

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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**ASU**  
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية  
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Welcome to the last edition of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest. As Chairman of the BOTs, I am delighted to introduce the 52nd celebratory issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



The President of the University and the editor of the News Digest (with contributions from University colleagues) have produced the President's News Digest on a weekly basis and they never failed to circulate it on time even during the summer breaks and holidays that coincided with the day of circulation. 156 issues were produced and circulated every Sunday over the last 3 years. In last year's issues, topics related to the following subjects amongst many others were addressed: the joy of working in higher education, faculty members as role models, benchmarking of academic programmes, writing learning objectives, teaching as a performance, measuring the impact of universities, inspirational teaching, ethical behaviour in universities, preparing lesson plans, stakeholders' involvement, students' motivation, role of deans in the University, university rankings in international league tables, professionalism and high ethics, strategic planning, boards and councils of the University, competitiveness, new students' orientation, course portfolios, quality culture, writing and publishing research papers in peer-reviewed journals, student experience throughout its life cycle, University Management Committee, internationalization, what makes a good professor/instructor in a university, Good Teaching Conference observations, Innovation, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, communication, good governance and management in running academic institutions, creating a strong culture of excellence, students' graduate attributes, embracing exciting and interactive teaching methods, conducting good quality research, teaching in the classrooms, HEC rules, regulations and resolutions, HEC institutional accreditation, and BQA institutional review.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the team who are producing the News Digest and to express my joy at this important achievement of celebrating 3 years of the President's News Digest.

I know for sure that the BOT members, students and staff enjoy reading the News Digest in order to keep them abreast of what's happening in the University.

Happy 3rd Anniversary to the News Digest

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 52nd issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

This edition of the President's News Digest is a special one as we celebrate its third anniversary. This weekly newsletter has achieved its purpose by keeping staff, students and other stakeholders informed about the University's activities and events.

I would like to thank Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, for his vision and continuous support and also thank all contributors who have helped a dream to become a reality. Special thanks must go to the editor of the News Digest, Ms Tania Kashou, who has managed to send out on time every issue of the last 3 years. Her dedication, hard work and commitment have made the production of this publication a smooth undertaking. I would also like to thank Mr Hamzah Ramadan for translating the messages from the President into Arabic and Ms Catherine Hogan for her help with editing the "Message from the President".

Happy 3rd Anniversary to the News Digest!

## A VISIT TO THE OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ARAB UNIVERSITIES

On Sunday 21 October, the President and VP for Admin, Finance and CE, Dr Mohammed Yousif, visited the offices of the Association of Arab Universities in Amman, and met the Secretary General of the Association and his deputies in order to discuss opportunities for collaboration.



## THE DEANSHIP OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES HELD ITS FIRST ACTIVITY

Under the patronage of Professor Ghassan Aouad, President of Applied Science University, and in line with the University's strategic plan and workshop series, the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies held its first workshop for the academic year 2018/2019 on Monday, 15 October 2018 titled "Discussions on HEC Requirements about Master's Theses." The Deanship invited Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development, to deliver the workshop.



Professor Yazeed Al-Sbou, the Dean of Research and Graduate studies, welcomed the audience and gave a brief about graduate studies in the University and stressed the significant role of both the supervisor and the student in achieving distinguished theses.



In his talk, Dr Assem spoke about the importance of the workshop to guide supervisors, students and internal and external examiners about the process of completion of good quality theses. In addition, Dr Assem discussed some points highlighted by the HEC regarding this subject, including chairing the assessment panel and conforming with the regulations, achieving the conditions of supervision on the master's thesis, the novelty and importance

of the subject of master's thesis to the Kingdom of Bahrain, student's competence, updating the Manual of preparing master's thesis, weakness of some master's theses... etc.



The University President, Professor Ghassan Aouad, concluded the workshop and stressed the importance of the quality of the master's theses and publishing research articles related to these theses in well-recognized journals and conferences. In addition, the President highlighted the importance of the University's master's programmes.

The audience enjoyed the workshop and the wide discussions, which covered issues related to graduate studies and programmes. In addition, academic members shared their ideas and proposed constructive ideas for future research.

## DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE MET WITH MCGRAW-HILL EDUCATION CONSULTANT GCC| EMEA

On Wednesday 24 October 2018 , Dr Ayman AlDmoor, Dean of College of Arts and Science, and Dr Moaiad Khder, Head of Computer Science Department, met with Mr Den Hewitt – Learning Technology Consultant GCC| EMEA.



The meeting focused on the cooperation ways that can take place between the College and McGraw-Hill Education.



Dr Ayman welcomed Mr Den and appreciated his initiative to establish an account for the College in order to give access to textbooks and references published by McGraw-Hill that fits the needs of the College.

This meeting is part of the college efforts to keep the textbooks of the courses and the books in library up to date.

## SEVENTH BAHRAIN ELT CONFERENCE – “21ST CENTURY TEACHING PRACTICES: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS”

On Saturday, 20 October, Ms. Dagmara Pluta, Ms. Diana El Hageova and Mr. Noel Lavin attended the Seventh Bahrain English Language Teaching (ELT) Conference – “21st Century Teaching Practices: Challenges and Solutions” organized by

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Noora Yousif Kamal

Position: Office Manager – Deanship of Student Affairs

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

I graduated from the University of Dilmun in 2011 with a Bachelor degree in Law.

I grew up within a loving and caring family.

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

I am the Office Manager of the Deanship of Student Affairs; I do most of the Admin work in the deanship, I also receive complaints and suggestions from students and try to guide them and assist them when needed.

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

To be one of the well-known universities regionally and internationally

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

The most enjoying thing about my job is dealing with the students and working with my colleagues as a team.

Bahrain English Language Teaching Professionals Network (ELTPN) in collaboration with the British Council, Bahrain. The conference brought together ELT professionals from Bahrain and the wider region, as well as ELT publishers and policymakers.



Keynote speakers included renowned experts from across the globe as well as from local and regional schools and universities. Mr. Peter Lucantoni opened preceding and talked about the need to consider future learners and the significance of incorporating various

learning strategies in the classroom. In total, there were twenty-four breakout sessions covering a wide variety of interesting topics. A good number of the sessions focused on the importance of technology in the classroom as a means of reaching 21st-century learners. Areas such as the integration of smart devices in the classroom, the use of mobile phones and the impact of gamification in the learning environment were presented. In addition, many of the workshops were practical in nature and full of great hands-on activities.

The second plenary session, “Storytelling: The Definitive 21st Century Skill” saw Mr. Jamie Keddie captivate the audience with his witty storytelling techniques. Besides an emphasis on the importance of stories as a means to entertain, strengthen bonds, persuade and communicate ideas; the session also stressed the need for all teachers to develop their own style of storytelling as a way to engage students and get them involved in discussions.

Russel Stannard closed the day’s proceedings with a presentation on how technologies are impacting teaching and learning. He left the audience with the message that it is the educator’s role to be aware of the ever-changing advances in technology and to integrate them wherever possible.

The whole conference was a great success and a wonderful way to meet and interact with other ELT professionals.

## **ASDU ORGANISING A SERIES OF TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

Aiming at building up and raising the professional capacity of ASU academic members during the academic year 2018/2019, ASDU has organized a series of training workshops related to the different core areas of professional practices within the university. This series consisted of the following:

### **5. Tell us about your hobbies**

Reading

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

Indian and Italian Food

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

يوسف الهاجري by "تره الحياة عجيبة"

### **8. Final words**

I wish ASU best of luck.



1. Designing Assessment Activities on 18 October delivered by an external consultant. Main highlights of the workshop included:
  - a) Alignment of CILOs and TLAs with Assessment.
  - b) Constructive alignment
  - c) Types of assessment activities
  - d) Relating learning outcomes to teaching methods and assessment.
  - e) Learning outcomes and levels.
  
2. How to use Moodle to setup Turnitin assignment delivered by Dr. Moaiad Kheder on 22 October for the Department of Business Administration. Main highlights of the workshop included:
  - a) Create Turnitin Assignment
  - b) Submission types
  - c) Display Originality Reports to Students
  - d) Store student papers
  
3. Preparation of Course Portfolios delivered by Dr. Mohamed Al Aghbary on 25 October for the College of Administrative Sciences. Main highlights of the workshop included:
  - a) Importance of course portfolios.
  - b) Preparation of course portfolios.
  - c) Main elements included.
  - d) Revising course portfolios.



