

Qitaf

Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch

Arab Open University QITAF - Bahrain Branch - Periodical Newsletter - Issue II - December 2015



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His Highness

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His Highness

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King of Bahrain

His Royal Highness

Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

The Prime Minister of Bahrain

The Word of the Editorial Team

From here, From Arab Open University

Here we stand on the threshold of a new horizon of a special issue replete with renewable knowledge, and of a university life newsletter, which grows brighter and more distinct with the days. It is the confidence that we witnessed from you in the first issue that gives us the motivation for continuation, creativity and advancement. Our happiness is indescribable; because we did not expect all these positive and reassuring responses we have received for the issuance of our first issue of the periodical newsletter "QITAF of the Arab Open University", given the grand effect it had on our esteemed readers, and you will notice the development in this issue.

We have tried very hard to make this newsletter reflect the pulse of the University and student work in a simple form to constitute an active link that reflects the events, the activities and the projects on campus, and increase the effectiveness of communication within the community. Out of the belief of the Department of Student Affairs and its desire to see the newsletter reach the largest possible readership, the newsletter will be issued in both Arabic and English.

This issue is full of coverage of diverse events, the most important of which, perhaps, is the launch ceremony of the first issue of our periodical newsletter, launched under the auspices of His Excellency Prof. Riyadh Yousif Hamza, the Secretary General of the Higher Education Council, and in the presence of the most notable figures and individuals of the community. Not less important was the organization of the Regional Conference for the Development of Creativity and Critical Thinking in Higher Education, which aimed at exchanging expertise and experiences between experts and decision-makers to attain real development in this field of education.

The issue also includes news and reports about valuable workshops, such as the workshop on Marketing Skills which targeted people working in media and public relations, and which was organized with the participation of representatives from the Departments of Public Relations and Media in the eight branches of the Arab Open University. The organization of this workshop is part of the Arab Open University's program to hone and advance the efficiency of all the employees in the administrative and academic bodies in all the branches. The issue also covers a workshop entitled "The Effectiveness of the ABCs of Success in Life", which was organized by the alumni club, in addition to many other activities.

I leave you to browse the contents of this issue, which, undoubtedly, contains a lot of news, events and programs we wish they would receive your appreciation and permanent communication.

Warm greetings,

Eman Redha AbdulRasool
Head of Student Affairs Department



His Royal Highness

Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Chairman of the board of the trustees of the Arab Open University
and President of the Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND)



Prof. Moudhi Al-Hamoud Word

to the University Bahrain Branch

We receive the second issue of our young magazine "QITAF" at a time the Arab Open University, with its branches spread over our great Arab nation, witnessing continuous development and brilliance on all levels, achieving, thank God Almighty, consecutive successes. Just recently, the opening of the ninth branch of the university in Palestine has been agreed as part of the university's ambitious plan for geographic expansion to serve the needs of Arab communities and to consecrate the right of all classes of society to learning and the acquisition of knowledge.

The university is also planning the increase of investment in its academic portfolio, targeting the increase of the number of programs offered at some of its branches, at the level of both the Bachelor and the Master's programs, as is the case of the University's Bahrain Branch where the launch of the new programs has, thankfully, been translated into reality.

The university also prides itself on the excellence of its students and their reaping of local, regional and international awards at the level of all its branches, in apparent harmony between its current reality and its future goals. What crowned the achievements of the university and also boosted its position, which constitutes one of the vital tributaries to the continuation of the university, and bolstered the pioneering aspect of its educational system, is the confidence of the local accreditation bodies and all the authorities involved in assessing the quality of academic programs in the countries where the branches of the University are located. Added to that is the University's meeting of all the necessary standards and requirements, which has enabled the University to occupy and advanced position that was strengthened by the quality of its education system and the efficiency of its outputs.

The mounting positive reputation, which has been enjoyed by the Arab Open University, represents the key stimulus and the major incentive that commands us to exert greater efforts to serve our students. The best evidence of our commitment is the opening ceremony of the new campus of Bahrain Branch, the jewel of the Arab Open University's Branches, which we all were honored last year by the High Royal Patronage at its inauguration ceremony. Let's hope for more brilliance and for more rewards of success to reap.

May God grant us success

Prof. Moudhi Abdul Aziz Al-Hamoud

Rector of the University



The Administration of the Arab Open University - Bahrain Branch in its name and on behalf of all its members, extends its thanks and gratitude to

His Excellency Dr. Majed bin Ali Al-Noaimi

Minister of Education and Chairman of the Higher Education Council

For his permanent support of the University, and for his kind agreement to raise the ceiling of the number of students to be admitted to the University programs to 500 students, and to reopen the Master's Program in Business Administration, and the opening of the Bachelor Program in English.

We also extend our thanks to the General Secretariat of Higher Education Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain for their follow-up and support of the programs of the University and its academic performance to facilitate its role in the delivery of its intended mission.

Dr. Khaldoon Al-Roomi,

Director of the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch



Message of the Branch Director

Our esteemed readers..

We are pleased to present you with the second issue of "QITAF", the newsletter of the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch in both its print and electronic versions. First, I would like to express my overwhelming pleasure and my happiness for all the messages of support, written or oral, we have received about the first issue. This confirms the success of the newsletter, placing greater responsibility on our shoulders to work hard and to persevere to be worthy of your trust. In this issue, you will find news about conferences and events that were held at the University during the second semester of the academic year 2015/2014. It also delights us that the issuance of this second issue coincides with raising the ceiling of the number of students to be admitted to the university programs to 500 students, in addition to reopening the program of Master's in Business Administration, and the opening of the program of Bachelor of English.

We hope we will go further with our expansion plans by opening more bachelor and master's programs in the future, according to both the strategic plan of the University and the strategic plan of higher education, in addition to the requirements of the labor market in Bahrain and in the countries of the region. The University has completed feasibility studies of several disciplines; the studies have been submitted to the Council of Higher Education for approval.

In this context, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Minister of Education, Dr. Majed bin Ali Al Noaimi, to the Secretary General of the Council of Higher Education, Prof. Riyadh Bin Yusuf Hamza, to Dr. Mona Al-Baluchi, and to all the members of the Higher Education Council for their incessant support of the Arab Open University in general, and of the idea of issuing this newsletter, in particular. We also extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Yusuf Mohamed Ismail, Director of The Media Management Directorate of the Information Affairs Authority and his colleagues at the Publications Department, for the facilities that have been provided for the issuance of this newsletter.

Our thanks shall also be extended to the University Board of Trustees, and His Excellency, the Rector of the University Prof. Moudhi AbdulAziz Al-Hamoud, for their constant support for the advancement of this educational institution; and for the achievement of the mission of its founder, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin AbdulAziz Al-Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University, may God protect him. We are also grateful to the members of the organizing

committee who work hard with the spirit of one team for the success of this newsletter, under the slogan of "Together to you and for you."

Finally, we extend our thanks to all those who have participated in and contributed to the success of the launching ceremony of the first issue of the newsletter. We will meet in the near future with the issuance of the third issue of "QITAF", the periodical newsletter of the Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch. We promise you we will make more strenuous efforts to present a more distinctive and brighter issue, in realization of the goals of this newsletter, which is to open the ways for better communication with the community in Kingdom of Bahrain, in particular, and in the region, in general. Therefore, the continuation of this newsletter depends on your continued communication with us. Thus, we look forward to your participation in the topics and subjects which will be published in coming issues of the newsletter via the following e-mail: aoubh.news@aou.org.bh

Best regards

Dr. Khaldoon AbdulRazaq Al-Roomi
Director of the Arab Open University
Bahrain Branch



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University

Our Vision

Towards an excellent leading Arab Open University for reinforcing a society of learning and knowledge in the Arab world.

Our Mission

The AOU is proud to be the umbrella in the Middle East region for all those ambitious individuals who are keen to pursue their studies and fulfill their aspirations.

