

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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ASU
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

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Office No: (+973) 16036161

Email: tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of “Why ASU?”



Since its establishment in 2004, the University has embraced the concept of excellence and we are now reaping the benefits. Students are becoming much more demanding and parents want good education for their children. We just need to look at the list of achievements only last year to prove that we are going in the right direction and soon we will become a “University of Choice”. Below is a list of highlights of achievements from last year:

- ASU is now ranked at 45 in the QS Arab Region University Rankings, in the top 4% of Arab Universities
- Excellent draft report following the institutional accreditation visit
- All academic programs are now in the status of confidence
- HEA Centre is set up (ASUrise), 36 academic staff are now fellows or senior fellows of the HEA, 20 staff are being trained this year in 2 cohorts
- 106 publications were produced last year, 39 are in Scopus and ISI journals, an increase of 37 publications on the year before
- ISO 9001:2015 certification achieved
- Biggest graduation cohort, we have now 3974 alumni of the University
- International conference on sustainable futures with 65 papers in a top proceedings
- First students conference
- 2nd Good Teaching Conference
- Plenty of students activities
- 3rd anniversary of the News Digest

In addition, “Why ASU?” on our web site lists the following reasons:

- Supportive students’ environment
- A place to unlock your potentials
- High students employability rates
- Internship opportunities
- Financial aid available
- Friendly and family atmosphere
- International recognition; British degrees in Engineering and Business
- Highly qualified staff from 25 nationalities
- 36 Higher Education Academy (HEA) fellows and senior fellows amongst staff
- A combination of Arabic and English academic programmes
- Exemption from 6 papers (ACCA) from the graduates of the Bachelor of Accounting and Finance
- Highly ranked in the HEC latest annual report
- State of art campus

ASU is now enjoying a strong reputation in the Higher Education Sector in Bahrain and beyond, but we should not become complacent. We need to continue to transform our University and make it one of the best in the region. Through hard work, quality, innovation, team efforts, loyalty, trust, and strong leadership we can achieve this.

THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED A KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON

On Thursday 21 November, the President delivered a keynote address at the international conference on professionalism and ethics held at London South Bank University. The keynote was about leadership and ethics in construction. In his keynote the President stressed that leadership, professionalism and ethics in construction should come together in order to provide a safe and pleasant environment. However, cultural differences and context specific requirements should be taken into account.



INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Hanan Nabeel Mahdi Radhi

Position: Administrator in the Department of Accounting and Finance

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

I was born in Manama, and I Live with my lovely family. In my childhood, I was shy and quiet.

I graduated from UOB with Associate Diploma in Electronic Engineering, then I continued my Bachelor Degree at the same field, but somehow, I stopped my study for more than 5 years, until I got my great opportunity to study Business Administration again at ASU, and I will graduate NEXT semester.

I worked in Al Saadoon Business Group S.P.C. as a Secretary before joining ASU.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

By Coincidence, tomorrow I will celebrate 5 years, since I have joined ASU as Administrator in the Department of Accounting and Finance.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

ASU is my second home, and it’s an amazing place to study & work.

I have faith that the University will continue growing and it will become a reputable international university in the future.



The President presented a model of cultural differences, which can impact leadership styles and ethics and professionalism. In addition, he emphasised that strong leadership can help construction firms in achieving high ethics and standards.

The President quoted that “People in our industry need to understand that leading by example will lead to such high ethics and professionalism.



Bribery, malpractices, and unprofessional behaviour amongst many others should be eliminated from our industry as lives could be at risks in producing bad designs and structures”, The Keynote was concluded with a set of recommendations to help construction firms develop appropriate leadership styles and approaches that cope with the challenges in a fast changing environment taking into account contexts and cultural differences. In addition, the President chaired a panel discussion on the topic: “Integrity, responsibility and accountability in professional roles in construction”. The panel members were:

1. Dr Wim Bakens, Former Secretary General, CIB, the Netherlands
2. Mr Bobby Chakravarthy, President, Association of Project Safety, UK
3. Professor Liu Junying, Tianjin University, China
4. Mr Neill Stansbury, Director of the Global Infrastructure Anti-Corruption Centre, UK

The conference was organised by LSBU in association with ASU and many other international organisations and chaired by Professor Charles Egbu and Professor George Ofori. Some sessions of the conference were attended by Professor Zaher, Dr Islam and Mr Saqr Al-Khaja.

During the visit to London, The President held meetings with the Vice Chancellor of LSBU, Professor David Phoenix, and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Ivey, and many other colleagues to explore opportunities to strengthen our collaboration.

LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



On the evening of 21 November, the Director of the President’s Office – Ms Tania Kashou attended a reception celebrating the Lebanese Independence Day on behalf of the President, which was held at the Gulf Hotel.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the teamwork with the College staff & the Academics, and I respect the opportunities that we have at ASU.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I like writing stories, painting & reading poetry.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Italian food and I can’t deny I adore chocolate.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Clash of the Titans wrote by Alan Dean Foster. It’s a great book; mystery and fantasy story about ancient Gods. I really like these strange things.

8. Final words

One day, I wish to read ASU means Adaptable, Sympathetic, Understanding, and that’s who we are.

PALESTINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On the evening of 22 November, the VP for Academic Affairs and Development, Dr Assem Al-Hajj - Asst VP for Academic Affairs and Development and Dean of Student Affairs – Dr Faiza Zitouni, and the Director of the President’s Office – Ms Tania Kashou attended a reception celebrating the Palestinian Independence Day which was held at the Gulf Hotel.



“ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BAHRAINI STARTUP” PRESENTATION BY EDB

On 21 November 2018, the Deanship of Student Affairs has organized a presentation that was delivered by the Managing Director of EDB; Dr. Simon Galpin on “Entrepreneurship and Bahraini startup”.

EDB, the Economic Development Board in Bahrain, is a dynamic public agency, chaired by the HRH the Crown Prince, attracting and assisting companies to set up in the Kingdom of Bahrain. EDB offers guidance, facilitation and aftercare for new startup businesses in Bahrain. Dr Simon highlighted that EDB offers investment opportunities, he explained Bahrain strengths in its location providing access to growing markets, in its people with skills and talent, in its cost effective business environment, and in its track record of innovation. The presentation was followed by a success story delivered by Ms Hala Sulaiman, a cofounder of ALRawi website and app on “Arabic Audiobooks”. After the inspiring talk, a discussion was opened to the audience and was coordinated by Mr Isa Mubarak (National Communication Manager) and Ms Mekiza (EDB coordinator).



A great number of students, alumni members, staff attended the presentation, and a great support was shown by all College Deans, and by Dr Assem Al-Hajj VP for Academic Affairs and Development, who presented trophies as token of appreciations to all speakers. Such event is highly endorsed by the University Management, it creates aspirations and awareness for our students and staff on the latest development trends either nationally and internationally.



CELEBRATING THE PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AT UOB

Mr. Mohamed Najjar, and Ms Hadeel Bucheerei from the Deanship of Student Affairs and the Student Council Members participated in the celebration of the Parliamentary and Municipal elections that took place at the University of Bahrain from 8am to 8pm. The celebration program included a poetry, musical performance by school and university students and Bahraini singers, Artha, small market and etc. ASU attended among 8 other universities in Bahrain this celebration as each university has its own booth.



ALUMNI CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS 7TH MEETING – 3RD CYCLE



On November 6, 2018 the Alumni Club Board of Directors conducted a meeting within themselves to discuss the achieved goals in the 11th graduation ceremony that covered the club’s president speech, introducing themselves to the newly alumni by distributing flyers and increasing the club membership.

In addition to that, the members discussed the upcoming events which are the alumni yearly meeting, graduates and employers meeting (College of Law) that will be held by the beginning of December and the idea of having a monthly alumni majlis. The members insisted that they continue the weekly alumni article that is published in the University President's News Digest and the importance of activating the alumni Instagram account amongst a bigger number of alumni.

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE ADMIN AND FINANCE DEPARTMENTS

On 12 November 2018, the Student Council members in the Deanship of Student Affairs called for a meeting with the Admin, HR and Finance that consisted of Dr. Mohamed Yousif the VP for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement, Mr. Abdulla AlKhaja Director of Administration and Finance and Mr. Majed Othman, Head of Procurement and Logistics Services. The meeting was set to discuss the student payment strategy, the car parking, the supermarket and cafeteria and other student related issues in the university facilities.



The meeting was very fruitful and all parties were very pleased with the decisions taken and agreed on future cooperation with the student council for ASU students' benefit.

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



On 13 November 2018, the Student Council members in the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a meeting with ASU President, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, all Colleges Deans, and the Dean of Admission and Registration to discuss some of the most pertinent issues and challenges the students are facing mainly during the exam periods and the early registration for the second semester 2018/2019. Actions are promised to be taken, and all concerned parties will be informed.

MEETING WITH THE CAFETERIA

On 14 November 2018, the Student Services Office, the Student Council members and Head of Procurement and Logistics Services met with the Cafeteria management to discuss suggestions for the cafeteria's improvement. The cafeteria management was very pleased to take up the comments, noted the points and promised to improve more and keep the good standard.



THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Applied Science University Visited UCO Parent Care Centre

As part of the Community Engagement Office initiatives at Applied Science University; and in conjunction with the celebration of the International Day of the elderly, and in recognition of our parents and mothers in UCO Parent Care Centre, the Community Engagement Office organized a visit to UCO Care Centre on Sunday, 18 November 2018. A delegation from ASU, included a number of academic and administrative staff and students took part in the visit.



During the visit, ways of cooperation were discussed between ASU and UCO, then the delegation visited the facilities at UCO Care Centre and met the elderly and distributed some gifts to them and did some fun activities with them to cheer them up and support them.

At the end of the visit, the management and residents of UCO Care Centre thanked the Univeristy delegation who participated in the visit. It was unforgettable day to all.

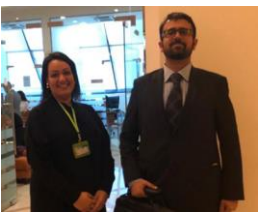


The Community Engagement Office Received lameyya Cultural Salon



On Monday, 19 November 2018, the Community Engagement Office at the University received a delegation from lameyya Cultural Salon, where they discussed ideas and the ways of execution of the activities that was agreed upon between the two sides.

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name	Mohammed Salahuddin Abdulqader
Workplace	MSA Litigation
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Law
Do you intend to pursue further Higher Education? What Major?	If the time is suitable would be yes, Masters in Law (Maritime Law or International Trade Law)
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	Memorable Experience, Contributed in forming my legal personality that led me to start up my own law firm (MSA Litigation) and work as an attorney.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	The scholarship I got as an ASU Alumnus from Capital Governorate in cooperation with ASU to study Chinese Language in China. Also ASU academic staff, who taught me in high levels of Professionalism and didn't spare any information.
In your opinion, What are the improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	Adopting Linguistics teaching and historical book for the University library.
Final words	Thanks to ASU Management, Academic and Admin staff for their efforts to Make ASU rise and shine.

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You will never get it unless you work for it."
F.D. Van Amburgh

Happys Reading!