

### PRESIDENT'S NEWS **DIGEST**

15 MAY 2016 - Issue 28



# In this issue..

- Message from the President
- Alumni Club Organized Workshops
- Annual Report of the Higher **Education Council** (Achievements and Development) 2015 -Congratulations from the President
- Political Science Students Using Geographic **Information System**
- GCC Creativity Conference
- ASU Received Visitors from
- Communication through Social Media
- Planning and Self-Development for the Youth
- **Education Career Event**
- Quote of the Week
- Reminder of the Week

# **CONTACT US**

Office No: (+973) 16036161

Email: tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 28th edition of the President's News Digest. Last week, the University received excellent news from the Higher Education Council in Bahrain. In their Annual Report 2015, the HEC have ranked all private universities in Bahrain according to various performance criteria, including teaching and research, and ASU



came in the top performing private universities in Bahrain (a full write up is included below).

From 8 – 12 May 2016, we hosted a review panel to look at our programmes in the College of Arts and Science. I am grateful to the college Dean, Dr Belal Zagaibeh and college colleagues for all their hard work. I sincerely hope that we will achieve full confidence as we deserve it.

Additionally, and in this very fast spreading social media mechanism, we have launched a snapchat account aimed in promoting the university and which involve both staff and students. For this, I am grateful to the Deanship of Students Affairs & Evening Studies and particularly to Mr. Mohammed Najjar.

Also last week, our Acting VP Mr. Mohammed Yousif, has successfully defended his PhD thesis with minor corrections, and we send him a big round of applause.

This week, the BOTs will hold its second meeting of this academic year. A thorough presentation on this year's achievements will be made to the Board.

Finally, the graduation ceremony will take place on the 23 May, and for this I remind you please keep the date in your diary.





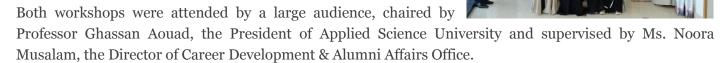


### **ALUMNI CLUB ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS**

The Alumni Club organized on Saturday, 7 May 2016, a workshop that aimed to improve the graduates'

skills on report writing, and emailing practices. The inspiring workshop was delivered by Mr. Yasser Abuseneh, the Director of ASU's Training Center.

Another workshop on "Self-Management, and Motivation" was also delivered by Dr. Fatima Mohammed Al Malki, Assistant Professor at the University of Bahrain.



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT) 2015 – CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Assessment of the general situation of the Private Higher Educational Institutions during the year 2015

I am pleased to announce that HEC have ranked all private universities in Bahrain according to various performance criteria, including teaching and research, and ASU came in the top performing private universities in Bahrain. It is great to see ASU in the top performing private universities in the Kingdom, with the highest number of refereed publications and a significant investment in research.

I am full of joy for this recognition, as it comes with evidence from the HEC. I would like to congratulate all staff for their hard work and commitment for this achievement and Professor Waheeb Alkhaja in particular, for his great vision and continuous support. Let's all work together to make ASU one of the best universities in the region.

The General Secretariat of the Higher Educational Council reviewed the Private Higher Educational Institutions according to the listed criteria. The purpose is to shed light on some performance aspects in these institutions and exert all possible efforts to develop them and accordingly improve the standards of higher education in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The indicators that were used are as follows:

#### Governance

Qualifications of academic staff
Current Postgraduate Programmes
International partnership in the programs offered by the institutions
Job stability at the institutions
Recognition from international bodies
Financial conditions of the institutions
Ratio of academic staff to students
Quality of buildings and facilities and learning resources
Spending on scientific research
Spending on the development of academic and administrative staff





Assessment:	Rating
Four institutions:	Good
Four institutions:	Average
Three institutions:	Weak
Medical University of Bahrain:	Good
Royal University for Women:	Good
Applied Science University:	Good
Bahrain institution of Banking and Finance:	Good
AMA University:	Average
Arab Open University:	Average
Kingdom University:	Average
Ahlia University:	Average
University College of Bahrain:	Weak
Gulf University:	Weak
Talal Abu Ghazala College:	Weak

### Average Spending on Scientific Research 2014 and 2015:

<b>Higher Educational Institutions:</b>	2014	2015
Arab Open University	0	4,618
Ahlia University	175,411	94,241
Medical University of Bahrain	205,000	184,000
Royal University for Women	74,386	77,316
Applied Science University	89,403	174,703
Kingdom University	61,070	53,967
University College of Bahrain	93,628	74,516
Gulf University	1,512	203,271
AMA University	141,164	153,967
Talal Abu Ghazala College	300	300
Total	841,874	817,628