Our Value

- Student Care
- Commitment to Quality Assurance
- Compliance with Professionalism
- Enhancement of Belonging
- Care for Human Resources
- Taking on Responsibility
- Justice and Fairness
- Encouragement of Creativity
- Teamwork
- Contribution to Community Service
- Freedom of Thinking





The University in brief

The University's vision: Towards an excellent leading Arab Open University for reinforcing a society of learning and knowledge in the Arab world.

The Arab Open University was established as an Arab educational and developmental project aiming at providing higher education opportunities for all high school graduates, both recent graduates as well as those who missed out on education, and to the largest possible number of people from the Arab World that are always looking forward to completing their education.

The Arab Open University aims at achieving many of the current and future objectives, the most important of them is providing higher education for those desiring it, retraining teachers, providing on-the-job training programs in the various professions, providing career transformational programs, offering educational programs serving the cause of the development of society. The University also offers opportunities for developing the performance of employees in the public as well as the private sector, by virtue of its programs that incorporate education and employment.

In order to achieve its goals, the Arab Open University has adopted the Open Education System, which is considered a popular education that is based on a philosophy that emphasizes

the right of individuals to have access to the available educational opportunities, by targeting the removal of all the barriers that may hinder people in the Arab World from continuing their education in the fields offered by the university. Open education is an education that is available to all people, not restricted to any specific time or age or any category of learners. It is not limited to any level or type of education for it matches the nature of the needs of the community and its members and their ambitions and the development of their careers. Moreover, open education does not rely essentially on direct meetings between the teacher and the learner, as is the case in traditional educational institutions. It depends rather on integrated learning and considering the learner the centre of the learning process by employing multimedia in the teaching-learning process. Education in the Arab Open University utilizes the indirect methods, means, and ways of teaching and learning such as the textbook, the study guide, the Internet, satellite and land television, the radio, the telephone, the fax, the electronic and ordinary mail. It also uses direct teaching and learning methods such as face-to-face classroom teaching and semi-direct teaching methods, such as telephone and television conferences, in addition to other technological teaching and learning media.



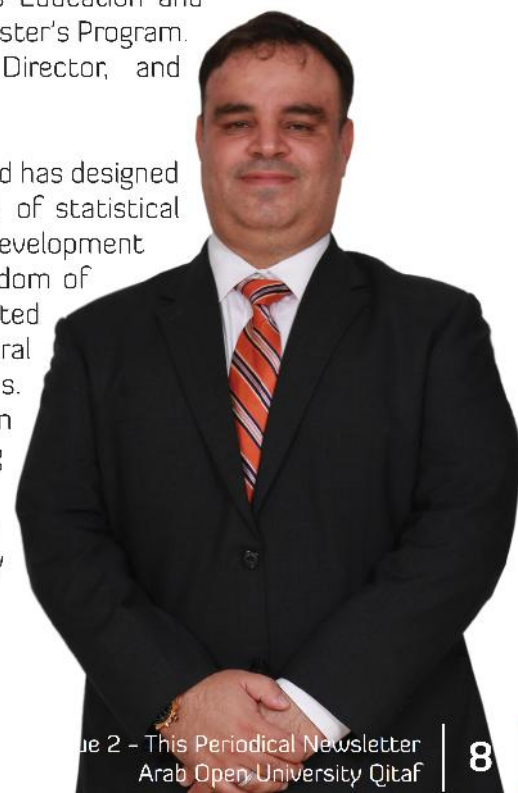
Dr. Hisham Ahmed Al-Asheeri

The Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch started its actual academic activity in March 2003, through a group of educators who joined the university at that time, among them was Dr. Hisham Ahmed Yousif Al-Asheeri. He is considered one of the founders of the Branch, as he joined it by the beginning of preparations for the inauguration of the work of the University's Bahrain Branch in February 2002.

Dr. Hisham Al-Asheeri started his university studies at the University of Bahrain on a scholarship provided by the Ministry of Education. After graduating with a Bachelor of Education in 1996, he joined Al-Sanabis Primary Boys' School as a teacher in the same year. During his work with the Ministry, he won several awards in the fields of teaching outstanding performance, competitions in scientific research, and the preparation of support teaching aids. In 2002, Mr. Al-Asheeri obtained a master's degree in education - primary education cum laude. He then joined the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch in the position of academic advisor – lecturer at the General Studies and Education Department. In 2007, while still working at the Arab Open University, Mr. Al-Asheeri obtained a doctorate degree in Education Technology- Electronic Education from Cairo University.

During his work at the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch Dr. Hisham Al-Asheeri has held several leadership positions: Coordinator of the Department of General Studies, Marketing Responsible for Vocational Programs and Graduate Studies, Director of Continuous Education and Professional Development at the University, and Coordinator of the Master's Program. He was also appointed Assistant Branch Academic Affairs Director, and Commissioned Director of the Branch.

Dr. Al-Asheeri is interested in training and professional development and has designed and presented many training programs and workshops in the field of statistical analysis, scientific research, culture building, e-learning and personal development skills in several training institutions both inside and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain. His interests also include research activities. He has participated in numerous conferences with scientific papers and has published several scientific researches, and has supervised many Master's dissertations. Dr. Al-Asheeri has a published book entitled "Multimedia technology in the Twenty First Century" and has a book under publishing documenting the history of education in Bahrain. Dr. Al-Asheeri is also interested in the field of e-learning and its development in the Arab World and he is a member of the Arab Association for the Technology of Education.





A Look into
Management Consulting
Dr. Adnan Hashim Al-Samarrai

When addressing the subject of management consulting based on a sound scientific logic, it is necessary to determine the dimensions of the concept of administrative development. Administrative development is defined as "those efforts that must be made continually to develop the administrative system in order to boost the management capacity through the establishment of the organizational structures appropriate to the needs of development, the simplification of work procedures and systems, attempting the institution of a positive behavior of the staff towards their administrations and those collaborating with them, and improving the work environment that affects, and is affected by, the administrative system so as to efficiently achieve the goals of development at the lowest costs." It is clear that administrative development relies on two essential dimensions. The first dimension is rooted in the organizational structure of the institution, which constitutes the regulatory frameworks for all the activities that are performed within this structure, and the activities that are practiced by the departments of this structure. This explains the differences in the organizational structures of institutions, which are differences related to the nature of the institution's activities and pursuits, and the services it offers. It is obvious, therefore, to notice that the organizational structure of a production institution, for example, differs from the organizational structure a service institution, as it also differs from the organizational structure of a commercial institution (with the exception of job structure and the similar activities, such as finances, and human resources). There are also other elements and variables that affect the organizational structure of institutions. These include the size of the enterprise, the capital of the institution, the external environment, the pattern of the economy and the market within which the institution operates...etc. This means that this dimension represents the regulatory controls in the institutions.

As for the second dimension, it is represented by the workforces within the institution, without specifying the location and the level of these forces. This means that all the working personnel are included in the statement of the concept of Administrative Development. Hence appears the importance of identifying the levels of these workers, who are often divided into three levels, according to their positions in the administration representing them:

- Senior Management
- Middle Management
- Executive Management

It emerges, then, that the process of individuals' orientation should be drawn according to their position, for individuals in the senior management have a special style of dealing, addressing and perception, and, thus, all the elements that represent the end of dealing with them should be formulated according to this basis. Similarly, individuals in the middle management have their own status, policies and procedures, and, consequently, all these matters should be taken into consideration when addressing

them. There are, then, the individuals occupying the executive departments (or the so-called minor departments). They constitute the majority and they have their status that should be assessed carefully when addressing any of the cases of administrative development. Many studies have shown that the personnel occupying the middle positions control in one way or another the most basic, the most sensitive and the most influential parts within the institutions they work. In spite of their relatively small number, the extent of their impact is colossal. Consequently, the experiences of dealing with them and addressing them have been very sensitive to the degree that led some specialists to state that winning the support of this class is a proof of success of the advisory project, and in any of the fields of administrative development.

