

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

12 MARCH 2017 – VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 19

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from the President
- Dr. Al-Hamami Participated in “Planning And Developing Social Media Content” Workshop
- INQAAHE Conference 2017
- International Women's Day
- “Wireless Networks and Mobile Communications Technology and Applications” Book
- First ASU Research Day
- French School Career Forum
- MIS Students Participated in “Business Support and Career Performance Development” Workshop
- Student Council Members with the President
- Dr Udai Al-Juboori Receives Certificate
- Interview of the week
- Quote of the Week



Office No: (+973) 16036161

Email: [tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh](mailto:tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 19th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this edition by congratulating the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and all colleagues and students on the fantastic news about our Engineering Programs with LSBU. Last week, we received a letter from the HEC informing us that we can start recruiting students for the September 2017 intake. Adding an Engineering College to the University will undoubtedly raise our profile and make us more sustainable in the long run. We need to start now an aggressive marketing campaign by visiting private and government schools, organizing open days and placing adverts in the written press, social media, etc. Marketing and Students' Recruitment is a collective effort and we should all work together to spread the good words about our new programmes.

Today, we were visited by the HEC to check our readiness to launch the 2 new programmes with Cardiff Met. I sincerely hope we will achieve similar results to those programmes with LSBU.

This week we will submit to the BQA our improvement plans for the College of Arts and Science and on 26 March, our application for institutional accreditation is due to be received by the HEC. Documents (in English) that need to be submitted as part of the institutional accreditation application include detailed CVs of the senior management and all academic staff and their job descriptions, university catalogue, programme handbooks and staff and students handbooks. For both submissions, it is vital that the VP Academic Affairs and Director of QAAC have done all the final checks in order to ensure solid and rigorous submissions. The website will be heavily scrutinized during the application stage assessment and well before the panel visit. On 31 March, the HEC will need to receive our final university bylaws in both Arabic and certified English.



**CONTINUE** ►

On 6 March, the President and Prof Saad attended a meeting with a group of UUK (Universities UK). The meeting was organized by UKTI (now known as Department of International Trade) and held at the Diplomat Hotel. The group included the chief executive of the QAA in the UK.

On 8 March, the University celebrated International Women's Day. The Dean of Students Affairs organized an event for all women at ASU to promote women's leadership research.



On the same day, the President and senior management team of the University met our Student Council to listen to their concerns and to put improvements in place.



On the evening of the same day, the President and a group of colleagues attended at the Gulf Hotel a Gala Dinner organized by the British Council for Alumni of British Universities in Bahrain. The guest of honour was the Minister for Health in Bahrain who is an Alumnus of a British university.

an Alumnus of a British university.

On 9 March, the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies organized a very useful research day. After a welcoming speech by the President to provide the context of the day, various presentations were made by colleagues about new research groups and projects. Research is vital to the development of the University and a major requirement to achieve institutional accreditation. It is also important from a career perspective as academic staff promotion depends heavily on research achievements.

Last week, the University was buzzing with too many events and visitors.

On 5 March, the President and Dr Ramzi Nekhili received HE the Tunisian Ambassador to Bahrain in order to explore opportunities for collaboration.



On 6 March, the Chairman of the BOT and the President received the Chair of the Municipal Council of the Northern Governorate in order to identify research projects relevant to their Governorate and to collaborate on finding practical solutions.

On 7 March, Mr George Middleton and Ms Anuradha Manhas from Red House Marketing visited the University. They were received by the President, Ms Ruqaya and Ms Tania in order to explore opportunities to advertise our new English Programmes in their magazines and publications.



I would like to conclude this edition by reminding colleagues about the importance of submitting a strong application for institutional accreditation taking into account the required aforementioned documents which were highlighted in the third paragraph of this News Digest. It is also worth remembering that the visiting panel will attend classes and observe the delivery of teaching. Please make sure that you give this area of teaching and learning the attention it deserves. It is our moral duty to deliver a top quality and an exciting learning experience to our students.

