

# President's News Digest

**ASU**



جامعة العلوم التطبيقية  
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

مُعْتَمَدَةٌ مِنْ مَجْلِسِ التَّعْلِيمِ الْعَالِي  
Accredited by the Higher Education Council

## Inside this Issue

- Message from a Colleague
- Message from the Editor
- ASU Participated in "Spread Hope" October Walk-A-Thon 2019
- The College of Arts and Science started its research seminars for the academic year 2019/2020
- The College of Arts and Science Staff attended the Academic Programs Reviews (APRs) (Cycle2) – Self-Evaluation - Training Workshop
- ASU Celebrates Becoming the First University in Bahrain and the Gulf to Achieve the ISO 21001:2018 Certification
- ASUrise Advance HE Scheme- Cohort 3 Introductory Session
- The 4th Anniversary Celebration of the President's News Digest
- Interview with Alumnus
- Congratulation Message from the President
- Quote of the Week

Edited by : Ms. Hessa AlMeraiis  
E: Hessa.Almeraiis@asu.edu.bh  
T: +973 16036161

## Message from a Colleague

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the President's News Digest. With a new volume comes an innovation where the introductory message will be written by an ASU staff.

It is my pleasure as Vice President for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement to start this initiative and open up the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the News Digest. In this week's message I will address the topic of **Sustainable Success**.

"Excellence is not a destination; it is a continuous journey that never ends", said Brian Tracy. Simple words, yet very powerful. Achieving a milestone in an organization should not be a final destination. Hard work does not stop when we reach a particular goal. Hard work continues in order to progress, improve and develop. The Japanese have identified "Kaizen", a business philosophy of continuous improvement". Kaizen needs to be embedded in everything we do. The combination of continuous improvement, quality assurance and sustainability will keep ASU at the top.

Thanks to the strategic vision of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Waheeb AlKhaja and the strong leadership of the President, Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Applied Science University has been reaping one achievement after the other. Let us remember some of the major achievements of the University over the past few years:

- 1. QS Arab Region Universities Ranking**
  - ⇒ 37<sup>th</sup> in academic year 2019/2020
  - ⇒ 45<sup>th</sup> in academic year 2018/2019
- 2. ISO Certification**
  - ⇒ ISO 21001:2018 – Educational Organizations – Management Systems
  - ⇒ ISO 9001:2015 - Quality Management Systems
- 3. Institutional Accreditation**
  - ⇒ Received in academic year 2018/2019
  - ⇒ Is a 4-year cycle
- 4. Advanced HE Centre - ASUrise**
  - ⇒ 1 Principal Fellow
  - ⇒ 13 Senior Fellows
  - ⇒ 34 Fellows
  - ⇒ 5 Associate Fellows



Dr. Mohammed Yousif  
Vice President for Administration,  
Finance and Community  
Engagement

**5. International Conferences**

- ⇒ ICSF in 2017/2018
- ⇒ ICITEE in 2019/2020

**6. Students' Success**

- ⇒ 1<sup>st</sup> place in football and table tennis competitions among universities in Bahrain
- ⇒ University Company of the Year 2019 Award by Injaz for "AL FAZAA" application with regional representation in Oman

In conclusion, success can be sustained with hard work, discipline, going the extra mile and persistence. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every member of ASU family for their contribution to the successes of the university. Hand in hand we will continue to climb the ladder of success.

## Message from the Editor



Mrs. Hessa AlMeraiisi  
Office Manager of the  
President Office

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the President's News Digest

Last week we celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the President's News Digest in the presence of the President of ASU Professor Ghassan Aouad, the senior management team and all staff. It was a fantastic event full of joy and achievements and I shall dedicate a full page to share the photos in today's issue.

I am happy to announce that we will approach an innovative method in the coming 52 issues including today issue where we will have "Message from A Colleague" instead of "Message from the President" telling us about your experiences in doing your jobs whether in academic or administrative roles. This will help the whole University understands what you are doing..

I have shared the schedule of messages for the whole year few weeks ago and looking forward to post them on the President's News Digest.

## ASU Participated in "Spread Hope" October Walk-A-Thon 2019

As a part of the Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University initiatives, ASU represented by a large number of academic and administrative staff, students, alumni and their families; participated in "Spread Hope" Walk-A-Thon 2019. The Walk-A-Thon was organised by Bahrain Cancer Society under the theme "Spread Hope" on the festival month of Breast Cancer Awareness in Water Garden City – Seef District on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2019.

The University's participation comes in fulfillment of its strategic vision and objectives, which include participation in community educational, awareness and humanitarian activities, including support for voluntary and charitable societies and solidarity with cancer patients.

The event was characterized by the wide participation of government and civil society institutions in various sectors and different age groups.



Written by  
Dr. Mohammed Al-Hamami  
Office Manager of Community  
Engagement



*Thank you all for your participation in “Spread Hope”  
Walk-a-Thon*

## The College of Arts and Science started its research seminars for the academic year 2019/2020



The College of Arts and Science started the research seminars for the academic year 2019/2020 where its planning to conduct a series of research seminars in different areas of interior design, graphic design, computer science and general literature topics.