Administrative Development is based on three key pillars:

1. Consultation
2. Training
3. Research

These elements are not intended to be separate from

each other, and no one of them is meant to be independent or stand-alone. The main purpose consists in establishing coherence and integration among them. The consultation, due to certain considerations, is viewed as the most important of these pillars, given the fact that it represents a fundamental link between scientific research and training and in order to maximize profiting from it to the greatest extent possible. Consultation constitutes the way to uncover and identify the size of the training needs, and, consequently, consultation stimulates the role of training. The same can be said about research, as it represents the primary key of research work by shedding light on the elements of weakness and strength inside the institutions, and on the relationship of these institutions with the external environment in terms of available opportunities and threats, which determines a number of points viable for research and survey.

Thus, consultation has been the basis and the key that identifies the framework and entry to scientific research.

The role of consultations as methods and means to assist development, change and modernization has grown as a result of the giant leap that took place in the economic and social activities in the world of business during the last short period of time.

Thus, we can see that work in consultations has begun to expand and spread until it became one of the hallmarks of our times. Likewise, consultancy firms have spread and expanded on the diverse administrative, financial, technical, accounting, economic, legal and social levels, as well as on the level of and futuristic and creative studies.

Consultation is defined as the primary element for administrative development since it is a link between the three pillars of integrated and comprehensive administrative development. It was also dubbed the solution to an existing problem or a problem that is expected to occur by an adviser, on the condition that this consultation be managed in a scientific and realistic way commensurate with the nature and the scope of the problem

It was also defined by the British consultation authority as a service provided by an individual or a group of individuals enjoying independence, and having the qualification to identify and discuss the management problems relating to policies, organization, procedures and methods, to propose practical recommendations appropriate to solve them and to provide assistance or supervise its implementation.

According to these definitions, it can be said that consultation is recent and did not appear but by the second World War. However, the idea of counselling as a concept relating to taking opinion and seeking consultation is an old concept, for it is highly present in the Holy Coran and the illustrious biography of the Prophet as well as in the biographies the Prophet's

companions and in the biographies of the Orthodox Caliphs. God says "and whose affairs are a matter of counsel" and "consult them in the affairs". Also man, due to his nature and social instinct, needs his fellows and needs to take their views and adopt the ideas and opinions of others, which constitutes a kind of consultation. Consultation is reckoned a voluntary and temporary relationship with regards to the time relationship between a qualified person called consultant or adviser on the one hand, and someone who needs their service, known as advisee or beneficiary, provided that the service is directed to solving a definite problem that is expected to happen or is already extant.

Types of consultations:

Consultations can be divided into many categories according to the nature of foundations used:

- Health consultations
- Developmental consultations
- Mixed consultations

They can also be divided into:

- Comprehensive consultations
- Partial consultations

Likewise, they can be divided into:

- Management consultations
- Financial and accounting consultations
- Legal consultations/advice
- Technical consultations
- Social consultations

The important stages of the consultation process:

The consultation goes through a series of stages, which can be described in what follows:

- Identify the problem, which is considered the basis for determining the consultation task
- Formation of the appropriate consultation team
- Developing the plan to implement the consultation task
- Collecting the data and information required for the consultation
- Analysis of the data and information
- Formulating the recommendations.
- Writing and submission of the initial report of the consultation task.
- Discuss the initial report of the consultation with the beneficiary.
- Writing the final report of the consultation task.
- Implementation & follow-up of the consultation task

Artist Ibrahim El-Masri

Art is a humanitarian message embodied in the depths of the artist

Ibrahim Ahmed Azzam El-Masri is a visual artist born in 1987. He is a law graduate of the University of Yarmouk . He has held the position of administration officer in the Admission and Registration Department at the Arab Open University, Bahrain Branch since 2009



Artist Ibrahim El-Masri, why did you choose art?

When I paint, I get lost in a world of my own; a world where there is only myself and my painting. I don't know when and where I'll be. Painting lets you unleash your imagination and your energy and make you feel freedom.

What is visual art?

Visual art is one of the most beautiful arts. It is expressed from real life and is formulated in forms inspired from new ideas about the embodiment and configuration for a particular thing.

Who is the visual artist?

He is the professional who innovates in this art. He conceives the details from the reality he lives and conveys the image according to the way he sees things in a nice and distinctive idea, which makes him distinct from the other.

How did you go into art?

My beginning with arts goes back to when I was 20 years old, which means about seven years ago. Before that, I was an amateur. I love drawing, but I can't call myself artist. I went into art through Graffiti; the idea came when I was meeting with two of my friends, with whom I shared the love drawing and colors. Our ambition, then, was to move away from traditional art and

present a new kind of art. The beginning was on the wall of my friend's house and through that experience, we realized that the use of the spray in drawing differed a lot from the use of the brush or from ordinary drawing on paper. After that, I had a new experience. It was with plastic art and I used acrylic colors and the brush, and after several experiences, I discovered that art was the closest to my character.

How many paintings have painted?

About 100 paintings in seven years.

How many paintings have painted?

Almost 100 plate during the seven years

Tell us about your participations?

I participated in a number of local and international exhibitions. My first participation was in ta2alshabab in 2010, and I went to have four consecutive participations with them until 2014. In 2010, I also took part in the Summer of Aramco Exhibit in Saudi Arabia. Then, I participated in Red and White, which was organized by the Ministry of Culture in 2012. In 2013, I took part in I Am Human Exhibit, also organized by the Ministry of Culture..



Any artist must face the hardships in the beginning; but with reading, knowledge and practice, hardships ease and what was hard becomes fun

Is there a particular message you would like convey to the receiver through your art?

Art is a humanitarian message embodied in the depths of the artist who paints this message with an artistic skill to address the others with a credibility mixed with beauty. Fine Art is an expression of the concerns and the issues in a freely, without restrictions or conditions. It complies with local values, and carries no ruin or corruption in its contents.

How can beginner amateur artists develop and hone their skills?

Any artist must face the hardships in the beginning; but with reading, knowledge and practice, hardships ease and what was hard becomes fun.

Who is your role model in the world of art?

American artist Jackson Pollock, who was one of the pioneers of Abstract Expressionism movement.

How do you evaluate the reality of art in Bahrain?

The new artistic touch is rarely seen. There are some creative and innovative artists creative but

the reality obliges them to swim with the current. The dilemma of plastic arts lies in the lack of acceptance of artists for each other, and this is what we see in the talk sessions that bring together artists. We see some of them bitterly criticizing the others to prove they are the best. Personally, I see this as a kind of dehumanization and lack of respect for the other.

What have been the most prominent moments in your life?

That was when the Minister of Culture, Shaikha Mai Al-Khalifa, admired one of my paintings and purchased it, in addition to the three interviews I had with Bahrain TV.





Determination..... The most important step on the road to challenging disability

Graduate Zahra Ahmed Ali

Zahra graduated from the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Systems). Although she is "blind", her visual impairment has not dissuaded her from studying and using the aiding tools in her life: computers, screen readers and voice recognition software. She studied via the hearing, read by her own means, and learned how to use the Internet and to conduct research.

First, tell us about yourself.

I am student Zahra Ahmed, a graduate of the Arab Open University - Bahrain Branch. I became blind because of a hereditary disease while I was a student at intermediate school. I underwent two surgical operations outside Bahrain, but neither of them was successful. However, I continued my studies thanks to my confidence in God Almighty and the encouragement I received from my mom, dad and my family, and also thanks to my strong determination. I joined the Saudi-Bahraini Institute for the Blind and then went to Sitra Secondary Girls' School for my secondary studies. In my studies I relied on attendance and listening to my teachers' lectures in the class like any other ordinary student. The Saudi-Bahraini Institute for the Blind would, in cooperation with Sitra Secondary Girls' School, take the textbooks and print them in the Braille version to help me with my studies. I would take my tests in a special committee using a Braille machine to help me answer exams questions. I graduated in June 2007 from the Arts Section, and then I joined the Bahrain Branch of the Arab Open University for my higher education.