### Published Research in Refereed Journals of the private Educational Institutions:

<b>Higher Educational Institution</b>	2014	2015
Arab Open University	0	8
Ahlia University	63	41
Medical University of Bahrain	36	26
Royal University for Women	8	6
Applied Science University	37	42
Kingdom University	39	22
University College of Bahrain	11	14
Gulf University	12	8
AMA University	49	28
Talal Abu Ghazala College	2	1
Total	<b>25</b> 7	196





50 percent of the Private Higher Educational Institutions have increased their spending on scientific research for the year 2015 and there was a decrease in the publication of research (70%). Accordingly, the Higher Education Council urges all private institutions to increase their spending on scientific research and get more research published.

### POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS USING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

A new teaching method in the Political Science Department has embedded the use of information technology. Students taking the Political Geography course have carried a laboratory session, where they have used a programme called Geographic Information System (GIS). This system enables the students to apply the B6a political world map to more easily see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships in a political context. The course is conducted by Dr Khaleel Al Samarae, an Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science.









### **GCC CREATIVITY CONFERENCE 2016**

Three members of ASU academic staff, Prof Saad Darwish, Dr Watheq Shakir and Dr Rashed Ismaeel, attended GCC Creativity Conference 2016 which was held on 8 May 2016 under the patronage of the First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport, President of Bahrain Athletics Association, and founder of the KHK Mixed Martial Arts team, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Shaikh Khalid stressed on Bahrain's pioneering steps in hosting scientific and innovative conferences which aim at developing



Bahraini youth skills. He also affirmed that the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has given a great importance to the scientific and technological field.

His highness honoured strategic partners and the cooperative parties as well as the keynote speakers for their cooperation to benefit the youth from a wide range of experiences. Then, he received a commemorative gift from President of Ibtikar Bahrain Society Osama Al Khaja on the occasion.

### **ASU RECEIVED VISITORS FROM USA**

On 12 May 2016, ASU received two distinguished visitors from USA, Ms. Barabra Broomell, from Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), and Dr Matthew, University of Michigan Ross School of Business. Prof Ghassan chaired the meeting. Dr Assem Al-Hajj and Prof Saad Darwish also joined him. Discussions were about developing entrepreneurship and leadership at ASU.

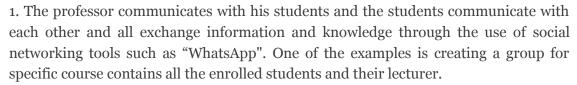






#### **COMMUNICATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**

Three ways are available for the professor to communicate with his students through social networks:





- 2. The use of specialized education platforms that offer the potential of social networks facilities; such as instant dialog, online interaction and sharing content, etc. It is worth mentioning that most advanced elearning platforms such as (Moodle) have these facilities.
- 3. Communicate via social media accounts for the different platforms directly between the professor and his/her students where platforms offer many means to facilitate this like creating specialized group between students and their professor in Facebook or the professor includes his/her student accounts in a special list in Twitter.

#### PLANNING AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT FOR THE YOUTH

On 14 May 2016, Dr Saeed Al Dulaimi from the College of Administrative Sciences in collaboration with Community Engagement Office gave a lecture on "Planning and Self-Development for the Youth". The lecture was a voluntary activity with "Thukhar Society" in Isa Town."



#### **EDUCATION CAREER EVENT**



Dr Saeed Al Dulaimi participated in the educational career event, organized by Halima Saadia, Preparatory School for Girls on Thursday, 12 May 2016 in cooperation with PR and Community Engagement Office.

He volunteered to help in promoting ASU and explaining for visitors, students and parents about educational programmes offered by the University.

### REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Accreditation Day - Thursday, 19 May 2016

Graduation Ceremony - Monday, 23 May 2016



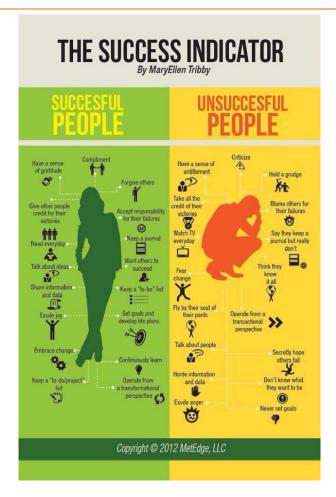








### **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**





Enjoy Reading