## DR. AL-HAMAMI PARTICIPATED IN “PLANNING AND DEVELOPING SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT” WORKSHOP



Dr. Mohammad Alaa Hussain Al-Hamami, Manager of Community Engagement Office and Assistant Professor in the Management Information Systems Department participated in “Planning and Developing Social Media Content” Workshop that was organized by the Social media Club. The event was held in the Capital Club Bahrain on 4 March 2017.

## INQA/AHE CONFERENCE 2017



Applied Science University (ASU) participated in the INQA/AHE Conference 2017 titled “Between Collaboration and Competition: The Promises and Challenges for Quality Assurance in Higher Education”, which took place in

the Gulf Hotel, Bahrain for the period 28 February to 1 March 2017. The conference was sponsored by the Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) where 350 delegations from 57 nationalities participated.

The Chairman of the BOT, Prof. Waheeb Alkhaja, the President, Prof. Ghassan Aouad, the VP for Academic Affairs and Development, Dr. Assem Al-Hajj, the Director of the QAAC, Dr. Radwan Kharabsheh, Deputy Director, Dr. Roy Tumaneng, Assistant Director, Dr. Nympha Joseph, and Head of Measurement and Evaluation Unit, Dr. Khairi Omar, participated in the conference.

Prof. Alkhaja and Prof. Aouad met with numerous key figures from different organizations and discussed quality issues.

Dr. Al-Hajj presented 2 papers on the 2nd and 3rd day of the conference. The first paper was entitled “The Quest for Quality through HEA Training: An Analytical Study” and focused on understanding the importance of assessment in achieving the course intended learning outcomes and in particular formative assessment. The paper concluded that formative assessment could be introduced in small pieces to allow quick feedback relevant to other large pieces of assessment. Some marks may be made available as incentive for students to engage with formative feedback assignments and academic staff should try peer and self-assessment as means of developing immediate feedback rather formal feedback.



## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



**Name:** Dr. Roy D. Tumaneng

**Position:** Deputy Director, QAAC

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

I was born and was raised as a young boy in a village in northern Philippines until I moved to Manila in the late 80’s to pursue my college dream. After graduation I returned to our village to serve my townsmen, first as a high school teacher for a year, then eventually shifted to college as a lecturer. While working, I found time to pursue my graduate studies and finished my master’s in English in 1998 and my Ph.D. in Development Education in 2002.

After having worked for 14 years in different universities in the Philippines, I decided to come to Bahrain and now spending my 11th year in this beautiful Kingdom.

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

Ours is a very challenging yet critical job at the Quality Assurance & Accreditation Centre (QAAC) – challenging because in general we have to ensure that our University offers only the best to its stakeholders, especially the students, and that the institution is on a par with international standards; and critical in the sense that any ‘observed failure or shortcoming’ may be attributed to the ‘inefficiency’ of the QA Team. (Well, of course, not always, but that’s precisely the reason why I consider it critical).



It is important to emphasise to students what they do with the feedback, not the feedback itself.

The second paper that Dr. Al-Hajj presented was entitled “Can Quality Assurance and Cultural

Norms Coexist?” and pointed out that despite the remarkable progress that has been made in QA in most Higher Education institutions, there are still limitations on institutions adopting a quality culture reflected in behaviors and values which should impact and contribute to how institutions operate. Ultimate quality can only be achieved by making cultural norms and QA coexist as soul and body.

Dr. Tumaneng and Dr. Joseph both presented a paper together titled “The Quality of Business Education in the Kingdom of Bahrain” on Wednesday, 1 March 2017. The papers were received positively by the attendees.

Dr. Kharabsheh and Dr. Omar attended two of the Pre-Conference Workshops that took place on Monday, 27 February 2017.

First being ‘Workshop 1: External Quality Assurance (EQA) and Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) for QA agencies’ presented by Ronny Heintze from Germany, and the second being ‘Workshop 3: Training reviewers for external quality assurance of HEIs (higher education institutions) and their programmes’ presented by Bastian Baumann from Germany.