Her ambition is "to embark on a teaching career to change the mental image formulated by the community about the blind."

Why did you choose to study at the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch?

My choice of the university is attributed to several factors; I was aspiring to specialize in Business Management to be the first blind graduate of this program. I was also encouraged by the open education system, which encourages students with special needs to take advantage of modern education technology employing electronic programs that adopt indirect teaching methods, such as the use of various communication channels, like the textbook and study guide the World Wide Web (the internet) and e-mail. They also use direct methods and styles such as face-to-face classroom learning, in addition to other available technology media of distant learning.

Did you find it difficult to study the academic courses at the Arab Open University?

I did not come across any difficulty to study the academic courses at the University; on the contrary, the academic staffs were excellent and of outstanding competence, which helped to deliver the information properly to all students. They were also cooperative with the students in explaining the scientific material, and answering all their inquiries relating to the course during the lecture or after it, by receiving students during the library hours. The e-learning system also allows student to communicate effectively with the professors and the students, to take advantage of past questions and summaries, get the necessary information about the academic courses and get informed about the university announcements and its activities.

What facilities does the university provided for people with special needs?

The University offered me several facilities that helped me to complete my studies. I got support from the academic as well as the administrative staff, starting from helping me to receive academic advising, registration for subjects by phone, moving between the halls for lectures, in addition to transferring the lectures to the ground floor to facilitate my movement between lectures. As for the method of study of the academic courses, the University helped me to transfer the scientific material from hard copy to soft "word" copy and provided electronic versions of the textbooks to be used via the voice recognition computer. In addition, I found cooperation from the Examinations Department of the University's Branch in terms of the facilities provided for students with special needs, and to the blind, in particular, such as allocating a special examination committee, providing volunteers to read the exam questions, and allowing the student the opportunity to answer questions using the computer. There were also many other services that enabled me to continue my studies with ease and comfort.



I will prove to the community that the blind can work in several fields

What horizons did the study at the Arab Open University open to you?

I implemented what I learnt at the University in the field of my current voluntary work, given my acquisition of the knowledge about management systems and the systems approach in crisis solving and management.

Where have you worked after graduation?

After graduation, I began searching for a job. I had many job interviews and have been placed on the waiting lists. That's why; I went into voluntary work, given its importance and benefits until I get a real employment opportunity.

What difficulties do you face in your voluntary work?

I didn't find any difficulties in voluntary work; rather, I acquired new skills. They are practical experiences that are not taught in books and universities, which make them especially important in work life in general. Volunteering constitutes an effective therapy for depression, loneliness and boredom as the volunteer finds what fills their spare time and recognize that their worries are minimal compared to other people's concerns and needs.

What is the secret of the blind's excellence at the tasks assigned to them?

It's because of the belief of people with special needs in their ability to work and give.

What are your ambitions for future?

I'm planning to take part in a project from which we, the blind, may benefit on the level of employment in the future.

A word of thanks to whom would you say it?

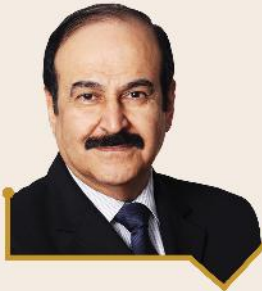
To my family and all the members of the University academics and administrators, as well as the members of the Saudi-Bahraini Institute for the Blind, and especially to the Institute's Principal, Mr. Abdulwahid Al-Khayat.

They Said about the First Issue



H.E Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa
Minister of Foreign Affairs

"I received with deep thanks and appreciation the offered copy of "QITAF", the periodical newsletter of the Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch. The newsletter clearly reflects the great educational and awareness efforts your esteemed university wields, and embodies your upright approach in enhancing communication frameworks with students and graduates and fostering interaction with the institutions of the Bahraini community. May God bless you with good health and happiness and grant your esteemed university further progress and prosperity."



H.E. Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza
The Minister of Energy

"I received with deep gratitude and appreciation a copy of the first issue of "QITAF", the periodical newsletter of the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch. The newsletter aims to be a bridge of communication with students and graduates, higher education institutions, and the Bahraini society. I highly estimate and value your efforts and reiterate my thanks to you for this copy of the newsletter. I pray to Allah Almighty to guide you to more performance and achievement. "



Dr. Abdullah Yousif Al-Mutawa'a
Undersecretary for Education Affairs and Curricula:

"I am pleased to send my greetings and express my deep thanks and appreciation to you for your continuous efforts and for the offered copy of the first issue of "QITAF", the Arab Open University periodical newsletter. We wish you unceasing success."



Mr. Abdullah bin Khalaf Al-Dossari
Secretary General of the Council of Representatives

"We received with deep thanks and appreciation the first issue of the Arab Open University newsletter. We wish you more prosperity and further progress for the development of educational in the Kingdom of Bahrain."



Prof. Moudhi Al-Hamoud
Rector of the Arab Open University:

"I received with deep thanks and appreciation the first issue of "QITAF", the periodical newsletter issued by the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch, this branch which is keen on building a bridge of communication between itself and the other branches of the university, as well as between itself and the Bahraini society in general. This keenness emanates from the Branch's interest in acquainting the community with the University's activities, including the diverse academic programs, the scientific research, student activities and local, regional and global conferences." My happiness was such when I learned that the newsletter would be circulated electronically in order to allow for further communication with all the stakeholders in the community, a principle the University's administration encourages and works at implementing so as to achieve the desired interest. On this occasion, I am pleased to extend to you and to all the members of the branch, academics, as well as administrators and students, my sincere thanks and appreciation for the awesome image in which the newsletter appeared in its first issue, and wish continuous success and advancement for the University."



Dr. Khalid AbdulRahman Al-Ohaly
President of the Arabian Gulf University

"I am pleased to congratulate you on issuing this newsletter. I have but to praise the topics it contained. I reiterate my expressions of thanks and appreciation."



Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Janahi
President of the University of Bahrain

"I am pleased to thank Your Excellency for sending me the periodical newsletter, I have but to praise the academic and educational achievements your esteemed university has realized and wish Your Excellency the continuation of this successful journey towards the realization of your aspirations in the service of our dear nation."



Prof. Mazin Mohammed Ali Juma'ah
President of the Royal University for Women

"The Royal University for Women extends to you sincere thanks and appreciation for "QITAF", the periodical newsletter of the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch. We wish you all the success and the continuation of performance and excellence."



Prof. Ashraf Hussain
Dean of the Department of IT and Computing Programs at the University's Headquarter

"I wish to extend to you my best wishes and congratulations on the issuance of the first issue of the University Bahrain Branch's newsletter. It is, in fact, a great and balanced start on the level of form as well as content. It is a model to follow, indeed. I hope to see this newsletter issued regularly."



Prof. AbdulMoneim Al-Ashnihi
Media Adviser to Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

"I congratulate you on the issuance of your newsletter, "QITAF", which appeared from its first page to its last one unique in form by all standards. Certainly, it will become a bright window to acquaint the community with the University and will build a bridge of communication between the University administration, the students, the graduates and higher education institutions."



The General Secretary of higher education inaugurates the Arab Open University's newsletter "QITAF"

His excellence Prof. Riyadh Yousif Hamza, the General Secretary of the Higher Education Council inaugurated the first issue of the AOU Bahrain Branch's newsletter "QITAF" on Monday June 15th, 2015 at the university's campus in A'ali area, in the presence of Prof. Ali Fakhroo, Chairman of the Arab University's Executive Committee of Trustees, and Mr. Yousif Mohamed Ismail, Director of the Media Directorate in the Information Affairs Authority.

On this occasion Prof. Riyadh Yousif, General Secretary of the Higher Education Council, congratulated the Arab Open University on this new issue that is deemed a means to historify the events and activities of the University and sheds light on its goals and achievements so as to communicate them to the public, for universities take pride in their achievements, especially in the first years of their establishment.

