

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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ASU
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 7th issue of the 4th year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of “Engaging with Alumni”.



Alumni (Plural for alumnus, usually for a male graduate) are a group of graduates or former students of a specific school, college, or university. An alumna (in Latin a feminine noun) refers to a female graduate or former student, the plural is alumnae. Traditionally, alumni have been used for groups of both sexes.

Alumni are the best ambassadors of any university and they can play a major role in its academic and social development. They can be used as a springboard to test ideas for new programs that meet the market place. In addition, they can be used to review the current curriculum and improve it. Alumni can also sit on universities' committees, especially program advisory groups in order to provide guidance and knowledge, which is topical. They can also contribute to part time teaching and invited lectures.

At ASU, we have nearly 4000 Alumni with some of them occupying senior positions in Bahrain and the Gulf Region. We also have an Alumni Club, which is active in engaging with our alumni. The Career Development and Alumni Affairs Office of the Deanship of Students' Affairs is responsible for driving the work of the alumni and their engagement with the University. An annual dinner is held and regular contacts are made. In the last graduation ceremony, the President of the Alumni Club made a speech to congratulate the graduates and invite them to join the Club. The President's News Digest has introduced a new section about an interview with an alumnus or alumna in order to keep in touch with our network of graduates.

KPIs related to engagement with alumni should include number of alumni in the database, number of alumni in the Alumni Club, number and quality of engagement with alumni, participation as guest lecturers and on Program Advisory Boards, alumni gatherings, and contribution to curriculum development amongst many others.

The alumni of the University are its best ambassadors and a detailed Alumni Strategy with Operational Plans should be developed to support this very important integral part of the University.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/alumni>

MS AYAT NASS AWARDED OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

The Labour and Social Development Ministry organised the 34th ceremony to honour hard-working employees and outstanding establishments in the private sector. The celebration was under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 12 December 2018.



The University is proud to have its distinguished staff member Mrs Ayat Ali Nass, Executive Secretary at the

President Office honoured by HE, Mr Jameel bin Mohammed Humaidan, the Minister of Labor and Social Development among other hard-working employees being selected for their excellent performance at work.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION



On 11 December 2018, ASU celebrated the National Day and the 19th Anniversary of the Accession of his Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa to the throne. The celebration was under the Patronage of Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University.

The event was entirely organized by the members of the students' council and supervised by Mr Mohammed Najjar and Ms Hadeel Bucheerei from the Deanship of Student Affairs.



On the day, the University was buzzing with students, staff and invited students' council members guests from other local universities.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Mr Ahed Shanti

Position: Registration Administrator

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

I was born and raised in Amman-Jordan, got my BCs in Computer Science and Programming from Al Al-Bayt University.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I work as an Administrator in the Deanship of Admissions and Registration.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

It's already one of the leading institutions in the GCC and the Middle East, and I hope it expands globally.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I have to deal with my students, guide them and help them through their obstacles throughout their time at ASU.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Gaming, and binge watching movies and series.

Our Students designed and decorated the University indoor and outdoor in such a way that everyone felt the National Bahraini spirit.



6. Tell us about your favourite food

Coffee.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follet

8. Final words

Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity.

Aristotle



The program included traditional events such as Henna Corner, Outdoor Carnival of Food and Games, Evening Poems by Khaleeji Poets (Bahrain and Kuwait), “Artha”,

and a wonderful singing performance by our students from the talent club, and finally a performance by Ebrahim AlNajim, a Bahraini Singer.

Professor Ghassan Aouad was very pleased with the students’ creativity and hard work, and hence he attended the entire event. He strongly believes that this type of event organized by students for students will certainly anticipate them in many fields as everyone enjoyed the National Day Celebration.



CMU COFFEE MORNING



ASU held the first Cardiff Met Coffee Morning on Tuesday 11 December 2018 - an informal gathering for the two ASU-CMU programmes, BA Accounting & Finance and BA Management & Business Studies.



Coffee Mornings are typical British social events where friends meet to eat and chat. Tuesday’s activity was organized by the Director of Foundation Programme, Deanship of Student Affairs and the International Partnerships Office for students, faculty and staff to get to know each other by socialising together outside a classroom setting.

Reflecting Cardiff Metropolitan University’s location in Wales, the event had a UK/Wales theme: with the flags of Bahrain, UK and Wales, UK-themed table decorations, typical British snacks, sandwiches and cakes, plus a short video about the Wales countryside and the city of Cardiff.



The Coffee Morning was held in the Dome Hall and was attended by students from the two ASU-CMU programmes, ASU’s President, Professor Ghassan Aouad, the Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, Dr Ramzi Nekhili, and the faculty teaching

on the two ASU-CMU programmes.

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name:	Abdulkarim Abdulla Albastaki
Workplace:	National Bank of Bahrain (NBB)
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Accounting & Finance
Do you intend to pursue further Higher Education? What Major?	Yes I would like to but I didn't decide yet.
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	Great, everything was perfect. The learning environment and the teaching methods suited my needs and expectations.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	I have a great experience during my study at ASU. I had many friends that I still in touch. I like the enthusiastic atmosphere the academic and administrative staff in supporting the students. In addition I really like the impressive ASU building.



In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	The knowledge I gained as part of my study in Accounting and Finance at ASU qualified me to work in NBB, the first locally owned bank and the leading provider of retail and commercial banking services in Bahrain.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	To be more organized in the registration period.
Final words	Thank You

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.”

Judy Garland

Happy Reading!