

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

21 APRIL 2019 – VOLUME 4 - ISSUE 25



**ASU**  
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية  
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the President
- The President of IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence recognises Professor Waheeb's contribution to Higher Education
- The Second Scientific Conference For University Students
- A visit to Cairo
- "Challenges and Achievements" Forum
- "Photography and Editing – Filmmaking" Workshop
- Interview of the Week
- Bayan Abdulrahim Almerbati
- The Community Engagement Activities
- College of Arts and Science students' participation in Second Scientific Conference of the University Students
- Interview with Alumnus
- Quote of the Week



Office No: (+973) 16036161

Email: [tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh](mailto:tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 25th issue of the 4th year of the President's News Digest.

I will be reflecting on the certificate of achievements awarded to Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja by Professor Luiz Costa, the President of IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence for his valued contribution to academia.



I have been working very closely with Professor Waheeb for almost 5 years; he is clearly a great inspirer, mentor and role model and I am learning from him on a daily basis. He has an outstanding understanding of higher education issues, pay a lot of attention to details, his eyes are always on the horizon, and most importantly he has the charisma and personality and a sense of humour, which is used to drive commitment, innovation and new initiatives. On many of our joint overseas trips, I discovered the brother, colleague, boss and most importantly the human who cares about deprived communities, and how he is always ready to help.

With his big vision, Professor Waheeb has led the University to some significant achievements in recent years as listed below:

- ASU is now ranked as 1st Private University in Bahrain and 45th in the Arab World in the QS Arab Region Rankings
- ASU is now ranked as 1st Private University in Bahrain and 311th Worldwide in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings
- ASU is now ranked as 1st Private University in Bahrain and 25th in the Arab World in GreenMetric World University Rankings
- ASU is now an Accredited Centre by the Higher Education Academy, United Kingdom, with 44 recognized faculty members as fellows of the HEA
- All academic programmes achieved positive review outcomes from the Bahrain Quality Assurance Authority
- British Degrees are offered in partnership with British Universities
- ASU is certified by ISO 9001:2015

- Highly qualified faculty members from 25 countries are teaching on our programmes
- A buzzing student life with plenty of personal growth opportunities has been developed
- A substantial amount of funds is available to support outstanding and talented students in sports and students who need financial aid
- Student & Alumni clubs are established with fantastic achievements in sports tournaments with the football team winning the championship and the volleyball team achieving second position

To be recognised and awarded by an international organisation like IREG is a big achievement, and it is only accomplished by outstanding scholars and leaders who have created long lasting impact. Professor Waheeb who is the recipient of this prestigious award from IREG deserves such a recognition for being an outstanding scholar, who has exceptional leadership skills, and a big vision coupled with passion, innovation, knowledge and experience. He has published widely and his work is well cited, as he is an international scholar and researcher. In addition, he has made significant contributions to the education sector in general and higher education in particular by establishing many schools and universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is worth noting that Professor Waheeb was the first Bahraini academic to be granted a fellowship from the Chartered Institute of Building, which is headquartered in the UK, and most importantly he is the first academic to be elected on the Board of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and he is chairing its educational committee.

During his career, Professor Waheeb has been a member of many professional bodies. He was the President of the Arab Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers from 1993 to 1994, and the Head of Registration at the Arab Gulf University from 1987 to 2002. He has been a member in the Board of Trustees of the American Biographical Institute since 1995, and he spent more than thirty years as a full member of the Bahrain Society of Engineers. He was rewarded with an honorary medal at the Science Festival from the Ministry of Education in 1986 and the prize of the crown prince for scientific engineering research in 1995, and an appreciation certificate “Five Hundred Leaders of Influence” from the American Biographical Institute and an appreciation certificate “Who’s Who of the Year” from the American Biographical Institute in the US in 1995.

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Bayan Abdulrahim Almerbati

Position: Administrator in the College of Engineering

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

I’m 24 years old, single. I graduated from the University of Bahrain with a Bachelor degree in business administration.

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

My work in the College of Engineering focused on organizing day-to-day operations, and booking meetings and events.

I’m thankful to be in the College surrounded by the best team workers.

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

I strongly believe that one day our University will be in the top rank in the GCC.

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

The pressure! It makes me a mutli-tasker, as my goal is to do most of the work with efficiency in a very short period of time.

### 5. Tell us about your hobbies

Traveling, photo shooting.

Professor Waheeb obtained his Bachelor in Civil Engineering from Texas University in the USA in 1981.

He completed his PhD at Leeds University in 1986, specializing in Construction Engineering and Material Management. He has spent around thirty years in teaching and researching different topics related to Civil Engineering. He has published 27 scientific research papers and supervised more than 15 master's degree dissertations, and, in addition to that, he has supervised postgraduate diploma projects. He also published an engineering book titled "The Techniques of Construction Materials and Roads" and co-authored a book titled "The Techniques of Information and Project Management in the Middle East" with the help of two professors from Salford University and the American University in Beirut.