He added: "we are pleased to see universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain communicating with the different classes of society, whether in Bahrain or in the region, through the various means of communication, and "QITAF" newsletter, which is full of news about the university, its students and its activities, constitutes one of these means." He finally wished success to the people responsible for the newsletter and benefit from it spread to all. Prof. Moudhi Abdulaziz Al Hamood, the director

of the Arab Open University, contributed a word to the ceremony via electronic media in which she said "I am pleased to extend in my name and on behalf of the Arab Open University's staff and students in its eight branches to my thanks and appreciation to the leadership and people of Bahrain for their continuous support to the university's branch since its opening in February 2003. Prof. Moudhi Abdulaziz Al Hamood reiterated the university's unconditional commitment to open the opportunities of high quality learning to Bahraini secondary school graduates, regardless of age and gender, to continue their university and scientific achievement and to enrich the Bahraini, Gulf and Arab labor market with specialists of exceptional and diverse scientific capabilities.

Prof. Moudhi expressed her hopes that this periodical newsletter, issued by the Bahrain



Branch of the Arab Open University, will be a gate of constructive communication between the university and its students, and between the members of the community, regardless of their classes and interests

After that, Dr. Khaldoon Abdul Razaq Al Roomi, Director of the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch, gave a word in which he said: "it's out of the university's mission to support the principle of community partnership comes the inauguration of the first issue of the Arab Open University - Bahrain Branch's periodical newsletter, "QITAF", to serve as a bridge of communication between our students and graduates and the stakeholders in the Bahraini community". He stated that the newsletter constitutes an optimal opportunity to promote the University's achievements and programs.

At the end of the ceremony, Prof. Riyadh Hamza, Prof. Ali Fakhroo and Dr. Khaldoon Abdulrazzaq Al Roomi honored the sponsors and the edition team in recognition of their distinct efforts in launching the newsletter.





The Arab Open University Organizes a Regional Conference for the Development of Creativity and Critical Thinking

Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Majed bin Ali Al-Noaimi, Minister of Education, the Arab Open University, the principal headquarters, organized "The Regional Conference for the Development of Creativity and Critical Thinking in Higher Education" at the Bahrain Branch of the Arab Open University. The conference witnessed the presence of Prof. Riyadh Yousif Hamza, Secretary General of the Council of Higher Education, delegate of the sponsor of the event, and Prof. Ali Fakhroo, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Open University, and Prof. Moudhi Al-Hamoud, Rector of the Arab Open University.

After recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, Dr. Khaldoon Al-Roomi, Director of the AOU - Bahrain Branch, delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of all the members of the University's branch for all the participants in the conference. He praised the care of His Excellency the Minister of Education and his personal support to the efforts of the University in developing education and enhancing the opportunities of scientific research to promote serving the common goal of making the Kingdom of Bahrain a beacon of science and knowledge in the region. He also thanked Her Excellency, the Rector of the University, for her continued support to the advancement of this unique educational institution, and to the realization of the mission of its founder, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin AbdulAziz Al-Saud,

Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees. Dr. Al-Roomi stated that the call for the Regional Conference for the Development of Creativity and Critical Thinking emanates from the university's belief in the need to harmonize the efforts aiming at supporting scientific research. It also constitutes an implementation of the Kingdom of Bahrain's strategy aiming to encourage scientific research in order to render service to the science and knowledge community, according to the latest practices in this rich domain. It, thus, represents a significant opportunity through which the Arab Open University, represented by its branches and principal headquarters, renews its achievements and contributions in this regard, serving its communities and contributing to the efforts of development. After that, Prof. Riyadh Hamza,

Secretary General of the Council of Higher Education, and representative of the sponsor of the conference, delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation to those in charge of this important conference, hoping that this participation and its results would positively impact higher education in the Arab World in general, and in Bahrain in particular. Prof. Hamza reiterated Bahrain's recognition of the importance of creativity in the process of development on the one hand, and in the advancement of higher education on the other hand, given the importance of all this for the progress of the Arab World in the diverse fields. Prof. Riyadh added, "Creativity and Critical Thinking in Higher Education is a response to the requirements of our modern times and targets assessing the readiness and the creative capabilities of Arab



higher education. The aim is to boost students' spirit of creativity, while at the same time providing the necessary resources to hone and develop this spirit, according to organized plans and programs implemented by higher education institutions in the Arab World, including universities and scientific research centers." Prof. Riyadh went on to state, "it is the responsibility of all of us to spread the values of critical thinking and creativity values, and to disseminate this culture in all institutions of higher education with their various components. This requires the careful consideration of the development of the contents of university academic programs and curricula, the promotion of the used teaching methods and styles and the creation of the appropriate environment for scientific research. This can be explained by the fact that scientific research constitutes the creative aspect that helps to stimulate students and teachers' creative capabilities and to promote and motivate them, which allows the nation to invest them in the most optimal way." He added, "The creation of the knowledge and innovation society requires building the human capital through the educational activity that we implement, with its content of educational and instructional programs that lead to the provision of knowledge coupled with the skills of thinking and creativity. This shall in turn lead to equipping university graduates with a critical mindset, especially at their advanced academic levels." Prof. Riyadh expressed his hope that

would contribute to the development of the higher education system, which shall result in creativity, excellence and purposeful and constructive thinking. He asserted that the time had come for universities to play their role in innovation and development, and in facing the impacts of the fast changes that we see around us in the different areas of education, economy, politics, and culture, including both their negative and positive results. According to Prof. Riyadh, the situation requires us to review the progress of our education and teaching systems, according to the requirements of the development of knowledge, as the textbook is no longer the sole source of knowledge, since the sources and tools of knowledge have diversified today. The learner should be ready to take in this knowledge, which the teacher has become no more than just one of its corners. This calls on the faculty member and on the university to focus on the development of individual and the promotion of their mental faculties, and to make optimal use of these faculties to turn the individual into one of the elements that enhance the achievement of comprehensive sustainable development. For her part, Her Excellency Prof. Moudhi AbdulAziz Al-Hamoud, Rector of the Arab Open University, praised this initiative organized by the University in its eight branches to disseminate knowledge and to create opportunities for Arab youth to meet for the aim of study and research across the spaces of technological and technical progress, and according to the

outstanding science curricula offered by the University. Prof. Al-Hamoud pointed out that the role of universities today is no longer restricted to the dissemination of knowledge and science alone; but it stretches to embrace the development of the fields of knowledge and the methods of thinking and creativity and the honing of life skills in their various forms. The targeted outcome is to prepare a generation capable of coping with the challenges of their times and with the requirements of development in their country, a generation that is able to understand, coexist with, and benefit from other cultures. Prof. Moudhi highlighted our desperate need today to propagate this thinking among our youth to protect them for the evils of extremism and violence so as they can constructively employ their energies to serve their countries and all humanity. Prof. Moudhi added, "our conference today addresses an area that we seek to consider: the development of creativity and critical thinking in education. This area constitutes the basis for the development of all the fields of knowledge and science. The conference also constitutes an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and experiences between experts, educators and decision-makers to achieve real development in this vital area relating to the preparation of future generations to face the challenges of development in the various fields." Prof. Moudhi Abdulaziz Al-Hamoud and Dr. Khaldoon Al-Roomi honored, after that, the sponsor of the event and the parties supporting the conference.



Inauguration of Kuwait E-library

Her excellency Prof. Moudhi Al-Hamoud, Rector of the Arab Open University, inaugurated the modern electronic library of the University, in the presence of Mohammed Al-Azmi, Acting Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, and Prof. Talal Al- Arab, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Society for the Support of Students. On this occasion, Prof. Moudhi Al Hamoud congratulated Bahrain Branch and thanked Mr. Talal Al-Arab, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Society for the Support of Students, for their unlimited cooperation, reflected in providing the university with this modern library that comprises a database containing more than 200 thousand books.



