

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 6th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



In this issue, I will be covering our 6th Cultural Educational Exhibition that took place on 3 December 2017 under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al-Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, and in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja, Her Excellency the Egyptian Ambassador to Bahrain, and over 300 dignitaries, students and staff. The exhibition was faultlessly organized by Dr Rawya Zmari who has done an exceptional job with support from the Deanship of Students Affairs, the Deanship of Arts and Science, the Department of General Studies, Students Council, and many colleagues and students from across the University.

This academic Exhibition, which showed 14 nations/cultures researched and studied by our students, made a serious contribution to knowledge and helped our students in aspiring to become global citizens. This is an excellent way of learning through doing and this is the type of innovative learning approach that is modern, efficient and productive. In this Exhibition, our students investigated 14 nations/cultures as part of an academic programme, which is assessed and is part of achieving their learning outcomes. This Exhibition helped our students develop extra curricular skills including communication, research, marketing, and analytical skills. The nations that were covered during the exhibition included: Bahrain/GCC, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Jordan, Morocco/Maghreb, Russia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA. In this Exhibition, our students learnt a great deal about these nations’ habits, traditions, cultures, and history. During the Exhibition a show of Bahraini Folklore and Music was performed which helped the audience realized the richness of the Kingdom’s heritage in music and artistic activities.



Internationalization of the curriculum is a major step in our University and by exposing our students to these cultures and nations we are helping them in being seen as global citizens without even visiting these places. In this way, the Exhibition also contributes to His Majesty the King’s vision to make Bahrain a Kingdom of co-existence, tolerance and peace.

This type of academic Exhibition should be highly encouraged as it helps us to demonstrate our students’ innovative skills and will help them learn more by researching and applying what they have learnt. Learning through practice is the way forward and we should all embrace these innovative approaches.



The focus of the Exhibition is on how students learn outside of the structured education system through posters, displays and other means. The Exhibition revealed the fascinating world of diverse cultures through cultural artifacts, and displays and stories telling. It is our intention to make this Exhibition open to the local communities in the future in order to help them learn more about various nations’ habits and traditions.



I would like to conclude by thanking Dr Rawya once again for her hard work and innovative approaches to learning. I would also like to thank Dr Faiza and the Deanship of Students Affairs, Dr Belal and our colleagues in Arts and Science, Dr Abduljabbar and our colleagues in General Studies, Mr Abdulla Al-Khaja and our colleagues in Admin and Finance, Procurement, Security, IT, and Marketing and Public Affairs, Ms Tania and Ms Ayat from the President’s office for working on the patronage and external contacts, Ms Ruqaya for being an MC and all our contributing students and staff who attended the event. A panel of judges assessed the students’ work and I am also very grateful to all of them.



## A WORKSHOP ON “SEARCHING FOR A JOB- THE JOURNEY”

On the 4 December 2017, the Career Development and Alumni Affairs Office in the Deanship of Student Affairs



organised a workshop “Searching for a Job - the journey” in collaboration with Tamkeen. The workshop was delivered by Mr. Mohamed Ali and covered many important points including; the real meaning of searching for a job, understanding the various ways of recruitment in institutions and the ways of submitting CVs, using the right search tools and how to use the best process for applying for a job vacancy.



A large number of students and visitors attended the workshop that was very interesting and beneficial.

## CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY VISIT TO ASU



On 27/28 November ASU was visited by Dr Asif Zaman, who is Cardiff Metropolitan University's Link Tutor responsible for academic liaison for the ASU-CMU academic partnership. The purpose of the visit was to meet

ASU staff and to discuss the BA Accounting & Finance and the BA Management & Business Studies, which had their first intake of students this academic year.

As Link Tutor Dr Asif will visit ASU at least once each semester, and on this first visit he met with the Chairman of the ASU Board of Trustees, Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja, ASU's President, Professor Ghassan Aouad; together with ASU's Vice President for Academic Affairs & Development; Vice President for Administration, Finance & Community Engagement; Dean of Student Affairs; Dean of Admissions & Registration; and Acting Dean of Admin Sciences.

Matters relating to academic organisation were discussed with Ms Catherine Hogan, Head of Governance, Strategic Planning & International Partnerships; Mr Noel Lavin, Director of the Foundation Programme; Dr Nympha Joseph and Dr Marwan Abdeldayem, the two programme coordinators; and members of academic staff teaching on the programmes. Additionally, staffing matters were discussed with the Director of Admin & Finance, Mr Abdulla Al-Khaja, and the Head of Human Resources, Mr Yasser Abu Seneh.

Dr Asif also met with a group of students from the first batch registered on the two programmes, to hear their views and gather their feedback.

