

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

20 December 2015 – Issue 7



WELCOME

Welcome to the 7th ASU President News Digest. In this weekly digest which will keep you abreast about activities in the University, we will cover stories related to the Quality Day 2, seminars and visits, Open Day etc....

In the reminder of the week, we will be reminding you about the eight standards for accreditation. Please keep Ms Tania Kashou and Ms Ayat Nass informed about activities or events that you would like to include in the news digest.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the happy occasion of National Day and the 16th Anniversary of the Accession of his Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifah, I would like on your behalf to express our best wishes to our beloved Kingdom and beloved University. May God grant both of them and all of you, prosperity, success and wealth and good health. We celebrated the occasion in style this year and we showed the University at its best in terms of innovation, creativity, and hard work.



I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our colleagues happy festival seasons and I sincerely hope that 2016 will be a good year for all of you personally and the University.

I have to conclude by saying many thanks to all of you for your hard work and loyalty to the University and to wish our inspirational leader and his family, Prof Waheeb Alkhaja and his family, every success and happiness and good health.

All the best for 2016 and together we can make ASU shine even more.

QUALITY DAY 2

The drive to improve Quality continues at ASU with the second Quality Day taking place on 15 December 2015. The focus of this event was improving our approach to managing the Examination process at ASU. This training was scheduled after extensive discussions within the Examination Team, which was set up specifically to look at ways to improve the exam experience following the mid-term examination session. The team took into consideration feedback on exams from students, staff, colleges and senior management. More than 50% of academic staff attended the event which was organised by Dr Al-Hajj, Acting VP for Academic Affairs.





ASU ALUMNI LAUNCH

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies, the Office of Career Development and Alumni Office held the “Launch of The Alumni Club” on the 10 December 2015 under the patronage of HE Sheikh Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Atiyatallah Al Khalifah and the support presence of Professor Waheeb Al Khaja and Professor Ghassan Aouad.

The event took place at Abdulla Nass Auditorium and started with an inspiring speech given by HE Sheikh Dr Abdulaziz Bin Atiyatallah Al Khalifah who became an official honorary member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Club. Professor Ghassan Aouad gave a speech and an inspirational poem. Dr Faiza Zitouni, Acting Dean of the Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies gave a speech introducing the Board of Directors of the Alumni Club. Mr Mohammed Al Jahmi, the president of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Club introduced himself with a welcoming speech.

Furthermore, two alumni, Salman Al Bin Ali and Musa Al Yaqoot, delivered lovely poems to the audience. A video produced by the Alumni Club was played. The video describes the best years of their university education journey. The video also shows how the alumni club idea was initiated from the need for life-long connection amongst ASU graduates.

Mrs. Noora Musalam, Manager of Career Development and Alumni Affairs and Mr Emad Al Saaoub, Member the Board of Directors of the Alumni Club presented the goals and the organizational structure of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Club.

The evening ended with honoring the patron HE Sheikh Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Atiyatallah Al Khalifah.





ASU ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED SEMINAR (ADS)

The 2015 ASU Annual Distinguished Seminar (ADS) was delivered by Prof Jonathan Blackledge on Monday, 14 December. The seminar was followed by a Master-Class on Homeland Security: Research and Development. Both were well received and attended (over 50 people both from within and outside ASU).

Prof Blackledge is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal where he is a Full Professor and Honorary Professor of Computer Science in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science.

After a career in both academia and industry Prof. Blackledge was appointed to the Science Foundation Ireland Stokes Professorship in 2008 (named after the famous Nineteenth Century Irish Mathematician and Physicist Sir George Gabriel Stokes) at Dublin Institute of Technology where he has been an Honorary Professor since 2011. During his tenure as Stokes Professor he focused on Innovation and Entrepreneurship leading the commercialisation of a range of research projects and the spin-out of a number of companies in the EU for which he was awarded Researcher of the Year in 2010 and 2011.



The ADS was on Energy Trading and Economic Security in which Prof Blackledge has set up the context where energy companies always require support from market analysis in order to protect themselves against exposure to energy price increases and price uncertainty due to high volatility. This requires energy traders to decide what markets and commodities to trade in, when to open or close trades and how to maximise profits. In turn, energy generators and energy suppliers need support for developing effective bidding strategies, planning operational capacity requirements and establishing appropriate contractual agreements so that governments and national agencies can appreciate what energy policies to implement. Then he went on to focus on the application of a new methodology in energy forecasting using a combination of non-Gaussian Stochastic Modelling, Neural Networks and Genetic Algorithms for predicting the long, intermediate and short term behaviour of the energy markets, respectively. He then concluded with a demonstration of some of the algorithms and strategies developed for this purpose for analysing and predicting Oil and Gas prices and for Carbon emissions trading.

In the Master-Class, Prof Blackledge emphasized that work on encryption and in particular quantum computing are fundamental to any research agenda on Homeland Security. He highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the topic as it requires the talents and expertise in areas such as mathematics, engineering, technology, business and management and law. He analysed various encryption algorithms and gave a hands-on experiments on industry-strength crypto systems.



