

# President's News Digest

## Message From the Editor

Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the President's News Digest.

In this issue **Dr. Hayat Ali**, the **Acting Dean of Student Affairs** will address the subject of "Employability Skills Readiness among ASU students"

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Mrs. Hessa Al Meraisi  
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من روائع الشعر العربي

## Message from a Colleague Employability Skills Readiness among ASU Students

Employability Skills are becoming very important in the labor market as there are many initiatives toward linking the graduates' skills and the needs of the market. Toward, this aim, the higher education institutions are dedicating many efforts to integrate the goal of graduate employability into current higher education practices. Saad and Majid (2014, p.111) referred employability skills to "graduates' abilities to adapt and use their personal and academic skills to create more tangible educational outcomes that associate graduate employability with employment". Skills such as communication, problem-solving, decision-making, analytical and critical thinking, synthesizing information, teamwork, interpersonal, and continuous learning are some of the employability skill attributes required by graduates in entering the workforce (Low et al., 2016).

Evidence from researchers suggests that there is a gap between the employability skills required by employers and the available skills from employees. Therefore, the higher education institutions have the responsibility to provide graduates with knowledge in the professional field with the employability skills so they can apply theory to practical situations.

Thus, they need to design and implement programs that are aligned with the goals of the market and prepare the graduates that are relevant to the needs of employers.

ASU strives to prepare its graduates to the market by working hard on equipping them with fundamental graduate attributes which include being critical thinkers, entrepreneurially spirited enjoying practical work, knowledgeable and skills in their field, effective communicators, team players, proficient practitioners and collaborators, ethically and socially responsible and committed to lifelong learning.

At ASU, these attributes are empowered through teaching and assessment practices that are aligned with many areas including knowledge and understanding, practical, critical thinking and transferrable skills. Furthermore, the employability skills are enhanced through the extra-curricular activities that are organized by the academic colleges and other parties of ASU including the Deanship of Student Affairs Community Engagement Office, Business Incubation Center, Training Center, etc.



**Dr. Hayat Ali**  
Acting Dean of Student Affairs

Dr. Hayat Ali is the acting dean of Student Affairs at ASU. She got her PhD in Business Administration (Information Systems Division) from the University of Manchester in Nov 2010.

Dr. Ali was amongst the first batch of graduates of the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practices (PCAP) Program offered by the University of York St. John, UK through University of Bahrain. She got a **senior fellow** of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), UK since Feb 2017.

Dr. Ali has been selected as a representative of Academic Bahraini Women by the US Embassy in Bahrain and participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program in STEM in USA in 2015. In 2018, she was honored in Bahraini Women day for her significant research contributions in Scopus indexed journals and for her senior fellowship achievement. Hayat was among Bahraini research group who developed the first Bahrain Customer Satisfaction Index (BCSI) to evaluate e-Services offered by Information and e-Government Authority (IGA) in Kingdom of Bahrain. She is a member in many professional societies such as Technology and Business Society and Association of Information Systems.

The higher education institutions are highly in need to be open to the market and fulfill their needs through the dynamic adoptability to their changes. ASU in fact is adopting this approach through its continuous review of the programs through which the key market players in the different specialties are involved in the formulation of their programs and initiatives.

### References

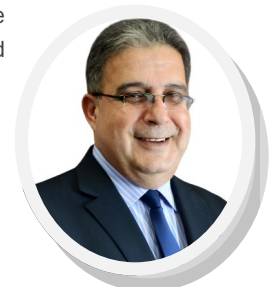
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## Message from the President

As we reach 2020, it is time to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can do for the future sustainability of our University. 2019 has been a great year for us in terms of achievements and accomplishments. Some of these are listed below:

- ⇒ HEC institutional accreditation.
- ⇒ BQA IR visit, still waiting for the outcome.
- ⇒ QS Arab Universities rankings at 37, up 8 places from the year before.
- ⇒ University green metric rankings at 636 up almost 60 places on the year before.
- ⇒ 301+ in the THE University Impact Rankings.
- ⇒ QS 4 stars rating.
- ⇒ ISO 21001:2018 certification.
- ⇒ HEA accredited center.
- ⇒ Students achievements in sports and entrepreneurship .
- ⇒ NQF placements of many academic programmes.
- ⇒ International conference on innovation, technology, enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- ⇒ A good increase in research publications.
- ⇒ Launch of the Business Incubation Centre.
- ⇒ Strong presence in the press and media.
- ⇒ A very successful students graduation ceremony with our alumni now reaching 4484.
- ⇒ Publication of the University Life Magazine.
- ⇒ IT systems and automated processes, they are becoming exemplars.
- ⇒ Students conference.
- ⇒ Good teaching conference.
- ⇒ Best decorated campus.

