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ASU
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APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the 4th year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of "History of Higher Education".



According to the Webster Dictionary, a university is an institution of higher learning providing facilities for teaching and research and authorized to grant academic degrees, Webster Dictionary. The origin of the word "university" is derived from the Latin universitas magistrorum et scholarium, which roughly means "community of teachers and scholars" (Wikipedia) which defines a university as an institution of higher (or tertiary) education and research which awards academic degrees in various academic disciplines. Universities typically provide undergraduate education and postgraduate education.

Universities have been around for over a 1000 year. The University of Al-Qarawiyyin located in Fes, Morocco and established in 859 is the oldest existing, continually operating and the first degree awarding educational institution in the world according to UNESCO and Guinness World Records and is sometimes referred to as the oldest university. However, there are references to other universities like AlZaitouna in Tunisia, which was established in 737. The AlAzhar University was established in 970 in Egypt. Other old universities include Mustansiriya and Kufa in Iraq. It is evident that the Muslim and Arab worlds played a major role in establishing universities well before many other regions.

The first University to be established in Europe was the University of Bologna (1088) followed by University of Oxford (1096), University of Salamanca Spain (1164), University of Cambridge (1209), and other Universities like University of Padua (1222), University of Naples Federico II (1224), University of Toulouse (1229), University of Siena (1240), University of Paris Established in: 1160-1250, and University of Coimbra, Portugal (1290).

The oldest university in Asia was founded in 1611 (University of Santo Tomas, the Philippines).

The oldest university in the US was established in 1636 (Harvard University, Massachusetts) whereas the oldest university in Australia was established in 1850 (University of Sydney, New South Wales).

Nalanda University existed in the 5th century and Takshashila University existed in 7th century both in India and they were considered as learning hubs, but they ceased to exist.

Until 1951 there were only 14 Universities in the Arab World: Al Zaytounah University, 734, Al-Qarawiyeen University 859, Al Azhar University 970, Al-Mustansiryah University 984, The American University of Beirut 1866, Saint Joseph University 1875, Khartoum University (Gordon Memorial College) 1902, The Egyptian University (present Cairo University) 1908, University of Algiers 1909, The American University in Cairo 1919, The Syrian University (present Damascus University) 1923, University of Farouk the First in Alexandria (present Alexandria University) 1938, Ain Shams University 1950, Lebanese University 1951. In 2016, the number of Arab Universities exceeded 700.

Arab Universities started to feature modestly in international league tables, especially in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Egypt. Arab Universities need to cope with the global changes and invest in research. The expenditure on research as percentage of the GDP is relative low and hardly reach 1% in any Arab nation whereas nations like South Korea, Singapore, and Finland are almost reaching 4%. In terms of expenditure. In addition, Arab Universities need to pay more attention to the quality of publications and citations in international ISI and Scopus journals. Furthermore, the number of doctoral programs in Arab Universities is relatively low and this affects the quality and quantity of publications.

The first doctoral degree was awarded in medieval Paris around 1150. The doctorate of philosophy as it is known nowadays was developed in Germany in the 17th century (c. 1652). The Ph.D. spread to the United States in the 1800s. Prior to its development, Americans pursued doctoral study in European universities. In 1861, Yale University was the first American institution of higher education to award the degree.

Research degrees first appeared in the UK in the late 19th century in the shape of the Doctor of Science (DSc or ScD) and other such "higher doctorates". The University of London introduced the DSc in 1860, but as an advanced study course, following on directly from the BSc, rather than a research degree. The first higher doctorate in the modern sense was Durham University's DSc, introduced in 1882.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Manal Moosa AlMatrook

Position: Academic Lecturer

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

I am Bahraini. I was born and raised in Muharraq (most cozy city in Bahrain ...!!!). My childhood was special as I grew up with my twin sister in a well-educated family. I graduated from a government school with a high score that enabled me to get a scholarship from the Ministry of Education. I got my BS from University of Bahrain, then my Master's degree from Open University of Malaysia with a distinguished grade. I have about 15 years of experience in the government and private sector fields.

