PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the **51st** issue of the **4th** volume of the President's News Digest. In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of **"Decision Support Systems"**.

A decision support system (DSS) is a computer based information system that is used to enable decision makers take the right decisions. Within a university context, a decision support system is needed to deal with issues related to admissions and registration, student's progression and retention, marketing, and staff recruitment amongst many others.

A good decision support system relies heavily on the quality of data and information as rubbish in is rubbish out. It allows proper planning, forecasting of future student numbers, and identification of new academic programs, and research trends.

When decisions makers are faced with a vast amount of information and a variety of options, a good decision system will allow them to do data mining which can help them in taking the right decisions.

The first decision support systems used techniques like expert system (rule based approach) and case base reasoning. However, recent advancements in the area of artificial intelligence will lead to the development of more reliable decision support systems.

LABORATORIES SAFETY INDUCTION

On Wednesday 25 September and Sunday 2 October 2019, Mr. Mohammad Salameh - Laboratory Supervisor at the College of Engineering and a certified professional safety engineer by IASP/OSHA, and by the American Safety & Health Institute - conducted a safety workshop as part of the student's induction program of the new academic year 2019/2020.

The safety workshop aimed at introducing the student to the essential safety standards, (PPEs) personal protection equipment's and precautions as well as raising student's awareness of the safety elements. It is all to ensure that students perform experiments safely in the engineering laboratories as well as on the work site.

Students from architectural and civil engineering (level S & level 4) attended the workshop and signed a form for attending the training.

Written by Mr. Mohammad Salameh

ASU COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE BAHRAIN IEEE DAY

On the 6th of October, 2019, ASU Computer Science students attended the Bahrain IEEE Day hosted by Bahrain Polytechnic University. The Bahrain IEEE Day which was hosted by ASU the previous year, honorably and kindly welcomed our students and allowed them the privilege of presenting to an audience of esteemed and respected region members.

A handful of students were chosen to edit a video together to illustrate all the activities the college has hosted and participated in over the past year since our last event. The short video really boasted the impressive activities that our exemplary student body participated in and succeeded as well. It was a great way to compile the accomplishments of the students in one of our colleges.

The students also got the chance to show off two games that they were able to put together in a very short amount of time. CS students wanted to share with the audience what our students are capable of doing given creative freedom and minimal guidance. So, they took the opportunity and seized the moment. They used the gained knowledge from ASU and their own resources to present to the audience what is possible with some study, resources and knowledge. The two games were very positively received by the younger members of the branches, and the prizes given out to the winners were greatly appreciated. The students came back with reinvigorated interest in their studies, and great appreciation for the members they got to meet shortly and see firsthand why they look at them as role models. The students were accompanied by Head of Computer Science Department: Dr. Moaiad Khder and Dr. Samer Shorman.

Written by Dr. Moaiad Khder

COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED INTHE PROGRAMMING COMPETITION-SECOND ROUND

Computer Science Students participated in the Bahrain Collegiate Programming Contest last Monday for two days 14th and 15th October. The contest was between all the Universities of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The competition organized by Arab Open University supervised by the ICPC International Collegiate Programming Contest.

The members of ASU team are:

1- Omar AlWahab
2- Abdullah Qudair
3- Abdulrahman Bahar
And their coach: Dr. Moaiad Khder ,
Participated
The team represented ASU in that competition and it was a good experience for them as their first participation in this international competition where they did well against the other teams. In addition they attended the Awards and Participation Ceremony on 16th Oct.

Omar, Abdulrahman, and Abdullah appreciate the University efforts in supporting them by teaching the students all the required skills and give them the opportunity to participate in this competition, even though two of them still in their 1st semester of their second year but they did very well.
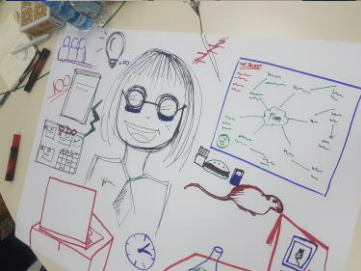
Written by Dr. Moaiad Khder

ASU COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS TAKE THEIR FIRST STEPS IN THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COMPETITION

Tuesday the 8th of October, 2019, marked a momentous occasion for the College of Arts and Science, students represented by Computer Science students. They were nominated by their valued Head of Department Dr. Moaiad Khder to participate at the Scientific Research competition amongst 300 students nationally. Tuesday was their first and only training day, hosted by Regional Center of Information and Communication Technology.