I sincerely hope that 2020 will be even a better year for us. Our strategic plan 2020-2025 which is being developed will document all our ambitions and aspirations.



**Written by**  
Professor Ghassan Aouad  
**The President of Applied  
Science University**

From my own humble experience, some points are specified below that can lead to success:

- ⇒ Produce course portfolios and lesson plans of the highest quality as programme reviews and institutional accreditation depends heavily on these.
- ⇒ Make teaching exciting by avoiding the broadcasting model and by using technology. Make sure that your students are equipped with the technical and extra-curricular skills and the graduate attributes needed by the market place.
- ⇒ Treat your students with respect by encouraging them to unlock their potentials.
- ⇒ Publish in top rated journals and aim for quality rather than quantity.
- ⇒ Contribute to students' recruitment through your network of contacts and by promoting the University in your circles.
- ⇒ Keep reading and writing, this is essential for your success in academia.
- ⇒ Create a team spirit.
- ⇒ Eliminate academic jealousy as this is the main ingredient for failure.
- ⇒ Work with honesty and integrity as the University and its students and their parents have trusted you to look after them.
- ⇒ Make quality at the heart of all what you do.
- ⇒ Be and act like a leader. Leadership exists at all levels.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Waheeb Al Khaja Chairman of the board of Trustees for his leadership, great vision, and continuous support and to thank all of you for your great efforts and dedication. Our students and alumni are our best ambassadors and we should all thank them for being part of our lives and the University development.

I wish you and our University and our Kingdom all the best in 2020.

## NASS Racing Day



Rashid Equestrian and horseracing club has organised the annual race under the name of NASS racing day. The University has sponsored the 6th race under the name of Applied Science University Cup. The event took place in the Presence of HH Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Board of Director Mr Sameer Nass, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Prof. Waheeb Al Khaja , the President Prof. Ghassan Aouad and other colleagues from ASU and Nass the group.



Written by  
Mr. Abdulla W. Alkhaja  
**Director of the Administration  
and Finance Directorate and  
the President Advisor for  
Follow Up Affairs.**

On behalf of the University the Chairman of Board of Trustees and the President have awarded the cup to the winning team Victorious which was received by HH Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and the trainer Allan Smith.



## Science and Innovation Network Advisor at the British Embassy visited ASU



On the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, Prof. Ghassan Aouad, the University President, received Ms. Nour Zenaty, Science & Innovation Network Advisor at the British Embassy - Bahrain. During the meeting the President presented Ms. Nour with the proceedings of the International Conference on Innovation, Technology, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (ICITEE 2019) and discussed other issues related to research and innovation in the education sector.

Prof. Yazeed Al-Sbou, the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and Ms. Eman AlSadeq, the Head of Governance & Strategic Planning attended the meeting



Written by  
Ms. Eman Al Sadeq  
**Head of Governance  
and Strategic Planning  
Unit**

## ASU attended Sh. Nasser Bin Hamad Award for Military Innovation

Professor Waheeb Al Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Ghassan Aouad President of the University, Mr. Abdulla Al Khaja Director of Admin and Finance Directorate, Mr. Hood Sadeq Administrator in the Deanship of Student Affairs and a number of ASU students attended the ceremony of Sh. Nasser Bin Hamad Award for Military Innovation on Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



Written by  
Ms. Rawan Buceeri  
**Adminlstrator In Student  
Services Office**



## Computer Science Programme Held Its Advisory Board Meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2019/2020

On Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019, the Computer Science Department held its advisory board meeting at ASU. Prof. Ayman AIDmoor - Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Dr. Moaiad Khder – Head of Department of Computer Science, Dr. Jamal Sultan – CS Program leader attended as members, while Prof. Khalid Gharaibeh- Acting VP for Academic Affairs, Prof. Hilal AlBayatti - Director of QAAC, Prof Yazeed Al-Sbou- Dean of Scientific Research and Post Graduate studies, attended as invited guests. External members from the industrial field: Sh. Dr. Eshaa AlKhalifa, Mr. Nizar Ma'roof, Mr. Nawaf AbdulRahman, Ms. Maha AlBanki have attended the Computer Science Department advisory board meeting.