Dr. Kharabsheh attended both Plenary Sessions and numerous papers. One of the interesting sessions was the ‘Quality assurance for competitive advantage in the markets for national and international students’.

Its focus was that ‘International education is now a hugely competitive market, and national governments and individual providers often see agencies as key tools for developing positional advantage. What are the implications for agencies in seeking to meet these expectations? And, as some agencies position themselves to offer services outside their national jurisdictions, are we also now seeing the emergence of a competitive international market in quality assurance itself? Competition within countries is also intense in many places, is QA seen as a help or a hindrance?’

The discussion during this session was very interesting, especially the point which was raised by Dr. Francisco Marmolejo from the World Bank.

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

Well, my aspirations for the university is not more of a personal one, but rather anchored on the vision-mission of the institution itself. In terms of quality & standards, I look forward to that day when ASU shall have fully institutionalized a QA system of self-review; an honest, transparent and critical evaluation that’s internally-driven rather than one that responds to external agencies. I dream of an ASU that is synonymous with ‘quality education’.

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

The general remit of the QAAC summarizes what I enjoy most about my job in the University. Just imagine being responsible for implementing the university’s quality management system; checking, measuring and analysing processes; and taking action necessary to achieve planned results and continual improvement – I find all these enjoyable because they make me feel like I’m doing one of, if not the most important, functions in any organization, that is making sure everything is of quality and standard.

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

During my younger years I used to do a lot of outdoor adventures back home in the Philippines such as mountain-climbing, spelunking, forest-trekking, or simply camping in the jungle.

Nowadays I have diverted my energies to doing charitable outreach activities whenever opportunity allows me to, such as during my short vacations.

To name a few, I am a Melvin Jones Fellow (MJF) of the Lions Club International, and I founded the Last Oriole Scholarship Foundation,

He argued about the importance of alternative education for universities and the need to have a wider perspective of education in this era of social media and connectivity.

He argued that it shifts the focus of closed classes to a new perspective of open classes, where the product is the individual itself, where education is tailored for every specific individual. This raises the issue of quality in a wider perspective. ASU's effective use of social media as well as interactive educational tools like moodle, shows that alternative needs of communication is definitely something to explore more in the future. .... Of online discussions, study groups, self-study and online self-learning are definitely among the solutions that we need to look at.

The value of the conference was not only in the papers presented but also in the practical experiences, educational experiences and quality issues brought in by the participants from different countries world-wide.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On 8 March 2017, the Deanship of Student Affairs celebrated with all ASU women, the International Women's Day by presenting a follow up workshop 2, on the role of women in scientific research.



In this event, the group leaders including; Dr Faiza Zitouni, Dr Horiya Aldeeb, Dr Ahlem Al-Ithawi, Dr Camelia Camel talked about the main proposed research areas that were deduced from the initial

brainstorming session from workshop 1 and filtered to thematic subjects that encompass the latest fads and most interesting trends under the umbrella of the role of women for sustainable development in achieving Bahrain 2030 vision.

Professor Ghassan Aouad, the president of ASU presented his great wishes to all women at ASU on the International Women's day, as he always strongly supports and encourages all women at ASU to fulfill their full potentials.

## “WIRELESS NETWORKS AND MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS” BOOK



incorporated (TLOSFI), which is a foundation in the Philippines that supports the college education of poor but academically-inclined students from our village.

### 6. Tell us about your favourite food

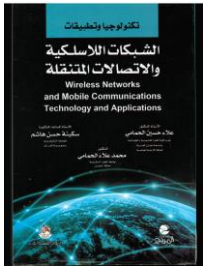
I'm fond of steaks but I can't really say it's my favorite. I always love to try new foods from other countries I go to and get to love them sometimes. And oh, you must try the Philippine 'chicken adobo'!

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

Unfortunately, I haven't got much time now to read books as I used to many years ago. Well, charge it to my being burdened with so many professional academic works, both those that are required of me as a QA staff and those that I need to prepare as a college instructor. The last book I've read was 'The Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren which describes itself as "a blueprint for Christian living in the 21st Century".