Professor Waheeb worked as a project engineer at Gulf Petrochemical Company(GPIC) in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He then worked as a scientific researcher at the Engineering Department of Leeds University in the United Kingdom. Later, he held several academic and administrative posts at the Arabian Gulf University. He participated in supervising the building of the Campus of the University at Sakhir and helped in establishing the Royal University for Women. After leaving the Arabian Gulf University, he established the Applied Science University in 2004 and was its president for more than ten years.

With his award from IREG, Professor Waheeb has brought joy and pride to his family, the BODs and BOTs, the 250+ staff, around 3000 students, and 4000+ alumni of the University and many external stakeholders including our partners in the UK. Many congratulations to Prof Waheeb and the 18th of April 2019 will always be a day to remember.

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

I love all kinds of food, but mainly Seafood and Sushi.

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

I don't like reading as much as watching.

**8. Final words**

I never dreamed about success. I worked for it!



## THE SECOND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



Under the Patronage of University President, Professor Ghassan Aouad, the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies, in cooperation with the Deanship of Student Affairs, held on Thursday, 18/4/2019, the Second Scientific Conference for University Students, in the presence of college deans, academic and administrative staff and students. The aim of the conference was to encourage students to participate in such events, promoting their research culture and highlighting their findings by creating an appropriate research environment that contributes to expanding their participation and presenting their research and innovations.

The University President expressed his happiness in the outstanding scientific level of the students, pointing out that the students showed a high level of creativity and skills in presenting of their research projects, which emphasizes the quality of the educational outputs of the University. In addition, in his speech, the President emphasized the importance of adhering to the ethics when carrying out scientific research because of its great impact on the credibility of research and researchers. Moreover, President of the University said that the conference is an opportunity to develop the skills of the university students in various fields and to show their skills and talents, thus building and graduating distinctive generations capable of serving the community.

Professor Yazeed Al-Sbou, Acting Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, welcomed the audiences and said in his speech at the opening ceremony of the conference: "How delighted we are in the participation of our students growing and glittering in this conference until the last moments of its organization and preparation. Today, we are pleased to attend this conference, with a number of creative participations that show great enthusiasm for achieving more creativity and excellence. In addition Professor al-Sbou said that: "This conference is a field of scientific competition, in which our students have proved through their participations that they possess outstanding abilities and high ambition. So we register in this regard our admiration for our students and their supervisors."

Moreover, Professor Al-Sbou said that every student who joins the university is the nucleus of a researcher capable of production and creativity. The role of the university is focused on directing and honing his/her skills so that he/she can turn his/her ideas into research projects that can be applied on the ground. The convening of this scientific conference as an annual tradition in the university because of its key role in highlighting the research outputs of university students in all disciplines, which carries many important topics that may contribute to the provision of community problems solutions.

The conference was organized in two tracks: undergraduate students track and the postgraduate students track. In the conference, 30 students presented their research findings and graduation projects. They presented many projects in various fields within their academic disciplines which included: information

technology, law, administrative sciences, education, politics, architecture, graphics and design, management information system, and many other topics.

Three prizes were allocated for the best three participations per track. In addition, two prizes were allocated to the supervisors of the students who won the first rank in every track. The winners of the postgraduate participations are:

Rank	Student Name	Supervisor	Department
First	Saleh Mahasneh	Dr. Ali Masadeh	Public Law
Second	Alla Qamber	Ahmed Al- Muhamadi	Business Administration
Second	Teebah Al-Jamri	Dr. Ali Masadeh	Public Law

The winners of the undergraduate participations are:

Rank	Student Name	Supervisor	Department
First	Reem AlZaman	Moaiad Khder	Computer Science
Second	Abdulla Qudair	Moaiad Khder	Computer Science
Third	Samah Wael	Moaiad Khder	Computer Science

It was fortunate that the closing session of the Conference and the ceremony honoring the winners coincide with Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, special IREG award ceremony for the international recognition based on his exceptional contribution to Higher Education and Academia in the Kingdom of Bahrain and internationally. The winners and their supervisors were honored by Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Ghassan Aouad, University President and Professor Luiz Claudio Costa, President of IREG Observatory and Academic Ranking and Excellence.

At the end of the conference, Professor Al-Sbou thanked the students and supervisors, the evaluation committees and all those who contributed to organization of this conference: the Deanship of Scientific Research and Graduate Studies, the Deanship of Student Affairs, Public Relations, and all the University employees for their valuable contribution to the success of this distinguished research event.

## THE PRESIDENT OF IREG OBSERVATORY ON ACADEMIC RANKING AND EXCELLENCE RECOGNISES PROFESSOR WAHEEB'S CONTRIBUTION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

On 18 April, a special ceremony was held to recognise Professor's Waheeb achievements by the President of IREG, Professor Luiz Costa. It was a fantastic celebration of Prof Waheeb's contribution to Higher Education and Academia and a well deserved recognition by an international organisation. The ceremony was attended by Prof Waheeb's family, many members of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, distinguished external guests, and many staff and students.