Chair of the CS advisory board Mr. Nawaf AbdulRahman started the meeting by welcoming the audience and in particular the newly joined member Sh. Dr. Eshaa Alkhalifa – Chair of IEEE – Bahrain Section. The ASU programme advisory board policy was distributed to all the members and soft copies sent via email. Later on, Prof. Khalid Gharaibeh presented the University's strategic plan to the advisory board and discussed the strategic objectives and KPIs, the Seven Strategic Pillars, Development Implementation and Monitoring, and the role of the advisory board in the strategic plan specially that the University now is preparing the new strategic plan. In addition to that, Prof. Ayman Aldmoor informed the advisory board about the college operational plan (including CS) and how it was prepared along with its KPIs. Dr. Moaiad and Dr. Jamal presented the progress of the CS programme since the last advisory meeting, and they showed the improvement plan based on the advisory board meetings during the academic year 2018/2019, external reviewer report 2018/2019 feedback and comments, the results of the Annual Program Review Report (APRR) / 2018-2019, and the progress of placing CS programme on the National Qualification Frame (NQF).

The CS members and invited guests had a discussion with the advisory board about the demand for Computer Science programme and its usefulness for Bahraini market. Sh. Dr. Eshaa, Mr. Nizar Ma'roof, Mr. Nawaf AbdulRahman, and Ms. Maha AlBanki highlighted how to take advantage of the different IT sectors in Bahrain, scientific societies and increase the cooperation between governmental, NGO, scientific societies and ASU. In addition they highlighted some methods to strengthen the relationships between the department and the industry as well as offering internship opportunities.



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



## Interview with Alumnus



<b>Name:</b>	Ali Ibrahim Khalifa Morshidy
<b>Workplace:</b>	Government Sector
<b>Academic Degree</b>	Bachelor
<b>Academic Major</b>	Political Science
<b>Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.</b>	My experience was very successful. All teaching methods were up-to-date that are developing the skills of the students. I got the chance to meet students of the Bahraini society through which I exchanged information about different social matters. I felt the real harmony that can really exist between us when we discuss matters related to the academic materials that we learn.
<b>What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?</b>	I enjoyed all the activities, courses as well as building relationships with the rest of the students. I also learned much from participating in the Students Council in addition to joining the fourth cycle of the Alumni Club. I felt the pleasure of helping other students when I was at the Students Council.
<b>Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.</b>	I am now working in the field that I like most. I try my best to implement what I had learned from the University.
<b>In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?</b>	May I kindly suggest an increase in the workshops at our University. This will help us not just to focus on theory but also on practice. In the long run, definitely our progress will be great when we get employed.
<b>Final words</b>	I wish all the success to our University and I would like to thank all my lecturers. I always felt that our University is a big family .



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

## Quote of the Week

*Preparing youth for employment requires training that is demand-driven to meet the needs of companies and ensure that young people are taught marketable skills”*

- *Stephan A. Schwarzman*

## من روائع الشعر العربي

أنا الذي نظر الأعمى إلى أدبي..... وأسمعت كلماتي من به صمم

### - المتنبي



المتنبي هو أحمد بن الحسين بن الحسن بن عبد الصمد الجعفري الكندي الكوفي، ويعرف باسم أبو الطيب المتنبي، ولد عام 303 هجري وتوفي 354 هجري، أي في 915 ميلادي ومات 965 ميلادي، وولد في مكان يسمى الكندة في الكوفة، وهو أحد مفاخر الأدب العربي، وذلك لما له من حكم، وأمثال سائرة، وكذلك له كم كبير من الشعر الذي يعتز به بعرويته، ويتخر بنفسه، وبلغ عدد قصائده 326 قصيدة، أغلبها تضمنت مدح لملوك عصره، وتجدر الإشارة إلى أن أول قصيدة قام بتنظيمها وهو في التاسعة من عمره، مدح فيها والي سالم شلبي، الذي كان يتأخر مصر في ذلك الوقت، كما أن المتنبي كان يتميز بالعديد من الصفات منها الاجتهاد، وحدة الذكاء وكذلك الموهبة الشعرية المبكرة، وله العديد من الصفات منها أعجوبة عصره، وندرة زمانه، كما أن له مكانة سامية ومميّزة في الشعر العربي وهذه المنزلة لم تُنح لغيره من الشعراء، كما أنه يمثل وحي وإلهام للعديد من الأبناء والشعراء.