



# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 48th edition of the President's News Digest.



Last week the University was buzzing with many activities including students' orientation and many staff development activities. Many thanks are due to the Deanship of Students Affairs and Evening Studies who organized an excellent orientation day. The 292 Abdulla Nass Theatre was full with an overflow to the registration area. I have personally enjoyed every single presentation made by our staff to make our students' experience at the university very rewarding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues who attended the event to support our students; in particular thanks should go to Dr Faiza Zitouni, Mr Mohammed Najjar, students Affairs team and Ms. Ruqaya for MCing the event.

Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Dr Mohamed Yousif, Dr Radwan Kharabsheh, Dr Adel Al Samman, Dr Ramzi Nekhili, Mr Abdulla ALKhaja and Mr Yasser Abu Seneh organized various staff induction and development workshops. Special thanks should go to Mr Rifat Hussein for helping with the accreditation video, and to Prof Siddeeq Ameen, Dr Ramzi Nekhili, Dr Ammar Jalamneh, and Ustaza Fajer Shams who have contributed to these workshops.

The Deans, the team in Admissions and Registration and PR, academic advisors are still working hard to help improve our students' registration and recruitment.

Professor Paul Ivey, LSBU Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and External engagement visited the University on 29 September and met the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof Waheeb ALKhaja, the President and many colleagues to discuss the New Engineering programmes and the signing ceremony of the memorandum of collaboration between ASU and LSBU. In addition, we have another British visitor, Prof Robert Newton, who is staying with us for 2 weeks to help us with various academic issues.

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It was really pleasing to hear last week from the HEA in the UK that Ms Yvonne Johnson's application for the HEA Senior Fellow has been successful. Many congratulations to Ms Yvonne! This is a fantastic achievement for Yvonne and the University. Other colleagues who applied for the HEA senior fellowship will hear in due course and Inshallah they will be successful. In addition, Dr Talal Alkawi has achieved the HEA Fellowship status, many congratulations to Dr Talal!



On the evening of 29 September, a dinner was hosted at the Four Seasons by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, in honour of Prof Paul Ivey of LSBU which was attended by the Acting Secretary General of the HEC, Dr Mona Albalooshi. The dinner was also attended by the President of the University, Mr Mohamed Alkhaja, member of the ASU Board of Directors, Eng Masous Alhermi, President of the Bahrain Society of Engineers, Ms Chistian Syme, Head of UKTI, Ms Emilia Mateva from UKTI, and colleagues: Dr Assem Alhadjj, Dr Ahmed Azzam, Professor Hussein Zedan, Mr Abdulla Alkhaja and Ms Ruqaya Mohsin. The dinner was an opportunity to discuss various matters related to the University's development and our future plans with LSBU. I am grateful to Ms Tania Kashou's effort to bring along a good number of external influential people to this dinner and to Ms Ruqaya for selecting a nice place and for dealing with the logistical arrangement.

## ORIENTATION DAY

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies held at the start of the new academic year 2016-2017, an Orientation Day for the newly registered students on 25 September 2016 at Abdulla Nass auditorium. The event was attended by the President of the University, the VPs, the College Deans, the heads of the departments and more than 300 students. In addition, there was external support for our students from institutions including; Injaz Bahrain, Batelco and AIESEC.



The event was informative with quality and content where many staff speakers were invited to help the students to understand the Universities' rules, regulations, and provided an insight of all the facilities, resources available at ASU and how to make most of these opportunities during their journey at ASU. The event was greatly coordinated by Mr. Mohammed Najjar and Ms Hadeel Bucherei, and presented by Ms Ruqaya Mohsin.





## ASU PRESIDENT RECEIVED A DELEGATION FROM THE CAPITAL GOVERNORATE

On Wednesday, 28 September 2016, ASU President received a delegation from the Capital Governorate. The representatives of Capital Governorate and ASU discussed future plans of cooperation and the most beneficial ways of promoting the university. Following meetings will be scheduled.



## LIBRARY CONTRIBUTED IN INDUCTION DAY

As a part of the ASU induction day, ASU library has conducted an introduction session for new academic staff that took place in the library on 21 September 2016. Library Director, Dr. Ammar Jalamneh gave a lecture about the resources available in the library such as books, periodicals, international databases and other electronic information resources and how it can be used. Staff were also guided through the library system and online website in order to understand how to use them in their researches and academic activities.



## TURNITIN LECTURE

ASU Library has organized a Turnitin programme lecture that took place inside the library on 21 September 2016. The lecture was given by Technoledge Company on the importance of Turnitin and plagiarism for universities nowadays. The main goal of the lecture was to introduce the audience to the subject of plagiarism in research writing, and the importance of Turnitin database which is considered to be the largest database for academic research. It also discussed the new concept of feedback that Turnitin Company is currently adopting in order to help students to learn and improve their research capabilities.



## PAKISTAN BAHRAIN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE

On behalf of ASU, Prof Saad Darwish attended the first Pakistan Bahrain Business Opportunities Conference on 25 September 2016 which took place at the Gulf Hotel's Gulf Convention Centre. The Conference aimed to leverage economic relations between the two countries.



## DR. AL-HAMAMI ATTENDED “SOCIAL MEDIA CLINIC” WORKSHOP



Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Director of ASU Community Engagement Office participated in the induction meeting about “Training the Trainers on Social Media” programme. This programme will be organized by Social Media Club in collaboration with Bahrain Society for Training and Development (BSTD).



The meeting started with a workshop called “Social Media Clinic” delivered by Mr. Ali Sabkar, President of Social Media Club Bahrain and MENA region.