ALGERIA UNIVERSITY VISIT 9-13 DEC 2015

Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Acting VP Academic Affairs and Development visited the Civil Engineering Department of 20 August 1955 University in Skikda, Algeria to meet PHD Research Students specialising in Construction Management. Dr Al-Hajj met with Dr Mohamed Bouabaz, Head of the Civil Engineering Department, as well as the Head of the Quality Assurance Department and other senior staff at the University. Dr Al Hajj discussed the current performance of the construction industry, research interests in the management of the industry including LEAN principles applications, BIM implementation and Sustainability. The hosts warmly welcomed Dr. Al Hajj and also gave him a tour of the University (that has over 25,000 students) and the city of Skikda.



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HEC KNOWLEDGE SHARING SEMINARS

HEC hosted their final event in the Knowledge Sharing Seminar Series for 2015 on 14 December at the Secretariat General in Isa Town. Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Acting VP Academic Affairs & Development participated in the session, designed to establish best practice for internships. Dr Al-Hajj gave a presentation to the group on ASU's internship delivery model, challenges, quality assurance, linking internships to learning outcomes and the process of monitoring our interns. Prof Hilal Al-Bayati Advisor to the Acting VP also attended. Other Universities shared their own experience and approaches with the group.

THIRD RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES AT THE COLLEGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES

The College of Administrative Sciences has organised its third research seminar series on 13 December 2015. A presentation was delivered by Dr Mohammad Al Hammami, a faculty member at the department of Management Information Systems and chaired by the Vice Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences Dr Ramzi Nekhili, over a research topic titled "Enhancing Mobile Phones Privacy Based on Steganography".



In preparation for a conference participation, Dr Mohammad has studied the application of Steganography as a technique used to hide secret messages into SMS and MMS covers. He has developed a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) algorithm to embed secret messages into cover messages to generate Stego text (SMS) and an LSB algorithm to generate a so-called Stego image (MMS). These secret (hidden) messages are then extracted directly by their receiver. These algorithms are wrapped in a software for implementation by using J2ME (Java 2 Micro Edition) programming language, and the dependence flexibility of the software load on all mobile types having the same property of the sent messages.



UKTI AND ATKINS VISIT

Prof Ghassan Aouad hosted a business lunch meeting with Ms. Heather Hopper, Head of UKTI, Ms. Emilia Mateva, UK Trade & Investment Officer at UKTI Bahrain, and Mr Rick Hopper, Managing Director of ATKINS in Bahrain & Kuwait, Middle East to discuss ways to strengthen ASU collaboration with UKTI and ATKINS. Prof Waheeb Alkhaja, and members of staff attended the meeting too.

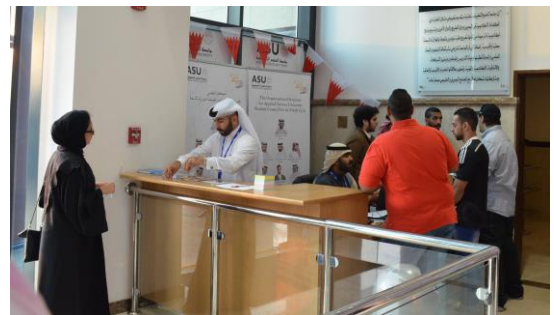


ASU OPEN DAY

ASU held an Open Day in order to introduce its academic programmes and create links between the university and the local community.

The President of ASU, Professor Ghassan Aouad and a number of the academic and administrative staff attended the Open Day.

Visitors were able to discuss the academic programmes offered at the university with deans and faculty. They also were able to have a tour around the new university campus including the new halls and the sports courts.



ASU AL-HAJ CULTURE SEMINAR

ASU held a seminar titled the “Role of the Scientific Establishments in Consolidating the Features of the Civilized Culture, Al-Haj as a Model”.

Shaikh Ibrahim Muraikhi, the Head of the Sharia Court, Mr Khalid Malood, the Head of the Haj and Omra in the Islamic Affairs, Dr Murad Janabi, Associate Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Sa’ad Drawish, the President Advisor for Special Projects led the seminar.

The participants focused on the role and leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in facilitating Al-Haj affairs through its projects and arrangements and preparation for pilgrims. The participants also discussed the importance of educating pilgrims.



In conjunction with the seminar, students who are studying Islamic Sharia under the supervision of Dr Murad Junabi staged an exhibition about Al- Haj and the positive and negative attitude of Haj pilgrims.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Lead and inspire people. Don’t try to manage and manipulate people. Inventories can be managed but people must be lead”.

Ross Perot

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

The Eight HEC Institutional Accreditation Standards

Standard 1: Governance, Strategy and Financial Management

Standard 2: Academic Management and Administration

Standard 3: Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Standard 4: Research and Innovation

Standard 5: Economy and Society Impact

Standard 6: Student Recruitment, Support, Guidance and Progression

Standard 7: Premises, Facilities and Learning Resources

Standard 8: Accreditation and Quality Management, Assurance and Enhancement



Enjoy Reading

TO HAVE YOUR STORY IN NEXT WEEKS ISSUE CONTACT:

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