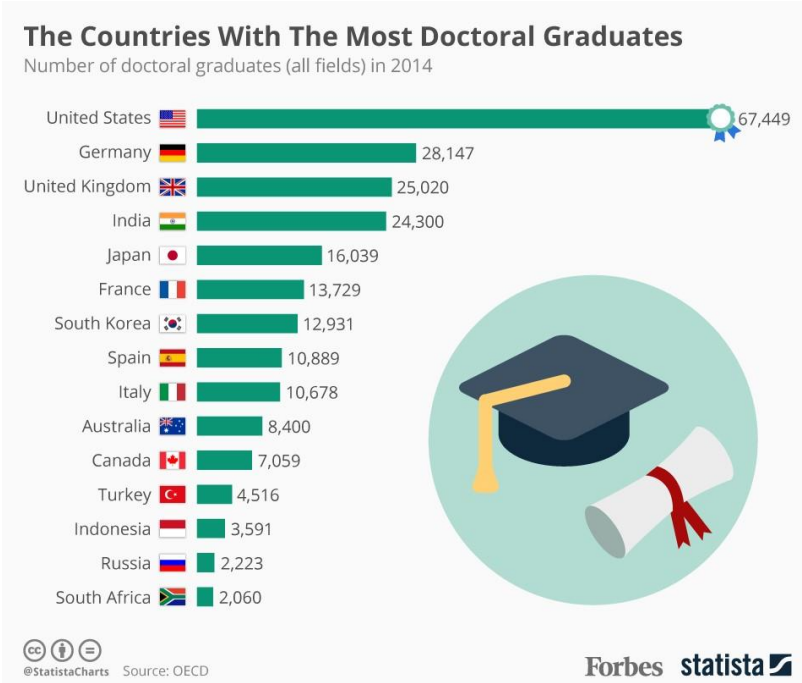
2. Tell us about your job at ASU

My job at ASU is different and unique. I came to a conclusion that standing in front of the students with an accumulated different work experience has a huge difference on the lectures' learning outcomes.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

First, I am so proud to be a member among such diverse backgrounds. I learned a lot in this environment and I am still learning. I wish to finish my PhD soon and reach highest academia levels at ASU.

In 1917 the current PhD degree was introduced, along the lines of the American and German model, and quickly became popular with both British and foreign students. Below is a list of nations with most doctoral graduates in 2014.



Between 2000 and 2014, the number of students in higher education globally more than doubled to 207 million. Higher education evolves over the years going through phases of different emphasis of good citizenry, training and application, knowledge creation, theory production, academic freedom, quality, research and community engagement, league tables, use of technology and life long learning, internationalisation, employability skills including critical thinking, student experience, and finally reaching the current emphasis on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The future of higher education will continue to be shaped by many factors including economics, demographics and globalisation. It is important to be well ahead by contemplating the future drivers that could influence our University and be prepared to deal with changes.

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<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016013.pdf>

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<http://www.qscience.com/doi/pdf/10.5339/nmejre.2016.1>

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

My students, my colleagues, and the subjects I'm teaching.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I am an artist and a public speaker.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

My mother's Machboos (full stop)!

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success by Steve Harvey

8. Final words

Always love what you do!

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THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED A KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



On Saturday 17 November, the President delivered a keynote address at the 5th International Project and Construction Management Conference IPCMC 2018, organised by Cyprus International University. The keynote was titled “Innovation in Construction” and delivered to an audience of over 120 researchers and scholars. The keynote addressed issues related to innovation capacity and innovation platforms in the construction industry and how the right culture can help innovation to flourish. These issues will have significant implications on the future of the construction sector. Innovative practices and approaches need to be introduced by construction firms in order to cope with the many financial, environmental and social demands.

DEANSHIP OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES STARTS MEETINGS WITH THE COLLEGES: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE AND COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Based on the strategic plan of Applied Science University and its interest in maintaining communication with the faculty members at the University to achieve progress and development of academic programmes and scientific research, the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies continues to hold meetings with the faculty members of the different Colleges of the university to discuss issues related to scientific research and postgraduate studies. In addition, these meetings aim to listen to opinions and proposals, which contribute to the improvement and development of the procedures followed in the Deanship. The second meeting was held with faculty members of both College of Arts and Science and College of Engineering.



Opening the meeting, Professor Yazeed Al-Sbou, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, welcomed the audience and thanked them for their interest in attending the meeting. As both colleges have no graduate studies programmes, the meeting focused mainly on research. Professor Al-Sbou gave a brief about some issues related to research in the University. These included: highlighting some of the important research Bylaws in the University, HEC regulations regarding research, publication rewards, publication fees, urging staff members publish their

research articles in refereed international journals and conferences, encouraging faculty members to construct research groups and performing inter- and intra-disciplinary research projects... etc.



After that, there was discussion with the audience about these points and their views about issues related to research. The attendees were very interested in these points and made many observations and comments. Finally, the audience thanked the Deanship of Research and Studies for holding such meetings and urged to continue in holding them due to their impact in the advancement of research and graduate programs and the ASU in general.

DR. ADEEB HAMDOON, THE COURSE COORDINATOR FOR INTERNSHIP COURSE IN THE BMIS HAS CARRIED OUT A SERIES OF INTERNSHIP SITE VISITS

Dr. Adeeb Hamdoon, the Course Coordinator for Internship course in the BMIS has carried sites visits to students enrolled on this course doing internship at Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO), Al Muharraq Municipality, and the Ministry of Petroleum in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The on sites supervisors gave a positive feedback about the trainees performance.



THE HEALTH UNIT ORGANIZED THE EVENT OF THE WORLD DIABETES DAY UNDER THE TITLE "YOUR HEALTH IS OUR GOAL"

All countries in the world celebrate World Diabetes Day every year on 14 November. The World Diabetes Day brings together all communities and people with diabetes worldwide to one voice calling for awareness of diabetes. Diabetes is considered one of the chronic diseases of the era which is deadly and affects all members of the society whether children, young or old, women and men, poor or rich.



