Accreditation Handbook. More importantly, the University has used the accreditation process as a means of change and improvement for both its academic delivery and administrative provision. As a result, the University feels very confident and optimistic about the outcome of the inspection visit and, while the announcement of the verdict is a process that may take up to few months, ASU hopes it will be able to finish the year 2018 on a celebratory note, paving the way for even more successes and accomplishments.



## THE ROYAL GUARD COMMANDER HH BRIGADIER-GENERAL SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA RECEIVED ROYAL GUARD AFFILIATES

The Royal Guard Commander HH Brigadier-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Royal Guard affiliates who have completed their higher studies and obtained doctoral and master's degrees in various specialties.



Mubarak Rashed Abdulla Almajed Alnoaimi, Master of Human Resource Management student at ASU has passed his final Viva, which was supervised by Dr Khairi Omar, attended the meeting with HH Sheikh Nasser.



Mubarak was an excellent student, repeatedly demonstrated his high motivation, dedication, discipline and strength of character to be a good model for his colleagues. Mubarak has an extremely good interpersonal skills and continually exemplified admirable leadership qualities.

This fantastic achievement of our student reflects the excellent performance in our University in the quality of our student's outputs.

## ALUMNI REUNION OF ASU

The Career Development and Alumni Affairs Office at the Deanship of Student Affairs in collaboration with the Alumni Club organized a Reunion for the alumni on Thursday, 21 June 2018 at the Grove Hotel Amwaj under the patronage of Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University.



The program of the "Alumni Reunion" started with some inspiring speeches: first by Professor Ghassan, followed by HE Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Atiyatallah Al Khalifa, the honorary member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Club, and finally by Mr Abdulla Al-Noaimi, the Alumni Club President. There was also a success story delivered by Mr Isameel Abdullatif, an Alumni sport personality, his speech was inspirational, he highlighted that success needs hard work, enthusiasm, perseverance and inner stamina, his loyalty to ASU made him twice as an alumni member in the Board of Directors of the Alumni Club.



In the second part of the Alumni Reunion, Professor Ghassan Aouad, honored the members of the Alumni Club Board of Directors - 2nd cycle for the end of their cycle. Prizes were also drawn for the alumni, student council members, VIP guests, advisory board members, Staff and volunteers, where a variety of great gifts were distributed during this successful event.



The evening was exceptional, a large number of alumni (more than 200 Alumni) attended the fantastic Khaleeji Poetic performance, with Poets from Bahrain, UAE, and Kuwait, the audience was buzzing and the enthusiast was contagious.



Many thanks to the members of the Deanship of Student Affairs especially Ms. Noora Musalam for the success of the Reunion, and for Alumni club members for their hard work in making the Alumni Reunion a great success.



## THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE ACTIVITIES

### Community Engagement Office Participated in the opening of the World Heritage Committee in Manama

The opening ceremony of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee took place Sunday at the Bahrain National Theatre in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain. It marked the beginning of the Committee's work, which will continue until 4 July.



Several hundred people took part in the ceremony, which was opened by the President of the Bahraini Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Sheikha Mai Bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa, the Chair of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee, Sheikha Haya Bint Rashed Al-Khalifa, the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, and the Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Lee Byong-hyun.



It is worth mentioning that the University's Community Engagement Office, within the framework of the social partnership with the various Government institutions, including the Culture and Antiquities Authority, participated in organizing this special event and involved its students in accompanying and escorting the VIPs and guests.



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going."*  
**Sam Levenson**

*Happy Reading!*