

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

6 DECEMBER 2015 – ISSUE 5



## WELCOME

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> ASU President News Digest. In this weekly digest which will keep you abreast about activities in the University, we will cover stories related to Nusrat Al Quds, National Day celebration, ASU promoting Entrepreneurship, Seminar Series, UAE National Day Celebration, etc.... In the reminder of the week, we will be reminding you about ASU Golden Rules for great educators. Please keep Ms Tania Kashou and Ms Ayat Nass informed about activities or events that you would like to include in the news digest.

### NUSRAT AL QUDS (SUPPORT FOR JERUSALEM)



On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies held an event “Nusrat Al Quds” on 29 November at ASU campus. The event was organized by Mr. Mohammed Al Najjar, Miss. Maryam Farooq and the Student Council. This yearly event aims to raise awareness of the plight of the Palestinians and show the full support to the Palestinian cause.





A charity Bazaar was held in the lobby. This fundraising event showcased drawings and paintings by talented students from the College of Arts and Science who donated their artwork to be sold in an auction. In addition, students sold homemade Palestinian food that they made themselves. Ward Al Sham and Sit Al Sham restaurants, at the invitation of the the student council, donated food to raise funds.

Two breath-taking flash performances by students highlighted the wretched situations that the Palestinians are facing today. These incredibly powerful performances moved the audience to tears.



Later in the evening, after welcoming the Palestinian Ambassador Mr. Taha Abdul Qader, the event moved to Abdullah Nass Auditorium where the Bahraini and Palestinian national anthems were played. The president and the Ambassador addressed the audience. A video conference with Al Quds University in Palestine took place. This is a unique opportunity for the audience to hear first hand how students in Jerusalem cope with the persecution of their country, their everyday struggles and obstacles they face trying to get an education. After that emotive

conference, a video produced by the Student Council was played reflecting an unfortunate incident that occurred recently in Palestine. Finally, a beautiful performance was given by two incredibly talented students who sang Mawtini song; a popular poem written by the Palestinian poet Ibrahim Tuqan. It is an anthem recognised by Arab countries to show their support for the Palestinian cause. The event left a huge impact on both ASU and Al Quds University.





## NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

On 1 December, ASU celebrated in style National Day and the 16th Anniversary of the Accession of his Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifah. The celebration showed the University at its best, innovation, creativity, and hard work were all dominant throughout the day.

The event was organized by the Marketing & Public Affairs Department and in close collaboration with the Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies and the Students Council under the Patronage of HE Sheikh Hisham Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Khalifah, the Governor of the Capital Governorate, and in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, the University President, and Mr Mohammed Alkhaja, member of the Board of Directors, and many Arab Ambassadors, and other distinguished guests and staff and around 500 students. There was also a strong presence of media and some sponsors. The MC of the event was Ustaza Ruqaya Mohsin, Director of PR at the University.



The event included a series of various traditional events and activities such as an exhibition reflecting Bahrain history; its folklore and mores, Bahrain going to the bright side of innovation, a fashion show, a drama sketch and evening poems in addition to the "Artha", "Laiwa" and a beautiful performance by Ebrahim Al Najem, a well known Bahraini singer.

Our students are real stars; we are fortunate in our University to have such a talented, energetic and hard working student council who made the event such a great success.



The President of the University have been reflecting on the many recent events hosted by the University including National Day and Nusrat AlQuds and came to the conclusion that even though we want to focus on academic achievements, but such events help our students develop leadership, planning and communication skills. In addition, such events create a happy environment for our students to flourish and succeed in a pleasant University life and supportive environment.





## ASU PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Prof. Saad Darwish, President's Advisor for Special Projects, contacted and invited the Ministry of Industry & Commerce to host a session for ASU's HRM Masters students on the uses of the SME Tool Kit. Two officials from the ministry, Mr. Ali Khalf and Miss Marwa Al Mansory ran a workshop which covered all aspects needed by entrepreneurs to use this powerful kit. Prof. Ghassan Aouad, the University President, expressed his thanks to the guests from the ministry and Dr. Ziad Zurigat, Acting Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, also expressed his gratitude for their contributions. The HRM students were very pleased to have access to the tool kit as it greatly assist them writing and formulating their projects. Also, the kit's many illustrations and supporting materials will provide the students with a clear guide on how to develop a business plan. The workshop took place on 2 December 2015.



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## SECOND RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES AT THE COLLEGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES

The College of Administrative Sciences organised its second research seminar series on 3 December in Abdulla Nass Hall. The presentation was delivered by Dr Hussein Ali Khasharmeh, Head of the Accounting and Finance Department, and chaired by the Vice Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, Dr Ramzi Nekhili, on the research topic titled "An Empirical Investigation of Determinants of Auditor Switching in Bahraini's Listed Companies". Dr Khasharmeh investigated the crucial factors (determinants) of switching auditors within firms publicly traded in Bahrain Stock Exchange. The factors used that would lead to auditor switching include change in management, financial conditions of the client, audit fees, qualified audit opinion, size of Public Auditing Firm (PAF), and competition among PAFs. The investigation's results show that financial condition of client, size of public audit firm and change in management have negative relationships with auditor switching. Whereas audit fees, competition among PAFs and qualified audit opinion respectively have positive relationships with auditor switching as predicted.



## UAE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

On 2 December 2015, the UAE Embassy celebrated the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Union in 1971. Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Acting VP for Academic Affairs and Development, accompanied by his family joined the UAE Ambassador in celebrating the event at the Diplomat Hotel in Al-Juffair.

## SAD LOSS OF OUR STUDENT JABER ALSUBAIE

It is with sorrow and sadness that we announced the sad loss of one of our Business Administration students, Jaber AlSubaie, who died in a car accident last Friday. May God send him to heaven and give his family strength and patience. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, students and tutors. The University has lost one of its sons and this is sad for all of us.

## REMINDER OF THE WEEK

### Golden Rules for Great Educators

- Keep your Course Portfolios up-to-date.
- Ensure that your syllabus is regularly updated, informed by research and community engagement activities.
- Make teaching, learning fun, exciting through practical examples, and challenging tasks like problem solving, case studies, etc.
- Ensure that your course assessment measures achievement of intended learning outcomes; and mark student assessments on time using model answers and standard rubrics.
- Make sure that the course intended learning outcomes are fully met.
- Be mindful always that quality is at the center of all that you do as a teacher.
- Be student-centered in all your academic undertakings.
- Publish your course materials in Moodle.
- Meet your classes regularly; do not cancel or reschedule lectures.
- Take students' comments positively and learn from their feedback.
- Respect your students; as the saying goes, respect begets respect.
- Always work as a team with your colleagues and motivate others to perform better.
- Be loyal and committed to your organization.
- Remember that Quality means driving the institution towards the top of the mountain, while Quality Assurance means ensuring that the institution remains there.
- Adopt a student-centric approach that would create an interactive platform for diversified teaching & learning strategies, which enable the achievement of intended learning outcomes.
- Encourage student participation in both curricular and extra-curricular activities within and outside the university.
- Extend support and special consideration to students who represent the Kingdom in international competitions.
- Support the ASU Student Council members and extend to them the needed assistance in their studies.
- Coordinate with your Programme Leader and suggest recommendations to continuously improve the programme and the educational process in general.
- Establish mutual trust between you and your students.
- Have time for interaction with your students in and outside the classroom. This promotes mutual understanding and respect for each other.





## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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*“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”*

*Sydney J. Harris*

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## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE WEEK

Alumni Club launch

Thursday, 10 December 2015

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*Enjoy Reading*

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