Diabetes is the biggest threat to global public health. Its victims are adults, people of working age and it is life-threatening. This health problem is still increasing.

On the occasion of this World Diabetes Day, the Health Unit of Applied Science University - Department of Administrative Affairs organized an activity under the title "Your Health is Our Goal" in the lobby of the University.

The nurse, Mrs. Fareeda Al Balooshi, examined the free sugar level for all attendees from the academic and administrative bodies, University students and some outside visitors. An educational video was presented on the health and prevention guidelines for diabetes, with healthy meals and symbolic gifts distributed to those who participated in the event. All high level sugar cases were referred to the Health Unit at the University for follow up.



The aim of the event is to raise awareness about chronic diseases, especially diabetes and its prevention, including the need to take medicines, exercise and adhere to healthy diet. The World Diabetes Day which was held on 14 November received a great response from all members of the University for their keenness to increase the health culture at ASU.



THE INSPIRATION AND PHILOSOPHY WHICH LED TO MY ACHIEVING FHEA AND SFHEA SAEED HAMEED AL-DULAIMI

Challenges are like adventure: we choose to start them with a sense of determination to give meaning to our daily life. As Helen Keller said “Life is either a daring adventure or nothing”.

My experience in achieving first the Fellowship and then the Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) UK was wonderful journey, particularly due to the its focus on the excellent structure of the United Kingdom Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF) for teaching and supporting learning in higher education. Because I believe in building blocks of achievement that enable someone to construct a sense of themselves as a success, I was very excited to learn in 2015, that ASU had set up the development scheme and arranged intensive workshops to prepare for the challenge of applying for recognition by HEA. These workshops and collective learning methods enabled a team approach among the academic staff members who were involved in this programme which in turn created a learning culture in our work environment.

This approach enabled us not just to apply to HEA for recognition but also supported us in our work and helped us to build on and learn from our experiences. The ASU plan to form groups to apply for the HEA fellowship was fantastic idea, because we observed the growth of knowledge sharing and social relationship among members. Therefore, I strongly encourage my colleagues to work in harmony as a social entity, since there is a significant agreement on the view of ‘social power’ argued by Verderber and Verderber (1992) , in which they declare “social power as a potential for changing attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of others” (p.280). In pursuing the two levels of fellowship (FHEA and then SFHEA), we worked as a team to motivate each other and had several discussions regarding submission details. I was inspired by the pedagogy of John Maxwell (1987), who writes in his book, *Be All You Can Be*, “We can either work with people or war against them”. I developed a good relationships with my colleagues to ensure that we kept our motivation to finish the task, in addition to our teaching and research tasks. We also exchanged ideas and gave feedback to each other, which I believe was crucial to improving the design of our applications and ensuring they were compatible with the UKPSF standards.

The great motivation of completing the challenge of applying for HEA fellowship recognition is my desire to enjoy my job and to find new techniques of teaching and learning. We devote our life to education, therefore I am always keen to learn more about doing my job effectively. I believe in the words of the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) that “God and his angels and the people of heaven and earth even the ant in her stone and even the whale pray for the person who teaches people well”.

To conclude, change is the law of life, thus we must always work to change and develop the tools for teaching and make sure to use up-to-date technologies. As Peter Drucker said “The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence – it is to act with yesterday’s logic”. The philosophy of teaching and learning based on the UKPSF is a great opportunity adopted by ASU as a commitment to the continuous development of practice by employing a comprehensive set of professional standards and guidelines for everyone involved in teaching and supporting learning in HE.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to all senior management and colleagues in ASU for their support and encouragement. I wish my University and all academic and administrative colleagues every success and I hope that our University will advance even more in the years ahead.

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name	Latifa Salman Ali Fandi
Workplace	Applied Science University
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Business Administration
Do you intend to pursue further Higher Education? What Major?	Yes, Human Resources
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	<p>I am very lucky to get the opportunity to study and work at ASU. I experienced a fantastic study environment where we are respected as students and employees, and our opinions and work are valued.</p> <p>There is a lot of support in terms of learning and the academics make themselves available to help us and ensure course content is fully understood.</p> <p>Finally, I could say that the University is supportive to graduating students to prepare them to the world of work, and to the Alumni members to support them in developing their career for better future.</p>
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	<p>What I did enjoy the most the huge library that was carefully designed by the University to serve the students' needs of knowledge.</p> <p>The online option that was facilitated by the University website to save the student time and effort in many sections; academically and administratively.</p>
In your opinion, What are the improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	No, I have nothing to say but the University is on the right track.
Final words	I am proud to be a graduate of ASU that is ranked 45 in the QS Universities Ranking in the Arab Region 2019

Interviewed By: Maheera Faisal, Alumni Affairs Committee Chair; ASU Alumni Club

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Stay true to yourself, yet always be open to learn. Work hard, and never give up on your dreams, even when nobody else believes they can come true but you. These are not cliches but real tools you need no matter what you do in life to stay focused on your path".

Phillip Sweet

Happy Reading!