### 8. Final words

Well, I've been with ASU for the past four years and I've learned to love it and consider it my home away from home. I've witnessed how it grew (and continues to grow) so fast in just a short period of time, not just in terms of physical infrastructure but more so in terms of quality. That makes me so proud to belong to this beloved institution. As I go back home to my home country (soon), I shall carry ASU in my heart and shall be forever proud that I have been part of it at one point in its rich and promising history.



Dr. Mohammad Alaa Hussain Al-Hamami, Manager of the Community Engagement Office and Assistant Professor in the Management Information Systems Department published a new book titled “Wireless Networks and Mobile Communications Technology and Applications”.

The book covers the latest subjects related to wireless and mobile communications, cellular concept and systems design fundamentals, generations of mobile communications, wireless communication algorithms and protocols, WLAN and Bluetooth, the satellites, and wireless communication security.

## FIRST ASU RESEARCH DAY



Under the patronage of the University President, Professor Ghassan F. Aouad, ASU held a Research Day to announce the establishment of research groups on Thursday, 9 March at Abdulla Nass Auditorium. At this event, research groups’ proposals have been presented by the research group leaders. The main target of ASU research groups is that each group should involve all colleges’ participation to have collaborative and multidisciplinary research. It is worth mentioning that each research group will involve funded research projects and aim to serve the Kingdom of Bahrain’s vision and research priorities.



The event started with a valuable speech from the University president Professor Ghassan F. Aouad about the importance and initiatives of the research group formulation. Next, the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Professor Siddeeq Y. Ameen, presented the research groups’ objectives, criteria, mechanisms, funding and privileges. Each research group leader, Professor Saad Darwish, Professor Siddeeq Ameen and Dr. Faiza Zitouni have presented research group proposals for sustainable development, future IT and women for sustainable development together with many suggestions for new projects.

The event was attended by many academic staff of the University and witnessed a thorough discussion about each group’s proposal.

## FRENCH SCHOOL CAREER FORUM



On 8 March 2017 Edyta Przybyla, Head of Marketing and Student Recruitment office represented ASU during the French School Career Forum. The forum was held each year to allow students to meet professionals and representatives of Universities.

The event was attended by HE Italian Ambassador, Domenico Bellato, HE Tunisian Ambassador Mohamed Ben Youssef and UNDP Resident Representative, HE Amin El Sharkawi and other dignitaries, VIP guests and French school students.

Students enquired about the range of degrees and programmes offered by ASU and expressed interest in registering with ASU. A visit to Applied Science University for potential students will be organized soon.

## MIS STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN “BUSINESS SUPPORT AND CAREER PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT” WORKSHOP

A group of students from the Management Information Systems Department participated in “Business Support and Career Performance Development” workshop with the coordination and supervision of Dr. Mohammad Alaa Hussain Al-Hamami. The workshop was organized by Al-Muharrraq Governorate and Tamkeen at the Muharrraq Model Centre in Busaiteen on 5 March 2017.



## STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT

On Wednesday 8 March 2017, most of the Student Council Members from the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a meeting with the president of ASU; Professor Ghassan Aouad, the Dean of Admissions and Registration; Dr Isa Alkayat and the Dean of Student Affairs; Dr Faiza Zitouni to discuss the latest updates on the University’s rules and regulations, and to highlight the important role of students contribution during the upcoming accreditation process. The Student Council members also echoed the voice of their fellow students regarding the challenges the students are currently facing as compiled in their last week’ students information desk. Actions are promised to be taken, and all concern parties will be informed.



## DR UDAI AL-JUBOORI RECEIVES CERTIFICATE

Dr Udai Al-Juboori received a certificate upon completion of the programme requirements of Autodesk Certified Professional: Revit Architecture.



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“By learning you will teach, by teaching you will learn”.*

**Latin proverb**

*Happy Reading*