

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 30th 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 as a performance”.



Teaching is in many ways similar to a performance on stage or in a TV program that lasts for 15 weeks in a semester. The big difference is that teaching is performed in front of an interactive audience of students. It is our duty to put on a strong performance and make teaching really exciting and great fun. Students should be looking forward to the next session of teaching exactly the same way viewers look forward to the next episode of a TV programme. Good teachers/instructors should be talented in engaging students in the learning process. Research has demonstrated that this engagement increases students' interest in the subject being taught and lengthens their span of attention and focus. In addition, it enables them to develop strong critical thinking skills and helps them in successfully achieving the course's learning objectives. Active learning requires students to participate in class through discussions and questioning, as opposed to sitting and listening quietly. Strategies include brief question-and-answer sessions, discussion integrated into the lecture, impromptu writing assignments, hands-on activities, experiential learning events and other participative activities. Great teachers have passion, skills and an open mind on how to best engage their students and get them excited about learning – and that means considering trying out different interactive teaching styles in the classroom. Interactive teaching styles combined with practical applications help students to comprehend the depths of the study material. In addition, this will prevent them from getting bored, uninterested in the lecturer and subject, and disengaged during the lecture.

50 tips are listed below to improve teaching performance based on my own personal experience and research done using the references that are specified at the end of this article:

1. Be well prepared, research your subject, rely on the most up to date materials and follow your teaching plan. You need to be fluent in describing your subject, as this will demonstrate your knowledge of the subject. However, it is important to indicate to students that you are also a learner
2. Use practical examples for difficult and complicated subjects
3. The first class is the most important one as the students will be observant of your knowledge, style, quality of interactions, and passion of teaching and will develop their own first impressions and perceptions
4. Communicate your knowledge of the subject using appropriate means, preferably with the help of technology
5. Get organized and plan your lecture properly
6. Provide students with lecture handouts
7. Rely on a realistic lesson plan to control your lecture, as time management is vital in running smooth lectures
8. Link your instructional materials to the learning objectives and assessment methods as these 3 components should come together
9. Make teaching exciting and fun. Avoid a monotonous voice and move around during the lecture room
10. Remember that students have different learning abilities and this can be overcome by using different interactive teaching methods and styles
11. Engage students in the learning process and help them develop strong critical thinking skills
12. Create a positive environment as positivity will lead to more student engagement
13. Use technology in order to demonstrate to students that you are up to date with recent developments which can help in teaching and learning
14. Use PowerPoint slides and video clips whenever appropriate. Your presentation slides should not be congested with information

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Mohammed Mahmoud Al Najjar

Position: Manager of Student Services Office

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

I was born in Kuwait, in December 1984.

I obtained my Bachelor degree in Marketing from Petra University, Jordan.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I started my job at ASU in September 2011, as an Admissions and Registration Officer, until April 2013, where I was promoted to be Manager of Career Development and Alumni Affairs in the Deanship of Student Affairs.

Working with students is my passion, and as a result, I became the Manager of Student Services Office in September 2014 which is the position I currently hold.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

To achieve the University's vision in becoming one of the leading private universities supporting practical learning and scientific research in Bahrain and the Gulf

15. Use case studies, group projects and problem-solving methods in order to encourage students' participation
16. Encourage students to provide feedback during lectures, this will enable them to develop strong presentation and communication skills
17. Develop assignments and exams that will help your students advance their thinking.
18. Check out your classroom and any available multimedia facilities before class
19. Include more opportunities for active learning if students appear bored
20. Make any necessary adjustments to your plan for the next class session
21. Anticipate questions that students may ask in office hours, review sessions, or subsequent classes
22. Be reflective and help students develop reflective skills
23. Avoid the "broadcasting" model and do not read from textbooks or PowerPoint presentations. Encourage interactive methods in order to make students interested in your lecture
24. Make sure that students are aware of what learning objectives they will achieve by the end of the lecture
25. Use questions that stimulate response, discussion, and a hands-on experience
26. Demonstrate to the students that learning is a discovery process
27. Help students learn about each other in order to create a team environment and use the pairing technique if appropriate
28. Conclude your lecture by introducing the next one
29. Specify useful references and extra reading materials
30. Put on a performance and enjoy yourself. This will help students realize how passionate you are about teaching them
31. Embrace quality in everything you do. The lecture's materials, interactions, and delivery should be of the highest quality

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy most working with the students and helping them achieve their goals and develop their skills.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I like all kinds of sports, and was a Jordan national Rugby team player from 2007 to 2011.