Dr Asif praised the ASU campus, the facilities available to students and the organisation of the programmes. He was also impressed by the high standard of quality and academic organisation which is already in place at ASU, which are in line Cardiff Met's requirements and in accordance with Bahrain and international quality standards.

During his visit, Dr Asif also attended some sessions at the International Conference on Sustainable Futures (ICSF 2017), organised by ASU in partnership with London South Bank University.

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



**Name:** Mohammad Alsaleh

**Position:** Office Manager, VP for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement

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

I was born in Zarqa in Jordan as the middle spoiled child in my family. I have lasting memories where I used to visit our village Al Yamoun in Palestine every summer.

I obtained my Bachelor degree in Management Information Systems in 2008 from Al al-Bayt University in Al Mafraq.

I am married with two kids Omar & Oday.

I lived in Kuwait and KSA before I moved to Bahrain by the end of 2016.

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

I joined ASU in December 2016 as Office Manager of the VP Admin, Finance & Community Engagement. I coordinate everything related to meetings, follow-ups, agendas, reports etc.... I am also an active member in the Community Engagement team where I assist in organizing events.

## BUMUN (BAHRAIN UNIVERSITIES MODEL UNITED NATIONS)



ASU students participated once again in the BUMUN (Bahrain Universities Model United Nations) for its 13th years in Bahrain on the 2 - 3 December 2017. The event was under the Patronage of H.H. Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in the Diplomat Radisson Hotel, Bahrain. BUMUN is a regional leadership short term programme that aims to engage youth in current global issues and hence preparing them to becoming good global citizens. This year's conference highlighted topics including; the role of startups, Fintech, entrepreneurs contribution in building the economy, smart cities and bridging the dimensions of technology and urban planning, the viability of alternative nuclear reactors, international nuclear disarmament, safeguards, promoting social and economic inclusion of refugees, the role of the private sector in promoting sustainable development, the situation in Libya and the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

ASU's delegation represented by 13 students, attended 4 training sessions in 4 weeks as part of the preparation of the BUMUN program. In addition, 20 ASU students helped in organizing the two days conference and were supervised by Ms Hadeel Bucherei

and Mr Mohammed Najjar from the Deanship of Student Affairs. Our students have done extremely well and learned a lot. This type of event always make us proud of our students who worked very hard and shined while representing ASU.

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

I wish the newly established British Programmes success and the students' number to increase. I also wish that the University will deliver PhD programmes in the future.

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

I like the friendly atmosphere and the team spirit under the wings of Dr Mohammed Yousif. We work hand in hand to achieve the goals.

### 5. Tell us about your hobbies

My hobbies are Football, watching movies.

### 6. Tell us about your favourite food

Mansaf & Machboos

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

ASU Staff Handbook

### 8. Final words

I wish the best to all staff and prosperity to the University.

## INTERACTIVE EVENING AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

On 5 December, the President, some colleagues and female students from ASU attended an interacting evening with Bahraini female pioneers in the field of Science in celebration of the Bahrain National Women's Day. The event was organised by the British Council and the British Embassy under the Patronage of His Excellency the British Ambassador which took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel.



## 6TH CULTURAL EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION



On Sunday 3 December 2017, the Deanship of Student Affairs organised with the collaboration of the College of Arts and Science its 6th educational exhibition under the patronage of Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al-Khalifa, the Governor of Capital Governorate.

A large number of students, staff and VIP guests attended this successful event, including the delegations from of the Egypt Embassy.



Everyone who attended this event was very much impressed by the creative, innovative and detailed work performed by our students.



Dr Rawya who organised this event, explained that the main goal of this exhibition is the use of modern learning models that encourage students to learn and develop their thinking skills by working in teams on various projects. The theme of the exhibition is coexistence amongst various cultures, religious and ethnic backgrounds.



There were 14 cultures representing various countries including; Gulf Cooperation Council, The United kingdom, Turkey, France, Spain, Jordan, Egypt, Italy, India, Germany, China, North Africa, Russia and the USA. Students exhibited various famous people, traditions, costumes, landmarks, foods and drinks, currency, and many more related material.



In addition, 4 shows from the Gulf Cooperation Council

was presented in Abdulla Nass Hall showing the influence of culture on art and traditions.