The first seminar conducted on Wednesday the 30 October under the title of “**Virtual Image Reintegration**” was delivered by Dr. Mohammad Abdeldayem the Acting Head of the Department of Design and Arts.

Dr. Mohammad introduced his research by providing minimal intervention method to preserve cultural heritage so not to risk immature human intervention through virtual image reintegration of 2D polychromatic works of art.



## The College of Arts and Science Staff attended the Academic Programs Reviews (APRs) (Cycle2) – Self-Evaluation - Training Workshop

Upon receiving an invitation from the General Directorate of National Qualifications Framework (GDQ) of the Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA), the College of Arts and Science in liaison with the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Centre in ASU nominated the college staff: Dr. Moaiad Khder, Dr. Udai AlJboori, Dr. Jamal AlSultan, Dr. Samer Shorman in addition to Prof. Hilal AlBayatti and Dr. Mohhamd AlAghbari to attend the workshop of Academic Programs Reviews (APRs) (Cycle2) – Self-Evaluation - Training which was conducted on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019.

The workshop main purpose was to help and prepare academics for Academic Programs Reviews (APRs) (Cycle2) – Self-Evaluation - which would provide the trainees with a better understanding of the value of the cycle2 reviewing the academic programs.

The workshop focused on:

- Introduction to APRs Process – delivered by Sh. Dr. Lobna Al-Khalifa
- APRs Framework: Standards 1 & 2 by Dr. Aneesa AlSendi
- APRs Framework: Standards 3 & 4 by Dr. Salwa Elekyabi
- Tips on Developing a Critical and Informative SER and building Evidence Program Profile by Dr. Nina AbdulRazzaq

The workshop ended by a group activity where each group tried to practice how to apply the ADRI process (Approach, Deploy, Result, and Improvement).



Written by  
Dr. Moaiad Khder  
**Head of Department Computer  
& Science , Asst Professor  
College of Arts &Science**



---

*We appreciate your  
conturbiotaions*

---

## ASU Celebrates Becoming the First University in Bahrain and the Gulf to Achieve the ISO 21001:2018 Certification

The Applied Science University celebrated on Sunday 27 October 2019 the achievement of the ISO 21001:2018 Certification after successfully passing the various audits from the certifying body RIC (Resource Inspection Canada Incorporated), including a 2-day site visit on 6 and 7 October 2019, verifying that all the requirements of the International Standard ISO 2001:2018 are fully met by the University. This is a unique achievement as it makes ASU the first university, public or private, to receive this prestigious international certification in the Kingdom of Bahrain and in the Gulf region as a whole.

This achievement is in line with the University's strategic plan for the upcoming years, which focuses on achieving international recognition of the total quality of its programs, services and premises, designed to offer the students an empowering environment that fosters creativity and innovation, self-reliance and life-long learning. This is also in line with the strategic goals of the Higher Education Council and Bahrain 2030 which aim at making Bahrain a preferred destination for seekers of good quality education regionally and globally.

It is worth noting that the ISO 21001:2018 Standard for the Educational Organizations Management Systems (EOMS) was developed to help educational institutions establish the necessary policies and procedures which would ensure that students, staff (academic and administrative), and other beneficiaries' needs, requirements and objectives are met – and at the same time, the interaction between these interested parties and the educational organization is elevated to a successful level for all parties involved. Getting this certification confirms again ASU's strong commitment to continuous improvement of its management systems and the constant development of its academic and administrative staff capacity to offer its students the best educational experience possible.

This achievement represents a new milestone in the series of the University's recent accomplishments, and it will surely motivate everyone at the University to keep working hard to consolidate its status as a world-class institution capable of attracting students from inside and outside Bahrain, thus enhancing the Kingdom's position as a premier educational destination in the region and the world.



Written by  
**Mr. Hatem Dammak**  
**Head of Audit and Compliance**  
**Unit and Acting Secretary General**  
**of University Councils**



## ASUrise Advance HE Scheme- Cohort 3 Introductory Session

At the Academic Staff Development Unit, we adopt an approach to fit and prepare the academic staff members with the skills and capabilities required for the most modern trends in higher education. To achieve this, it was the partnership with the UK Higher Education Academy that enabled us to establish a certified HEA Scheme center (ASUrise) to qualify our academic and admin staff for recognition of three Advance HE categories, namely, AFHEA, FHEA, and SFHEA. The aim of this approach was get academics acquainted with UKPSF and prepare a third cohort, after the great success of the first and second cohorts, to apply for the Advance HE through a series of preparation workshops from our experts, and managing the internal sessions, following up the application writing process throughout its different stages, and planning and organizing the mentoring and feedback processes.

For this purpose, ASDU organized the introductory session for the third cohort of ASUrise Advance HE Scheme on Thursday, October 31, 2019 at 11:00 am at the Dome Hall. The session was divided into three parts, with the first part dedicated to an introduction and welcoming speech for Prof. Khaled Gharaibeh, Acting Senior Advisor to President for Academic Affairs and Development, followed by an explanation of the scheme and process structure by Dr. Faiza Zitouni, the Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Development and Ms. Michelle Philip, the Scheme Administrator. The speeches included a brief idea about the different categories and dimensions of the scheme, along with the criteria and requirements of each one.