In my free time, I enjoy watching movies, series and documentaries.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

MANSAF

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

I don't like reading books; I'd rather watch a documentary.

8. Final words

Believe it to achieve it ☺



32. Help students build up their confidence through active participation and encouragement
33. Engage more with shy and less participative students and encourage them to take part in discussions and questions and answers sessions
34. Do not arrive late or leave early during the lecture, this will give the wrong impression to your students
35. Share good practices with your colleagues in order to create a culture of excellence
36. Learn from students' feedback and improve future lectures
37. Provide feedback to students on a timely basis
38. Use Moodle to store your lectures, lesson plans, and any additional learning materials
39. Encourage a culture of innovation and creativity in the classroom and promote entrepreneurship when appropriate
40. Encourage your students to make use of our library before and after classes
41. Encourage a culture of reading and writing amongst students
42. Invite guest speakers from industry, business, and government in order to keep your students updated with what's happening in the real world
43. Develop the abilities of students in terms of research and analytical skills
44. Encourage students to embrace independent learning when appropriate
45. Work with students on past exam papers and show them a typical marking model
46. Make sure that your course portfolios are up to date and include reflections from teaching lessons
47. Make sure that the physical layout of the classroom is appropriate in order to encourage more participation, especially in group work
48. Guide your students during the revision period in order to get them well prepared for exams
49. Invite students from senior classes to share their experiences as peer teaching has proven to be beneficial to learners
50. Make yourself available during office hours to help students with further queries and clarifications

The above tips will help in improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in our University. This is an important area in the forthcoming accreditation visit and we should all make extra efforts to improve the learning experience of our students irrespective of accreditation. Students should be at the heart of all what we do and the quality of teaching, learning and assessment should always be our top priority. Finally, teaching should be seen as great fun and an opportunity to put on a strong performance.

Useful References

<https://www.washington.edu/teaching/teaching-resources/engaging-students-in-learning/>

<https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/classroom-resources/5-interactive-teaching-styles-2/>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/teacher-student-interactions-key-quality-classrooms>

<https://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/refuse-to-be-a-boring-teacher/>

<https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/designteach/teach/firstday.html>

<https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/principles/teaching.html>

<http://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/resources/course-design/tips-for-faculty-teaching-for-the-first-time/>

LATE ABDULLA NASS MAJLIS

On Wednesday evening 23 May, HRH the Crown Prince visited the late Abdulla Nass Majlis where he was received by HE Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the presence of the Chairman of the BOT, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, Mr Adel Nass and Mr Mohammed Alamer,



members of the BOT, Mr Mohammed Alkhaja, member of the BOD, the President, VP for Academic Affairs and Development, Director of Administration and Finance and our student Abdulla Adel Nass. The Minister of Education and many other dignitaries also visited this Majlis.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION MAJILIS

On the evening of 24 May, HE Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chairman of the BOTs, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, and the President visited the Majlis of HE the Minister of Education.

HEA ACCREDITED CENTRE SUCCESS

It is great news to hear back from HEA regarding ASU's application for accreditation. The Panel has agreed that Applied Science University Fellowship Scheme (Descriptors 1-3) can be accredited subject to some conditions that can be easily accommodated.

The ASU HEA accreditation means that ASU is now allowed to train all its staff to be fellows or senior fellows of the HEA. This now can be done internally at the University and the scheme will start in September 2018. Many thanks to Dr Faiza, Dr Adel and Ms Catherine for all the hard work they put in driving this success and the support from Dr Assem, Dr Mohamed Yousif and Mr Abdulla. This success is dedicated to Prof Waheeb for his vision and great support in putting the University on the international map. This success demonstrates that by working as a united team we can transform our University and make it one of the best in the region. We will be one of a few centres in the region that are accredited by the HEA and this can be used as a good marketing tool.

It is really pleasing that we have now in the University 7 Senior Fellows and 23 Fellows of the HEA (list is provided) and we are in addition to the HEA accredited centre success. This is a fantastic achievement for the University considering that we are a relatively young institution and we are ahead of many universities in the region in this area of HEA recognition and qualifications. In addition, It demonstrates that we have the leadership needed to drive such a demanding endeavour. The accreditation inspection panel will appreciate this achievement as it demonstrates that we are very serious about staff development and achieving international professional recognition. However, the inspection panel will expect that the HEA achievements have impacted our teaching in a positive way and we have become much more reflective.