## BAHRAIN'S 6TH ANNUAL SMES DAY CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

The President participated as a Panelist at the Bahrain's 6th Annual SMEs Day Conference & Exhibition titled "The Role of Leadership and Training in SMEs Development ... Towards Technology Transfer", which was organised by the Bahrain Small and Medium Enterprises Society ("BSMES") under the Patronage of His Excellency Mr. Zayed Bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism. The conference was held on 10 December 2017 at Wyndham Grand Hotel - Bahrain Bay. The Conference discussed highly significant issues and provided distinguished opportunities. Dr Assem Al-Hajj, VP for Academic Affairs & Development, Dr Saad Darwish, President's Advisor for Special Projects, and Tania Kashou, Director of the President's Office attended the conference. In addition, ASU exhibited a table at the Conference represented by Baha Karaimeh, Office Manager of Public Relations.



## CAPACITY BUILDING ON OUTCOME-BASED BENCHMARK FOR ASU STAFF

As a follow-up to the workshop that took place on 12 October 2017, ASU profited from additional capacity building sessions on outcome-based programme benchmarking on Monday and Tuesday 4 and 5 December 2017. The sessions were attended by the Deans of the University's four Colleges (College of Law, College of Arts and Science, College of Administrative Sciences and College of Engineering), their Vice Deans, the Programmes' Coordinators and representatives from the QAAC (Quality Assurance and Accreditation Center). The training focused predominantly on the practical aspects of crafting a programme benchmark report.



The first part of the training focused on outlining all the BQA requirements for programme reviews in a framework/tool that presents all the measurements necessary to be taken in order to demonstrate full compliance with the indicators and sub-indicators of the BQA handbook.

The second part of the training built further on the aforementioned measurement framework to present the benchmark as a research exercise where the programme coordinator has to determine the measurements/elements he/she needs to compare with other institutions. Thus, the benchmark exercise is not presented as a mere arbitrary comparison with a randomly-selected peer university, but as an institutional research activity with relevant peer universities based on a prior understanding of the problems at hand at ASU that need to be solved through benchmarking.



The session was packed with practical information and hands-on exercises and was crowned by a critical review of the early drafts of the benchmark reports of the three programmes from the College of Arts and Science.

Through this activity, ASU aspires to become a reference in this field by being the first Higher Education institution in Bahrain to establish full-fledged outcome-based programme benchmarks as envisioned and instructed by BQA.

## CREATIVE SPECIALIZATIONS FORUM" EXHIBITION II

On 29 November 2017, The College of Arts and Sciences proudly presented the second year exhibition entitled "Creative Specializations Forum", showcasing the students' work from Computer Science, Graphic Design, and Interior Design. Prof. Ghassan Aouad, the President of Applied Science University formally opened the exhibition and encouraged the students to participate in this type of activities and thanked the College of Arts and Science for their hard work. Dr. Belal Zaqaibeh, the Dean of the College, staff members, and students of the college accompanied the distinguished guests to the exhibition venue. The students explained to visitors their concepts behind their projects.

This event is one of the series of activities in the College of Arts and Science where students have participated in several other activities, such as the workshops for Java and Android applications using App Inventor by students of Computer Science Department, the students' exhibition in ICSF 2017 conference where students in the Department of Design and Art have shown their projects...etc. This forum comes as conclusion of the activities of this semester at a time when the college staff are occupied in preparation for the submission of the benchmarking and progression reports and waiting for the visit of the quality assurance committee with the hope of getting full confidence in their programmes.



## INTERNSHIP

Dr. Adeb Hamdoon Sulaiman, the internship course coordinator for the Bachelor degree in Management Information System has carried out last week a second round of internship site visits. He visited students who are training at the Bahrain defense force, Ministry of Interior, and Bahrain Information and e-Government authority. The feedback from the onsite supervisors about the students' performance was excellent, which indicated a successful experience for both the trainee and the training institutions.



## READINESS VISIT - SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATION PLACEMENT APPLICATION

On Tuesday 5 December 2017, a team from the GDQ, BQA visited the University to assess ASU's readiness for the submission of the qualification placement applications for the Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Law. Ms. Heba Bassyoni and Ms. Raheel Al Marzooqi spent 2 hours in the Dome Hall with the ASU team involved in the NQF task. The teams from the College of Administrative Sciences and the College of Law where the Bachelor in Business Administration and the Bachelor in Law programme actively engaged with our visitors listening to feedback, explaining issues and asking questions related to the submission in the presence of members from the QAAC and the VP for Academic Affairs and Development. It is worth noting that the two programmes will be the first on ASU's schedule to be mapped against the national qualifications framework. The GDQ team was very pleased and satisfied with the progress made so far on the NQF task. They confirmed that we are on the right track to map our qualifications.



## REMINDER OF THE WEEK

National Day Celebration: 13 December 2017

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“There are seven things that will destroy us: wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; religion without sacrifice; politics without principle; science without humanity; business without ethics.”*

**Mahatma Gandhi**

 *Happy Reading!* 