The Arab Open University welcomes 234 new Students

The Department of Student Affairs at university Bahrain Branch in the second semester of the academic year 2015 -2014, organised the orientation day to prepare for the reception of 234 students who had started their studies at the various colleges of the university. On this occasion, Dr. Khaldoon AbdulRazaq Al-Roomi, the University's Bahrain Branch Director welcomed the freshman students, who had recently joined the University, and the members of the academic and administrative staff. Dr. Al Roomi pointed out that the event was organized by the University to prepare the newly enrolled students in order to open communication channels with the university's professors and administrators, and also to introduce the various educational services offered by the University. On the orientation day, the professors and the heads of department presented a guiding briefing that comprised an exposition of the internal regulations and bylaws of the university and an introduction of the University's colleges and the disciplines they offer. The students, then, had a field tour of the campus where they were briefed on the departments and facilities of the University.





The University Participates in Bahrain Third International for Education and Training Exhibition (Edutex)

Under the patronage of Minister of Labour H.E Jameel bin Mohammed Humaidan, the third Bahrain International Education and Training Exhibition was held at the Bahrain International Exhibitions and Conferences Centre between 24th and 26th March 2015.

In order to spread the culture of the one organization, the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch participated in this event within a team of public relations and marketing staff from the Arab Open University branches in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Sudan, as well as a representative of the Arab Open University's headquarters in Kuwait. They exposed at the exhibition the licensed programs taught at University. It is worth noting that the number of visitors to the university's pavilion on the first day was great, as the pavilion received huge numbers of government and private secondary schools, in addition to a number of parents. The University's participation in Bahrain International Education and Training Exhibition is the third in a row after the categorical success of the exhibition in the past years.





The University Organizes the Annual Exhibition of the Information Technology and Computing Program Students' Graduation Projects

The Director of the University Bahrain Branch, Dr. Khaldoon AbdulRazaq Al-Roomi, in the Director of the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, Dr. Hisham Ahmed Al-Asheeri, and the Information Technology and Computing Program Coordinator, and a number of the administrative and academic department heads, opened the annual exhibition of the Information and Computing Technology Program Students' Graduation Projects, which was supervised by members of the academic and administrative body. Dr. Al-Roomi expressed his delight at the graduation projects program, which included many new ideas that keep pace with the huge developments in the field of technology. He praised the students' projects, which represent a source of pride for the university prides of the university, wishing that government and private institutions adopt these projects, which shall result in benefit and development for the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The program coordinator, Dr. Mini Mol Job, for her part, stated that "the exhibition reflects the programs and the scientific lessons taken by students in the academic courses". Praising the role of faculty members in supporting students to achieve success, Dr. Mini Mol added that "the participating projects this year are distinctive and have won the admiration and praise of all the attendees". It is worth mentioning that the preview of the project was made by adjudicators with sound experience in the field of Information Technology. In the end, the owners of this year's best innovative projects were honored.









Prince Turki Bin Talal Pays a Visit to the Arab Open University's New Premises

His Royal Highness Prince Turki Bin Talal Al-Saud, the personal representative of His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin AbdulAziz Al-Saud paid an inspection visit to the new campus of the Arab Open University in the Kingdom of Bahrain. His Highness expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Greatness King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, may God protect him, for His Greatness's support of education in the Kingdom, and to His Royal Highness, Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister for his directions to the government to provide all the facilities available for the project of the University campus, and to his Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Prince Regent, Deputy Supreme Commander, for his continuous support of science and knowledge in the Kingdom of Bahrain. H.H Prince Turki Bin Talal indicated that the new campus of the Arab Open University received all the support and interest on all the levels from the Kingdom of Bahrain as part of the Kingdom's emphasis on bolstering its pioneering status in the field of education, and making use of the recent solutions of technology, in accordance with the latest international standards in the field of electronic and integrated education. His Highness added that the new education edifice would offer students a constructive learning atmosphere and provide all the advanced services to students, workers and the Bahraini community as a whole.

A Number of Arab Open University Students Take Part in the Autism Walkathon

On the occasion of the World Autism Awareness Day, a number of Arab Open University students participated in the Autism Walkathon, held in in Dawhat Arad on Saturday, April 25, 2015, under the auspices of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health MS Aisha Bu'onk. A mobile exhibition was held on during the walkathon to collect donations. The participation of the University in this events reflects its strong belief in the importance of voluntary work, and as part of plans to a promote the sense of responsibility among students.





The Alumni Club hosts lecturer Mo'atasem Al-Dakheel



As part of the activities of the alumni club, the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch organized a lecture to introduce the leadership and speech skills in the Toastmaster's club. The Saudi lecturer Mr. Mo'atasem Al-Dakeel addressed a number of topics, including the definition of toastmasters' and the improvement of speech leadership skills. The lecture aimed at encouraging students to improve themselves and boost their leadership skills so that they become leaders tomorrow



The Arab Open University Hosts Dr. Akbar Ja'afari

Out of its keenness on enriching equipping students with the aspects of success in life, and within the framework of the program and activities of the alumni club, the Arab Open University hosted Dr. Akbar Ja'afari, Executive Director of GAFCON Company for the Improvement of Productivity, in a workshop for students entitled "The Success Equation and the Disruption Factors".

During the meeting, a number of important factors were discussed, including, for example, how you can drive yourself to success in academic and professional life. The students posed many questions to the doctor, who answered them methodologically with reference to his life experience and expertise.



The Alumni Club hosts Dr. Huda Al-Jaser

The Arab Open University hosted Dr. Huda Al-Jaser, from Kuwait, in a workshop for the university's students entitled "The ABCs of Success". During the workshop, Dr. Huda Al-Jaser discussed several topics in which she emphasized the importance of the individuals' understanding of themselves to boost their self-confidence and to rely on God in every step they take. The lecturer stated that the basic rule for success in life is working with commitment and discipline to reach the desired goal. It should be noted that these workshops constitute part of the programs and activities of the university's alumni club.



The University organizes the International Conference of the European Association for Simulation by Computer Technology

The Minister of Education, Dr. Majed bin Ali Al-Noaimi, delegated the Secretary General of the Council of Higher Education, Prof. Riyadh Yousif Hamza, to attend the opening ceremony of the Fifteenth International Conference of the European Association for Simulation by Computer Technology, which was organized by the Arab Open University - Bahrain Branch, from the 2nd to the 4th of March 2015. The conference, held at the University's campus in A'ali, witnessed the participation of about 100 international experts and researchers, in addition to a number of local public and private universities. During the ceremony, the Secretary General of the Council of Higher Education delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of His Excellency the Minister to the audience, praising the important scientific events included in the program of the conference, which shall contribute to the advancement of the higher education sector in Bahrain and the Arab region in general. Prof. Hamza added that higher education institutions in Bahrain would find in the wide experiences of the researchers and experts participating in the conference a rich and utile scientific material that is worth taking advantage of and that should be applied in concrete terms. For his part, the Arab Open University Vice Rector for Academic Affairs and the Chairman of the Conference Prof. Marwan Al-Akaidi gave a speech in which he elucidated that the conference aims at contributing to the enrichment of scientific research relating to the field of simulation and modeling technology. Prof. Al-Akaidi suggested that the organization of the conference in the Kingdom of Bahrain comes as a translation of the strategic and scientific objectives of the conference. Among these objectives, there is the attempt to create an integrated and coherent network of communities involved in the field of simulation and modeling in the Middle East, similar to the network of communities associated with this scientific field in other regions of the world.