The session was concluded by some success stories of successful applicants from Cohort 1 and 2.

### **Dr. Ahmed Shatat, SFHEA, talked about the following:**

#### ***Critical Success Factors***

Proper Guidance and Support: ASUrise team, mentor, self-learning and guidance, examples, documents, and website.

Very clear RPA: you should feel the impact of the activities, and clearly see the tangible value of your activities. Make a right Mapping of the Activities with the knowledge and value (accurate connection of the dimensions).

Robust Cases: selecting the right case is something very crucial, think of good cases and link them to the right references, advocates.

Teamwork: find out the applicants in the same category and see their progress.

Time Management: put a schedule for yourself and work on it, give time to write the application. Start from day one, don't write the application in the last week.

#### ***Lessons Learnt:***

(The Standard of Quality of Teaching will definitely improve)

- I have learned to link theory to practices.
- I have learned to behave in the class as a facilitator more than a teacher (put students in a group, group leader, minutes taker, presenter, and this will be rotated among the students).
- I have also learned to use the technology as a platform for teaching. This will facilitate the communication between the instructor and the students, and among the students themselves.

### **Mr. Hatem Al Dammak, AFHEA, gave very helpful advises to the new applicants:**

- First of all, I didn't get the recognition straight after the first submission, but I had to make some improvements and re-submit, further to which I obtained my recognition as AFHEA. That is perfectly okay; the external examiner may request further clarifications or more real personal examples to back your claim, and that means that he/she appreciates your work and would like to learn more about it.
- The submission is deeply personal and should reflect your own professional experience, so you really need to reflect on your own practice for the past few years and show the reviewers that you really know what you are doing.
- You should also be able to demonstrate that you are knowledgeable about the theories behind your practice and the latest trends in your field of work. One way to do this is to conduct some research, namely on Google Scholar which makes finding relevant references easier than ever.

- The bottom line is that you are required to a) demonstrate that you are knowledgeable about your own practice in your field of work b) demonstrate that you are knowledgeable about the theories underpinning your line of work c) successfully map your claims to the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF).
- One challenge to be aware of is that this whole exercise is only available in English.
- The number of applicants per cohort is not unlimited due to resources' constraints, so this should be competitive and you should demonstrate passion and true willingness to participate in order to be chosen for the current cohort.



Written by  
Dr. Adel Al-Samman  
Assistant Professor, Head of Academic Staff Development Unit

Once you achieve your HEA status, it's for life, and nobody can take it away from you, so believe me, it's really worth it!

**Dr. Hafnida Hasan (FHEA) talked about the following**

- The evidence that I mentioned in the report is not like writing a list or CV, but it must be clear on what you are doing, how you do and why you do, which reflect on my teaching process for the past few years
- Manage your time very well
- Follow the instruction and take the feedback from your mentor
- One challenge for this fellowship is limited sources
- Be committed to your own work, because the fellowship is not a box to tick but it provided me the opportunity to create improvement of my teaching which has benefitted not only for myself, but also my students and the others.

At the end session, attendees expressed their interests in the different ASUrise Scheme categories and they were informed about the process and how it would be going, a filtration process was to be conducted for the applicants and Cohort 3 participants would be notified by the end of this week, then they would be assigned their mentors. Within a week or 10 days, detailed workshops would follow to prepare them for the process.



## The 4th Anniversary Celebration of the President's News Digest



*“ 208 Messages from the President were published for the last 4 years “*



*“ Best Archives of the University Events, Functions, Activities and Development “*





## Interview with Alumnus

	
Name:	Wafa Isa Khalifa Mohamed Oun
Workplace:	Supreme Council for Youth & Sports
Academic Degree	Master
Academic Major	Human Resource Management
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	The Applied Science University provides an encouraging and supportive learning environment. The teaching methods are very practical and helpful for long life learning In fact, I am deploying the knowledge and skills I have learnt in my current work area.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	I enjoyed the team spirit and the easy communication with ASU Faculty team and staff.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	The motivation from ASU really pushed me to achieve the best in my life.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	Nothing as ASU is perfect.
Final words	<p>I would like to thank the President of the University, Prof. Ghassan Aouad for his efforts in the success and progress of the University and I really appreciate his attendance of the defense of my Master's thesis..</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank all staff of ASU.</p>



Interviewed By: Mrs. Noora Musalam, Manager of Career Development & Alumni Affairs Office, Deanship Of Student Affairs

## Congratulation Message from the President

*Dear Colleagues ,*

*I am pleased to inform you that we are now raked 37 up from 45 in the QS Arab Region Universities Rankings 2020. This is fantastic news for our University. I would like to congratulate Professor Waheeb AlKhaja and all staff and students and alumni and other stakeholders. Many thanks to Dr Mohammed Yousif and his team and all colleagues for the hard work which has led to this wonderful achievement.*



Prof. Ghassan Aouad  
The President of ASU



## Quote of the Week

*“ Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come.”*

-Dewayne Johnson