Around 26 Bahraini trainers participated in the meeting that was held at the Capital Club on 20 September 2016.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE MEETING

The Community Engagement Office held its first meeting in the presence of Dr. Mohammed Yousif, Vice President for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement, Prof. Saad Darwish, Adviser to the President for Special Projects, Dr. Mohammad Hamami, Director of the Community Engagement Office, Dr. Hooreya Aldeeb, Representative of College of Administrative Sciences, Dr. Ahmed Al Sherawi, Representative of College of Arts and Science, Mrs. Ruqaya Mohsin, Director of Directorate of Marketing and Public Affairs, Mrs. Noora Musalam, Office Manager of Career Development Unit & Alumni affairs, Mr. Thaer Mustafa from Student Care Office, and Miss Hana Dowaisan from Administrative Affairs Department.



In the meeting; the Office discussed forming the CE Committee members and the operational plan for 2016/2017. The Office members reviewed what has been accomplished during the last period and discussed perceptions and suggestions concerning future events and activities.

## CE OFFICE PARTICIPATION IN THE ARABIC AND INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS



ASU Community Engagement Office presented by Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Director of the Office and Miss. Hanaa Dowaisan, a member of the Office, and Bahrain Deserve Team participated in the Arabic and International Day for Older Persons celebration 2016. The celebration was held under the patronage of

H.E. the Minister of Labour and Social Development Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, and organized by The National Committee for Elderly in Seef Mall Manama.





## GOOD TEACHING: THE TOP TEN REQUIREMENTS (RICHARD LEBLANC, PH.D. YORK UNIVERSITY)

Editor's note: In 1998, professor Leblanc was awarded the Seymour Schulich Award for Teaching Excellence. His top ten requirements for good teaching was originally published in *The Teaching Professor*, Vol. 12, # 6, 1998.

1 GOOD TEACHING is as much about passion as it is about reason. It's about not only motivating students to learn, but teaching them how to learn, and doing so in a manner that is relevant, meaningful, and memorable. It's about caring for your craft, having a passion for it, and conveying that passion to everyone, most importantly to your students.

2 GOOD TEACHING is about substance and training students as consumers of knowledge. It's about doing your best to keep on top of your field, reading sources, inside and outside of your areas of expertise, and being at the leading edge as often as possible. But knowledge is not confined to scholarly journals. Good teaching is also about bridging the gap between theory and practice. It's about leaving the ivory tower and immersing oneself in the field, talking to, consulting with, and assisting practitioners, and liaising with their communities.

3 GOOD TEACHING is about listening, questioning, being responsive, and remembering that each student and class is different. It's about eliciting responses and developing the oral communication skills of the quiet students. It's about pushing students to excel; at the same time, it's about being human, respecting others, and being professional at all times.

4 GOOD TEACHING is about not always having a fixed agenda and being rigid, but being flexible, fluid, experimenting, and having the confidence to react and adjust to changing circumstances. It's about getting only 10 percent of what you wanted to do in a class done and still feeling good. It's about deviating from the course syllabus or lecture schedule easily when there is more and better learning elsewhere. Good teaching is about the creative balance between being an authoritarian dictator on the one hand and a pushover on the other. Good teachers migrate between these poles at all times, depending on the circumstances. They know where they need to be and when.

5 GOOD TEACHING is also about style. Should good teaching be entertaining? You bet! Does this mean that it lacks in substance? Not a chance! Effective teaching is not about being locked with both hands glued to a podium or having your eyes fixated on a slide projector while you drone on. Good teachers work the room and every student in it. They realize that they are conductors and the class is their orchestra. All students play different instruments and at varying proficiencies. A teacher's job is to develop skills and make these instruments come to life as a coherent whole to make music.

6 GOOD TEACHING is about humor. This is very important. It's about being self-deprecating and not taking yourself too seriously. It's often about making innocuous jokes, mostly at your own expense, so that the ice breaks and students learn in a more relaxed atmosphere where you, like them, are human with your own share of faults and shortcomings.

7 GOOD TEACHING is about caring, nurturing, and developing minds and talents. It's about devoting time, often invisible, to every student. It's also about the thankless hours of grading, designing or redesigning courses, and preparing materials to further enhance instruction.



8 GOOD TEACHING is supported by strong and visionary leadership, and very tangible instructional support resources, personnel, and funds. Good teaching is continually reinforced by an overarching vision that transcends the entire organization from full professors to part-time instructors and is reflected in what is said, but more importantly by what is done.

9 GOOD TEACHING is about mentoring between senior and junior faculty, teamwork, and being recognized and promoted by one's peers. Effective teaching should also be rewarded, and poor teaching needs to be remediated through training and development programs.

10 AT THE END OF THE DAY, good teaching is about having fun, experiencing pleasure and intrinsic rewards...like locking eyes with a student in the back row and seeing the synapses and neurons connecting, thoughts being formed, the person becoming better, and a smile cracking across a face as learning all of a sudden happens. It's about the former student who says your course changed her life. It's about another telling you that your course was the best one he's ever taken. Good teachers practice their craft not for the money or because they have to, but because they truly enjoy it and because they want to. Good teachers couldn't imagine doing anything else.

(Richard Leblanc, Ph.D. York University)

### **WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2016/2017**

The Competitiveness Report 2016/2017 of the World Economic Forum has recently been released. There is plenty of useful information, which can help our teaching and research. You can see the ranking of around 140 nations and check how Bahrain is doing? This is a very useful research resource for staff and students. A copy of this report has been circulated to all staff.

### **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent efforts".*

***John Ruskin***



Enjoy Reading