The Arab Open University organizes a workshop on Marketing Skills for the employees of public relations and media

The Arab Open University - Bahrain Branch organized on 23 -22 March 2015, a workshop on Marketing Skills for the employees of public relations and media, in which participated a number of managers and administrative staff of the branches of the Arab Open University. Prof. Moudhi Al-Hamoud, the Arab Open University Rector, gave a welcoming speech at the opening of the workshop in which she praised the participants and the organizers' efforts. She added that the workshop constitutes a support for the efforts deployed by the University's administration to promote all the branches of the Arab Open University so as to move in the right direction. For his part, Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch Director, Dr. Khaldoon AbdulRazzaq Al-Roomi gave a word, in which he welcomed the attendees in their second homeland, Bahrain, wishing the participants to take full advantage of this workshop. He also pointed to the keenness of all the branches of the Arab Open University on the advancement of this educational institution, by the continuous knowledge enhancement of the staff working in the university's branches. The workshop was organized in collaboration with London Training Centre and the discussion sessions were managed by trainer Mr. AbdulNabi Marhoon.



The second open meeting with the Director of the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch

His Excellency the Director of the Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch, Dr. Khaldoon Al Roomi , met with the university students in an open parents meeting organized by the Branch's Student Council on Sunday May 2015 ,17. The meeting was held in the University's Auditorium to accommodate the large number of students and attendees, from both the academic and administrative staff. The meeting started with a speech delivered by Student Council member, student Ibrahim AL Assar, in which he warmly welcomed the Director of the University Branch and the attendees, calling on students to take advantage of the Director's guidance and advice stemming from a wide educational wisdom, experience and expertise. The Director of the University started his speech by expressing his delight and happiness to meet the University's students. He listened, then, to their views, ideas and suggestions, urging them to expose all their academic interests and needs with transparency, objectivity and courage. The director emphasized that the student is the focus of attention of all those who the university staff, and that the student is the mirror of the university through which the university can perceive its weaknesses and works to avoid them, and recognize its strengths and works to expand and promote them. He also stated that he came to listen rather than to talk and that he was ready to accept objective criticism that aims at accomplishing the public interest.





The Arab Open University organizes a ceremony for employees to celebrate World Labor Day

The human resources department in the Arab Open University–Bahrain Branch organized a ceremony at the university campus to celebrate World Labor Day. The ceremony started with a word given by Dr. Khaldoon Abdulrazaq Al-Roomi, Director of the University in which he stated that: " the World Labor Day constitutes an opportunity to celebrate all the employees in recognition of their role and contributions to the University's development and advance". Dr. Al Roomi praised 17 employees who had completed 10 years of work serving the University with loyalty, commitment and dedication. He added that "today is an appropriate day to coronate the successes of the University since the start of the current year. We congratulate ourselves for having you as our employees, you exerted astonishing efforts to promote the University and you owe us honoring." The activity also comprised several programs for employees, including honoring the University's academic and administrative staff. Also a draw was held on a number of prizes offered by institutions supporting the University, and then a lunch feat was held in the honor of the University's employees.



Under the patronage of MP Roa'a Al-Hayki
 The Arab Open University organizes the Event
 of World Health Day



On the occasion of World Health Day, The Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch organized the Event of the Health Day, under the patronage of MP Roa'a Bader Al-Hayki, member of the Bahraini Council of Representatives at the University campus in A'ali. At the opening of the event, the Director of the University, Khaldoon AbdulRazaq Al-Roomi, gave a speech in which he said: "Out of its mission in community partnership, the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch recognizes that its role far exceeds merely educating students and equipping them with skills. Rather, the role of the Open Arab University touches on the student's physical, psychological and health development and preservation, since the healthy mind is necessarily in the sound body. The university also plays a key role in the dissemination of health awareness, and the promotion of the concepts of healthy lifestyles among the members of society. It is not surprising, therefore, that the University take a pioneering role in celebrating the World Health Day." In addition to a medical test corner, the event included an educational lecture and workshops about first aid. The event was held in the presence of the patron of the event, MP Roa'a Bader Al-Hayki, Dr. Maryam Al-Hajiri, Director of General Health Directorate in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Amal Al-Jowder, Director of the Health Promotion Directorate, and Mr. Ali Al-Arabi, Director of the Office of the Governor of the Northern of Governorate.



Ajial Entrepreneurship and Leadership Program

The Department of Student Affairs at the Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch organized, in cooperation with AIESEC Bahrain (Ajial Entrepreneurship and Leadership Program). The program included six workshops, held over three weeks, two days a week, between 3 and 19 March 2015, at the University campus in A'ali. The program was attended by more than 90 male and female Arab Open University students. The workshops focused on the development of the various aspects of leadership and entrepreneurship skills of the participating students. The program also boosted students' confidence and deepened their knowledge of the skills they need to identify the tools contributing to the stimulation of the initiative spirit and the effective ability for communication and leadership. In addition, the program enabled the participating students to acquire several skills, such as time management, team management, project management and the vital skills required in the labor market. The courses were delivered by Italian and Japanese members form AIESEC International. The lecturers exposed part of their culture to the university students to increase the participants' knowledge of the cultures and civilizations of other countries. It shall be mentioned that the Arab Open University leads private universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain with regards to cooperation with global and international organizations to develop Bahraini students and youth through awareness and counselling programs.



The Peer Teaching Program

With the start of a new academic term, the Student Affairs Department at the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch organized the Peer Teaching Program for the second term of the academic year 2015/2014. The program witnessed the participation of a group of academically outstanding students who have been selected by faculty members, in collaboration with the Department of Student Affairs in the Branch.

The rationale of the program is to involve students in the task of teaching each other by organizing the teaching process in a way to allow students the opportunity of teaching and learning in a manner that supports and complements the instruction process at the university. This consists in allowing students outstanding in their disciplines the opportunity to help their peers who find it difficult to understand parts of the curricula. Among the most important objectives of the program is raising the academic level of the students taking part in the educational workshops, and providing a different learning atmosphere that focuses mainly on the students' educational demands and recognizes their needs and the difficulties they face. The program also seeks to prepare an elite group of students owning teaching skills as well as leadership qualities. It is worth mentioning that the faculty plays a vital and active role in the program with regards to coordination with the Student Affairs Department to arrange field visits for the student teachers to evaluate their performance during their teaching of their peers, and in urging and motivating outstanding students to participate in the instruction process in the program. The faculty also strives to provide support and assistance to student teachers by providing them with the relevant revisions and past exam questions...etc. In the pictures appears the Head of Student Council Hani Hamza in presenting the peer session.

The Ramadan Basket Project

In a humanitarian gesture embodying the spirit of cooperation between the members of the Arab Open University on the one hand, and needy families, on the other hand, and in collaboration with A'ali Charity Association, the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch Student Council members distributed the Ramadan basket to needy families on the evening of Thursday, June 2015 ,25. The donations were contributed by a number of Arab Open University's students as well as members of the university's administrative and academic staff.



Upon Decision of the General Secretary of the Council of Higher Education, the Arab Open University Reopens the of Master's in Business Administration Program and the Bachelor in English Language Program

Dr. Khaldoon AbdulRazaq Al-Roomi, Director of the Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch, extended his sincere thanks and great gratitude to His Excellency the Minister of Education and Chairman of the Higher Education Council, Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi, on the occasion of the issuance of the General Secretariat of the Council of Higher Education of decisions to reopen the Master's Program in Business Administration, and the Bachelor Program in English Language. The decisions also included rising the number of students to be admitted to 500. In this context, Dr. Al- Roomi valued the efforts of His Excellency the Secretary General of the Council of Higher Education, Dr. Riyadh Hamza for his commitment to maintaining the highest levels of quality in higher education in line with the reputation of education in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He also praised the efforts of the Council of Higher Education to link educational programs to training courses in universities through the implementation of the Higher Education Strategy, and the Strategic Plan of Scientific Research. Dr. Al-Roomi added, "the importance of these decisions lies not only in the relaunch of the bachelor and master's programs at the university, but it also constitutes the starting point for the University towards wider horizons in the field of higher education, and a restitution of the confidence in the University's programs." He also explained that raising the ceiling of the number of students to be admitted in this semester of the current academic year 500) 2016/2015 students instead of 300 previously) came as a positive result of moving the university to its new campus in A'ali. It is also attributed to providing a favorable study environment and suitable infrastructure for students, as well as increasing the number of faculty members at the University. This would not have been possible without the unlimited support the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch has received from His Royal Highness, Prince Talal Bin AbdulAziz Al-Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Open University, and Her Excellency Prof. Moudhi Al-Hamoud, Rector of the Arab Open University.

