

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

6 JANUARY 2019 – VOLUME 4 - ISSUE 10



ASU
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 10th issue of the 4th year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of “enabling a culture of trust”.



The Cambridge English Dictionary defines trust as “to believe that someone is good and honest and will not harm you, or that something is safe and reliable”.

Creating a culture of trust in a university is of special importance as students usually join universities to achieve their aspirations relying on the fact they trust their lecturers and the administration in providing them with the best learning experience. They should naturally feel safe being supported by competent academic and administrative colleagues that are honest and reliable.

A culture of trust based around principles like integrity, transparency, honesty, confidentiality, and loyalty is vital in order to demonstrate support and commitment to our students. By adhering to our core values, we can establish an environment where trust could flourish.

In his article, “A Leap of Faith: The Role of Trust in Higher Education Teaching, Bruce MacFarlane identified 25 reasons why students lose trust in their teaching staff:

- Cancelling or re-scheduling classes or lectures without good reason
- Failing to demonstrate a command of subject knowledge
- Granting assignment extensions to students on an inconsistent basis
- Changing a course assignment or assessment criteria mid-course
- Criticizing a student in the presence of other students or teachers
- Being an overly harsh or overly lenient assessor
- Losing or mislaying student assignments

- Allowing a few students to dominate class discussion or other activities
- Being generally unavailable or unprepared to give tutorial support
- Loss of temper or making disrespectful remarks
- Refusing to mediate in disputes between students arising from group projects
- Not teaching or ‘covering’ the curriculum as promised
- Teaching uninformed by personal scholarly activities
- Inconsistency in the start or end time of classes
- Failing to grade and return assignments within a reasonable time
- Imposing penalties/criticizing lack of referencing in student work while failing to model this behavior in presenting lecturing and other teaching materials
- Changing established seating patterns
- Sharing information or opinions about student progress with third parties, such as employers or parents, without student consent
- Insufficient planning of teaching
- Not up-dating teaching materials
- Providing unclear or insufficient feedback on assignments
- Telling students that research is more important than teaching them
- Providing insufficient guidance on use of independent learning time
- Demonstrating indifference to student evaluation of teaching

Enabling a culture of trust will enable our students to unlock their potential and help them achieve more successes. By working together in a supportive and ethical environment we can achieve this. We need to provide the leadership needed to enable a culture of trust to grow and flourish.

<http://www.cshe.nagoya-u.ac.jp/publications/journal/no9/14.pdf>

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Gerardo D. Toledo

Position: Senior Accountant

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

Well, I grew up with a simple family back in the Philippines. Playing basketball has been my best time during my childhood as I was fond of sports. I graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Accounting.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

My job at ASU has always been very exciting, I love working and sharing my knowledge and experience with my team.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I started working at ASU when it was located in Juffair with a few number of students. I believed since then, that ASU has become one of the best Universities in the Region.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working with colleagues with team spirit is the most enjoyable part of my job.

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name:	Mariam Mohammed Albastaki
Workplace:	Ministry of Information Affairs
Academic Degree	Master
Academic Major	Human Resources
Do you intend to pursue further Higher Education? What Major?	Yes, in the future I intend to obtain a PhD degree but I didn't decide which major yet.
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	The educational environment in the University was based on advanced scientific bases to match the educational requirements for students and educational system in the Kingdom of Bahrain so that students qualify scientifically and practically to enter the labor market.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	I enjoyed most at ASU was my participation in Voluntary works and events that enhanced creating the feeling of fulfillment and belonging, and promoting the spirit of volunteering.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	One of the most important success stories in my life is my Master's degree in Human Resources Management with a degree of excellence, especially with the challenges that were facing me by virtue of the workplace where I had to balance work and study and give work the right and not to fail in the study to achieve my goal and I did it.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	In my opinion, the University is keeping pace with the development in the educational system and this is remarkable through the achievements of the university
Final words	I am proud that I have contributed to the development of the administrative process as a former employee at ASU, and proud of being a graduate of the University. I wish further development and prosperity for ASU.

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

5. Tell us about your hobbies

When I was in college, I used to play basketball, being part of the varsity team. Today, I love most playing tennis and currently, I am the chairman of the Filipino Club Tennis Group – Bahrain.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

I love “pla ka phong neung manao” (steam fish with lemon sauce) from thai cuisine, as I used to live in Thailand.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Well, if you are asking me now 😊 I am reading the “Executive Regulations of the Value Added Tax Law”.

8. Final words

I wish all the success of ASU.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Trust is the glue of life. It’s the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It’s the foundational principle that holds all relationships.”

Stephen R. Covey

Happy Reading!