Our students got to experience a lecture from esteemed British researchers and returned to us excited to continue through the competition and eager to win. They had wonderful experience learning about specific research methods and how they will go about creating their experiments and learn the answers to questions no one else knows. They were exposed to some learning experiences and have some perspectives of their colleagues from different universities and institutions. We hope this intellectual collective turns out to change their perspectives on learning and research for the best, and we wish them all luck in pursuing their research topics.

Written by Dr. Moaiad Khder

APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATED IN "WALKING WITH THE BLIND" OCTOBER 2019

Under the patronage of HE Sheikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate; and as a part of the Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University initiatives, ASU presented by Professor Ghassan Aouad the president and a large number of academic and administrative staff, students, and alumni; participated in **"Walking with the Blind"** October 2019, which was organised by Friendship Society of the Blind under the theme **"The Society Support for the Blind ... It is our Duty**." on the occasion of the International Day of the white stick. The march was held on the 12th of October 2019 near AlFateh Coast.

ASU participation came in fulfillment of its vision and mission to support the Bahraini society in all its segments. The University attaches great importance to serving the community by strengthen its services to support humanitarian initiatives in various fields and with all categories, especially those with special needs.

It is worth mentioning that the University is keen to participate in events that serve the community and enrich volunteer work at various levels, as it organised many events that reinforce its role in engaging with community by hosting events highlighting the needs of special needs

Written by Mr. Mohammad Al- Hammami

ASU COMMITTEES ARCHIVING AND MANAGEMENT TOOL

On Thursday 17 October 2019, the ICT&KM Directorate organized a workshop facilitated by Ms. Shadia and Mr. Rasheed, in collaboration with the Acting Secretary General of University Council, to help the Office Managers of the Colleges and Deanships and the minute-takers of University-level committees and councils to upload all the minutes of meetings of the previous academic year (2018/2019) onto the new Committees Archiving and Management Tool.

The session was interactive and practical as the participants brought the minutes to upload and started uploading with help and guidance from Ms. Shadia and Mr. Rasheed.

The tool will play a major role in enhancing the effectiveness and the communication between the committees as it will enable all the concerned parties to follow, almost in real time, the proceedings, actions and decisions of the various committees and councils of the University.

Developed during the academic year 2018/2019, this tool will be fully deployed in the current academic year (2019/2020) and all the agendas and minutes of meetings will be stored in the tool as soon as they get produced.

Additional features of the tool will include an active workflow system that will allow the Committee Chair to assign tasks to other committee members or colleagues and monitor its progress and implementation status.

Finally, it is worth noting that this tool is part of a bugger system called "Information and Documentation Center", a strategic project helmed by the ICT&KM Directorate that will help the University manage its documentation in a secure, paperless and sustainable way.

Written by Mr. Hatem Dammak

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS

Name:	Hamad Husain Abdulrhim
Workplace:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Law
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	One of my best experiences in my life was studying at ASU where I felt so comfortable because of the fees flexibility, cooperative students and staff and the well prepared classes.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	I enjoyed the team spirt and open door polices to communicate with my lecturers.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	I still remember those successful & remarkable ASU events such as Bahrain National day and charitable events.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	Nothing ASU is the best.
Final words	Thank you for this interview and looking forward to see you all again.

Interviewed By:Mrs. Noora Musalam, Manager of Career Development & Alumni Affairs Office - Deanship Of Student Affairs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Whenever you see a successful business, someone once made a courageous decision."

Peter F. Drucker

Happy Reading!