Finally, Khaldoon Al-Roomi praised the efforts of the members of the academic and administrative staff of the University, as well as the effective activity of students through their obvious contributions to the scientific and cultural fields represented by the Alumni Club and the Students Council. Such participation has had a prominent impact on the salient achievements and evident successes realized by the Arab Open University in the educational and scientific fields.

Meeting of the Student Council with the University Vice Rector for the Academic Affairs

As part of the periodic meetings conducted by the University administration for continuous communication with students, Prof. Marwan Al-Akaidi, university Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, met the members of the Student Council of the University Bahrain Branch in the presence of both the Student Affairs Head and the Quality Control Unit Specialist. During the meeting, a number of academic issues relating to some courses, and to term and final exams and homework system were raised.

At the end of the meeting, the members of the Student Council thanked the Vice Rector, Al-Akaidi, for his kind initiative to meet them, and for his consideration of the requests and suggestions forwarded on behalf of the students. The members were content with the outcomes of this meeting and stressed that the return of such meetings would be of great benefit for students and for the university in general.





To introduce students to its mission and vision, and to inform them of the specialties and disciplines available

The Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch organizes field trips to secondary schools

In collaboration with the Public Relations and Marketing Department, the Department of Student Affairs at the Bahrain Branch of the Arab Open University, ended a series of field visits, which constitute part of the academic orientation program for students of both boys' and girls' government and private secondary schools. The visits targeted acquainting school students and administrations with the University's mission and vision, and the advantages of studying at the Arab Open University, as well as informing them of the specialties and disciplines available.

The field visits conducted by the University included Ahmed Al-Omran Secondary Boys' School, Al-Hooraa Secondary Girls' School, Al-Ma'arifa Secondary Girls' School and Al-Wafaa Secondary Girls' School. Dr. Khaldoon AbdulRazaq Al-Roomi, Director of the Arab Open University-Bahrain Branch, stated that the academic orientation program targets equipping students with scientific and academic motivation so that they continue their studies beyond high school, as well as preparing them on both the psychological and social levels. The Arab Open University's initiative to take part in this program emanates from the principle of its mission, which aims to support education and show the extent of progress, reflected in achievements realized by the University's Bahrain Branch in recent years on the academic as well as on the educational level. It also stems from the University's responsibility and commitment to the community, and as part of its plans to provide the optimal services for students and acquaint them with the disciplines offered by the University and to advise and guide them to select the appropriate specialty that matches the capabilities of each individual. During these field visits, the University staff provided ample and detailed introduction of the University and the disciplines it offers and profusely answered all the questions of the attendees, students and parents.

Dr. Al-Roomi explained that: "these visit reflect the University' keeness on serving its community and acquainting the students with the education opportunities provided for them by the University and also to help the students of this community to excel and stand out in their education and work life. The visits also aim at consolidating the relationship between the University, the members of the community and the community institutions through introducing them to a pioneer and distinct model of universities abundant in our dear country."



Ahmed Al-Omran Secondary Boys' School Students Visit AOU - Bahrain Branch

The Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch received a delegation of students from Ahmed Al- Omran Secondary Boys' School. The delegation was received by the Head of Public Relations and Marketing, Mr. Mohammed Shehab Al-Dain Nasmy. At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Eman Redha welcomed the schools' administration and students, expressing her delight with the visit, and stressing the university's keenness on organizing such visits in order to introduce students to university life, and to contribute to helping them choose the disciplines according to their desires and preferences. She also praised the significant role played by the Ministry of Education and high school principals who spare no effort for the advancement of students and the provision of a distinctive environment that promotes students' performance and capabilities, in order to boost the development of education in Bahrain. The students listened to a detailed introduction of the university's policy, objectives and accredited programs, before ending their visit with a tour of the university to get acquainted with its facilities, laboratories and lecture halls.

Isa Town Secondary Commercial Boys' School Students Visit the Arab Open University - Bahrain Branch

A student delegation from Isa Town Secondary Commercial Boys' School visited the Arab Open University- Bahrain Branch, in A'ali on the morning of Sunday, March 1st, 2015. The delegation, made up of 36 students led by the vocational supervisor Mr. Khaled Ayedh Al-Sabahi was received by the Head of Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Eman Redha. The meeting included a presentation on the foundation of the University, the concept of open education system, the academic programs offered by the British Open University and the University admission systems. A number of questions relating to the methods of teaching at the University, the academic programs, and the education environment and students life were posed by students. Expressing her thanks to Isa Town Secondary Commercial Boys' School for its interest in the University and its keenness on introducing its students to university life, the Official of Student Affairs stressed that this visit represents an extension of communication bridges between the university and the diverse educational institutions. For his part, the vocational training supervisor, Mr. Khaled Al-Sabahi expressed his pleasure at visiting the University, stressing that the school administration is seeking, out of its awareness of the University's rank and importance, to be closely acquainted with the Arab Open University system. This interest stems from the University's classification within the first category of academic institutions by Bahrain's Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training. The visiting delegation made a toured the University Campus, visiting a number of the University departments and facilities, where students expressed their admiration of the University services that are offered at an advanced level of sophistication.





Participation of student Ameera Nooh in the Arab Media Forum



The Arab Open University–Bahrain Branch nominated, upon instructions from Her Excellency Prof. Moudhi AbdulAziz Al-Hamoud, Rector of the Arab Open University, the brilliant student Ameera Isa Noah to attend the Arab Media Forum organized in the State of Kuwait, from April 25 to April 2015 28. Ameera’s nomination is due to her academic excellence, her outstanding behavior and her being a model of the brilliant student.

Prof. Moudhi AbdulAziz Al-Hamoud confirmed during the forum the importance of the academic, service and construction achievements realized (by the University), during the brief period since its foundation, and the spread of the presence of the University branches to eight Arab countries, including its branch in Kuwait. Directing her speech to the celebrated students, Dr. Moudhi said, “We are proud of you and of your achievements and participation. We will always support and encourage you, and will not spare any effort to offer you what may help you and help all the students to realize their wishes and aspirations to receive higher education of high quality and at high level. This honoring is no more than a recognition of your excellence and your efforts and the efforts of those who have been behind your excellence: the professors, the academic and administrative staff and your parents, who have provided for you an environment of success and excellence, and who have honored us today with their presence to celebrate you.”

At the end of the ceremony, Prof. Moudhi Al-Hamoud presented shields, certificates of appreciation and symbolic gifts to the celebrated students in appreciation and recognition of their efforts and as encouragement to keep up their perseverance and diligence.



Participation of the Student Council in the First Youth Forum of Bahrain Polytechnic

Student Council members took part in the first youth forum organized by Bahrain Polytechnic under the slogan "Last Appearance". The forum centered on three values, which are digital globalization, community civilization, and youth accomplishments.

The Forum drew applause from participating students, who have expressed their happiness and enjoyment of this participation, stressing that the forum had achieved the desired benefit on both the scientific and cultural levels.



The Arab Open University participates in the festival "Get into My World" to support autism children

In conjunction with the International Day to raise awareness about autism, the Arab Open University participated in the "Get into My World" festival to support autism children. The festival, held under the patronage of Faiqa Al-Salih, Minister of Social Development, was organized by the Forum of Bahraini Youth Association in Prestige Hall, at Adhari Park, and witnessed the presence of a number of the Shura and Representatives' Councils members, as well as some Bahraini and Gulf artists. The festival included several entertainment activities that were organized to bring joy to the hearts of children suffering from autism.



The University organizes the International Conference of the European Association for Simulation by Computer Technology



The General Secretary of higher education inaugurates the Arab Open University's newsletter "QITAF"