It is therefore important that our teaching in the classrooms is of international quality and in line with the HEA requirements and vision.

Updated List of HEA Fellows within ASU

Ser.	Name	Unit	HEA Status
1.	Dr. Assem Al Hajj	VP for Academic Affairs and Development	Senior Fellow
2.	Dr. Ramzi Nekhili	Dean, College of Administrative Sciences	Senior Fellow
3.	Dr. Marwan Mohamed Mohamed Abdeldayem	College of Administrative Sciences	Senior Fellow
4.	Dr. Adel Mahmoud Alsamman Ahmed	College of Administrative Sciences	Senior Fellow
5.	Dr. Saeed Hameed Kurdi Al Dulaimi	College of Administrative Sciences	Senior Fellow
6.	Prof. Saad Znad Darwash Mihyaw	College of Administrative Sciences	Senior Fellow
7.	Dr. Adeeb Hamdoon Sulaiman Sulaiman	College of Administrative Sciences	Senior Fellow
8.	Prof. Ghassan Aouad	President	Fellow
9.	Dr. Ashraf O A Hendy	Dean, College of Engineering	Fellow
10.	Dr. Joseph Nympha Rita	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
11.	Dr. Ragab Ibrahim Ismail Ismail	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
12.	Dr. Talal Al Alkawi	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
13.	Dr. Faiza Zitouni	Dean of Student Affairs	Fellow
14.	Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Hamad Arbab	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
15.	Prof. Samia Aly Mohamed El Shenawi	College of Arts and Science	Fellow
16.	Dr. Roy Domingo Tumaneng	College of Arts and Science	Fellow
17.	Dr. Husein Abdelmahdi Mohammad Bani Issa	College of Law	Fellow
18.	Dr. Hooreya Mohamed Ahmed Aldeeb	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
19.	Dr. Ahmad Azzam Mohammed Elmasri	College of Arts and Science	Fellow
20.	Rashed Ahmed Rashed Ismaeel Alrasheed	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
21.	Dr. Hussein Ali Alhusein Khasharmeh	Asst. Dean of Research	Fellow
22.	Dr. Mohammed Abdulrazzaq Nasser Alaghbari	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
23.	Dr. Moaiad Ahmad AbdelSalam Khder	College of Arts and Science	Fellow
24.	Dr. Khairi Mohamed Omar	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
25.	Dr. Ahmed Kh. Muttar	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
26.	Dr. Mohammad Alaa Hussain Al Hammami	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
27.	Dr. Nasiem Khalid Ahmad Al-Shawawreh	College of Law	Fellow
28.	Dr. Udai Ali Al-Juboori	College of Arts and Science	Fellow
29.	Ms. Atheer Ahmed Hasan Alrashed	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow
30.	Dr. Bahaeldin Makkawi Mohammed Gaily	College of Administrative Sciences	Fellow

THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Applied Science University Participated in “رمضان امان” Campaign

As a part of Applied Science University’s commitment in participating in the community engagement and service activities, which provide opportunities for students, alumni, and staff to participate, engage, and serving the community, the University participated for the second year in “رمضان امان” campaign that aims to distribute 30000 iftar meals on the road in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The campaign was organized by Fazat Shabab Society with the collaboration of the General Directorate of Traffic and with the participation of a number of institutions from the Government and Civil Society.



The Campaign launch ceremony was attended by H.E Sheikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Governor of the Capital Governorate, and Sheikh Dr. AbdulAziz Bin Ali AlNoami, Advisor to Ajman Government for Environment and the Executive Chairman of Al Ahsan Charitable Society.



Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, Manager of the Community Engagement Office, Mr . Thaer Mustafa AlRamini, Member of the Community Engagement Office and Student Care, Mr. Mohammed Mahmoud Al Najjar, Manager of Student Services Office, and around 30 students and alumni represented the University in the first day of its participation in the campaign.

The campaign which is implemented this year in Bahrain, UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, and Bosnia; aims to reducing traffic accidents and excessive speed resulting from motorists trying to catch up with Iftar, by distributing light meals to drivers before Maghrab Adhan near traffic lights and busy places.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Institutional Accreditation Inspection Visit: 24 to 27 June 2018 (4 weeks from today).

ASU Annual Ramadan Ghabgha: 1 June 2018 @ 10pm, the Grove Hotel, Amwaj Islands

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

B.B. King

Happy Reading!