Many congratulations to Prof Waheeb, our Chairman of the Board of Trustees, for this international recognition based on his exceptional contribution to Higher Education and Academia in the Kingdom of Bahrain and internationally.

We are all so proud of him being awarded by IREG for his contributions to the Higher Education sector. The 18th April was a memorable day for ASU and Prof Waheeb Personally. The joy on his face said it all.

### About IREG

IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence (in short: IREG Observatory) is an international institutional non-profit association of ranking organizations, universities and other bodies interested in

university rankings and academic excellence. Its purpose is strengthening of public awareness and understanding of range of issues related to university rankings and academic excellence. The experience acquired by a group of rankers and ranking analysts, who met first in 2002, led to creation of an International Ranking Expert Group (IREG). In 2009 this informal group was transformed into IREG Observatory as a non-profit organization. It is registered in Brussels, Belgium, and its Secretariat is located in Warsaw.

## A VISIT TO CAIRO



The President and Advisor to the President for Follow up Affairs and Director of Administration and Finance, Mr Abdulla Alkhaja, visited Cairo on 16 and 17 April and had fruitful discussions with Prof Paul Ivey of LSBU who was visiting Cairo on the same

days. In addition, a visit was made to the British University of Egypt and meetings were held with their President, Vice President, Registrar and Head of International Partnerships in order to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

## “CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS” FORUM



On 1 April 2019, the Women’s Club under patronage the president supervised by the Student Services Office in the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a forum entitled “Challenges and Achievements”. The Club hosted Bahraini Women who faced challenges and conditions during their journey, and eventually were able to turn them into success stories. The participants were Shaikha AlShaiba an

athlete, Fatima AlAtawi a Fashion Designer, Jowariya AlShomali a Bahraini Activist and Reem Alotaibi a Civil Engineer. Ruqaya Mohsin, ASU’s Director of Marketing and Public Relations, did a great job in managing the forum and

being the MC. It was very inspiring and interesting to hear these Bahraini women stories, and how each of them were able to overcome all the setbacks and give hope to the listeners that nothing is impossible. A big thanks goes to the women club especially Fajer Althawadi, the Women’s Club President, and the Student Services Office for organizing such a great event.



## “PHOTOGRAPHY AND EDITING – FILMMAKING” WORKSHOP

On 7 and 8 of April 2019, the Media Club supervised by the student services office in the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a “Photography and Editing – Filmmaking” workshop that was presented by the Bahraini Director Osama AlBalooshi. The basics of the photography and editing was taught to the workshop participants (students and graduates) in terms of theory and practice. The students were educated how to take a professional photo, how to use the place lightening, how to edit a video and many other interesting information. The workshop was attended by a big number of participants as it was very beneficial and useful.



## THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE SECOND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Students of the College of Arts and Science participated in the Second Scientific Conference of the University Students on Thursday, 18/4/2019

The conference was organized by the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies and the Deanship of Student Affairs , 30 reserch papers were presented.



Students from the Department of Computer Science presented the topics: Artificial Intelligence, Social Engineering, Internet of Things (IOT), Machine Learning, Coding for Kids, Negative effects of overusing of digital screens

Students for the Department of Design and Arts presented: Obesity in childhood, Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings

The audience and the jury appraised the level of the college students and their commitment to participate in this conference for the second year.

The efforts of the College deanship represented by Acting Dean Prof. Ayman Aldmoor and the staff of the college were crowned by obtaining the three prizes for the bachelor degree reserch papers:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Prize : Reem Yahya – Department of Computer Science
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Prize : Abdulla Qudair– Department of Computer Science
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prize : Samah Wael – Department of Computer Science



## INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name:	Asmaa Mahmood Almerbati
Workplace:	Ministry of Health
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Accounting & Finance
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	I have really enjoyed the Accounting & Finance course at ASU. Each year the modules build on the previous year's knowledge, so I was constantly progressing but also starting from strong foundation and a good understanding of the subject material. There were also opportunities on the degree for group projects, which I found very rewarding. I was able to work with different groups of people, learning many practical and transferable skills for the future, whilst simultaneously improving my confidence.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	Accounting & Finance fed my passion for Mathematics, It was important to be able to do the calculations, as it is just important for such a degree, and for future jobs, to be able to understand accounting concepts and write about them.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	I discovered my love for Mathematics during my time at school. It was this passion that helped me decide that Accounting & Finance was the subject for me, so I did it.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	ASU is perfect
Final words	I would like to thank everyone supported me during my study journey.

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

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Success isn't just about what you accomplish in your life; it's about what you inspire others to do."*

*Happy Reading!*