## **THE TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRE HAS ORGANIZED A SERIES OF TRAINING COURSES FOR ITS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

The Training, Development and Continuing Education Centre at ASU has organized a series of training courses for its administrative staff. These courses, were organized to help uplift the skills of the administrative staff who attended the course. More details are listed below:

1. Mrs. Ruqaya Mohsen received her certificate for Digital marketing from ICDL. She is now an authorized instructor and tester for ICDL's - Digital Marketing syllabus. This module sets out essential concepts and skills relating to the fundamentals of digital marketing, including creating a web presence, optimising content for search engines, using social media platforms, carrying out online marketing and advertising across a range of services, as well as monitoring and improving campaigns using analytics.



2. Mr. Abbas Abdulla Sarhan, Dr. Ammar Esam Al Sammarraee, Ms. Hadeel Ahmed Bucheerei and Ms. Khadija Nadheer Shakeeb participated and completed the HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work. (QCF) course .



This qualification is for those learners who are already working or preparing to work in an industry and that has been identified within the company’s risk assessment of First Aid and supports the role in the workplace as a First aider. Topics within this course are regarded as important in maintaining good practice in the safe, prompt and effective treatment of injuries and ill health in the workplace. The qualification provides learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills in First Aid.

3. The MEDIC First Aid Basic Plus is a combined adult CPR, AED, and first aid training program designed specifically for all the occupational first aid providers. This extremely flexible program helps employers meet OSHA and other federal and state regulatory



requirements for training employees how to respond and care for medical emergencies at work. Shatha Yaseen, Muneera Alshawi, Ebrahim Hasan, Noushad hameed, Noor Abdulla, Latifa Fandi and Abdulhameed Baqi were the employees from various departments that underwent this training and are now certified first aid providers.

4. SPSS is the acronym of Statistical Package for the Social Science. SPSS is one of the most popular statistical packages which can perform highly complex data manipulation and analysis with simple instructions. It is designed for both interactive and non-interactive uses. It is used by researchers to perform statistical analysis. The course was held from 1 -4 October 2018. It was conducted by Arabian Gulf University in Association with Tamkeen. Mona Albanna, Hadeel Bucheerei, Fatema Mohamed, Latifa Fandi, Muna Bashook, Wafa Saleh, Noora Ismaeel and Maryam Mohamed attended the course.



## AAOIFI – WORLD BANK 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Dr Ammar Al Sammarraee, Dr Nadia Sharida, and students from the Department of Accounting and Finance in the College of Administrative Sciences participated in AAOIFI – World Bank 13th Annual Conference, which was under the auspices of Central Bank of Bahrain and in cooperation with World Bank, under the theme “Role of Standardization in the Future of Islamic Finance”.

Participants at the conference which was held on Tuesday and Wednesday 23-24 October 2018, at Diplomat Hotel, Manama comprised a large number of experts, scholars and senior representatives from central banks, regulatory authorities, financial institutions, accounting and auditing firms, legal firms, universities, higher education institutions, and the media, from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.



## THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### Applied Science University participated in “Walking with the Blind” March

On Saturday 20 October 2018, a group of staff and students representing Applied Science University (ASU) participated in “Walking with the Blind” march, which was held under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Hisham Bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate.

The event was organized by Friendship Society of the Blind with the support of ASU under the theme "The society support for the blind ... It is our duty" on the occasion of the International Day of the white stick.



ASU and many civil society organizations, citizens, and residents participated in the walking march. The Governor of the Capital Governorate assured that the community support for people with special needs has an essential role in raising the level of determination and will in them to achieve their aspirations noting that the Capital Governorate pays great attention to those with special needs and supports their role and integration into the society.



The President of Friendship Society of the Blind Mr. Hussein Al-Halibi thanked the Governor of the Capital Governorate for his continuous support to the society over many years. He emphasized on the significant support of ASU and the participation of the University's staff and students in this event.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Every great achievement is but a small peak in the mountain range of contributions.*

**Dale T. Mortensen**

 *Happy Reading!* 