



جامعة قطر
QATAR UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS Life

Mar 2018

QU New Strategy Revealed

“From Reform To Transform”

**Implementation of Various
Initiatives Addressing the
Illegal Blockade**

**New Local and International
Partnerships**



MAR 2018

Campus Life

Editorial Team

Supervision:
Kummam Al-Maadeed

Senior Editor (Arabic):
Kholeh Mortaza Mortazawi

Senior Editor (English):
Murielle El Hajj

Editorial Committee:
Kummam Al-Maadeed
Amna Abdulkareem

Photographers:
Mohamed Sherif
Ali Emad

For any enquiries, contact us by email at:
qumedia@qu.edu.qa

Campus Life is a biannual magazine issued by
QU Communications and Public Relations Department
www.qu.edu.qa/newsletters/campuslife

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Future Talents Shaped Here ...



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President's note

New beginning



This issue of Campus Life comes during the Spring 2018 semester after a year full of challenges and achievements.

Qatar faced an unjust blockade imposed by the neighboring countries. The illegal blockade did not have any legal, moral, or religious justifications. However, Qatar's position was crucial safeguarding "national sovereignty".

At the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly, His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani stated in his speech: "Allow me, on this occasion and from this podium, to express my pride in my Qatari people, along with the multinational and multicultural residents in Qatar."

Despite the huge national emotions, Qatar did not overlook the importance of planning to face the unjust blockade. In this regard, the Qatari government has implemented strategic plans to ensure self-sufficiency in food, economic security, and the diversification of income sources, in order to preserve the country from the global economic fluctuations.

As Qatar's national university, Qatar University (QU) received a large number of Qatari students returning from the siege countries after they got expelled from the universities there. The organization also provided students from the siege countries with the possibility to do their exams during Ramadan, as they were obliged by their countries to leave Qatar within two

weeks. The University also received the students from the siege countries who decided to pursue their studies in Qatar.

QU also launched a new course titled "Special Topics" in Fall 2017 to address the legal dimensions of the Qatar's blockade from the perspective of international law. QU researchers also prepared many legal, economic and media studies, as well as a wide range of events on the blockade and its impact.

Additionally, QU launched its new strategy (2018-2022) aiming at shaping future competencies for the labor market. The new strategy also aims to create an educational environment which is based on entrepreneurship and innovation, to ensure institutional and financial sustainability, and to promote digital transformation.

QU puts the development of national human capital at the top of its priorities. The University's new strategy focuses on national needs, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

In closing, I would like to say to QU members, whether they are citizens or residents: "You contribute with QU in serving the Qatari society and in expressing the feelings of love and belonging to Qatar. Qatar deserves the best from us."

Dr Hassan Rashid Al Derham
President of Qatar University

MAIN STORY

QU addresses the unjust blockade imposed on the State of Qatar

Implementation of various research, student and community initiatives



The unjust and unlawful blockade imposed on the State of Qatar undoubtedly represents a milestone in the history of the nation, and a challenge to every institution and member of the community. In this context, Qatar University (QU) has developed and implemented plans that include various initiatives, events and programs that reflect the University's position towards this unwarranted and unjust blockade. A position that ensures scientific and academic handling of all issues related to this uncalled-for blockade, as well as providing well-thought solutions and ways to build national capacities to achieve sustainability. These plans also include various research, student and community initiatives that reflect QU's role as a "catalyst for the sustainable socio-economic development of Qatar".

Plan launched to accommodate national students at the siege countries

Since the crisis, national students at the siege countries (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain) were enforced to leave immediately and were not allowed to pursue their studies at their universities. QU launched a plan to accommodate the national students who have been affected by the Qatar-Gulf crisis.

QU Student Affairs Sector assessed, in collaboration with QU Academic Affairs and in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the status of the affected students to find the efficient solutions that are of the benefit of the University and the students. A primary admission plan has been implemented to enroll the national students from the three GCC countries as visiting students at QU for the Summer and Fall semesters, until a final solution is defined.

"Qatar's Economy during Blockade (Steadfastness and Ascension)"

Organized by QU College of Business and Economics (CBE), the seminar addressed the impact of the blockade on various areas such as the economic development plans in Qatar, Qatar's macroeconomic indicators, and the financial market in Qatar. Discussions also focused on how the government is managing the crisis.

Attendees included Minister of Development Planning and Statistics H.E. Dr Saleh Al Nabet, QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham, Economic Adviser at Amiri Diwan H.E. Dr Ibrahim Ibrahim, Assitant Undersecretary of Consumer Protection at the Ministry of Economy and Commerce H.E. Sheikh Jassim Al-Thani, CBE Dean Dr Khalid Shams Al-Abdulqader, and a large number of academics and researchers, as well as QU faculty, staff and students.

"Special Topics" course launched

QU College of Law (LAWC) launched a new course titled "Special Topics" in Fall 2017 to address the legal dimensions of the Qatar's blockade from the perspective of international law. The course aims at engaging law students in informative discussions and research to enhance their understanding of the current Gulf crisis.

Students, who are registered in the course, are encouraged



to write multidisciplinary academic research papers about one of the blockade-related issues. The best research projects will be compiled in one booklet to be sent to the relevant departments in the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, and the National Human Rights Committee.

Inclusion of Emiri speeches in two courses of the Arabic Language

QU included two speeches of H.H. the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in two courses of the Arabic Language within the core curricula.

The inclusion of the two speeches, with titles “steadiness” and “glory”, aims at introducing students to the authentic social and humanitarian values that prevail in the Qatari society, which H.H. the Emir highlighted in his two important speeches, on July 21 and at the opening session

of the United Nations General Assembly on September 19.

While studying the context of each speech, the student will apply his/her educational skills and will define the Arab values which the Qatari society and leadership have shown during the crisis, such as steadiness, pride, progress, tolerance, and justice.

“The Impact of the Blockade on the Laboratory Sector and Food and Medicine Safety”

Organized by QU College of Health Sciences (CHS), the seminar aimed to discuss the impact of the blockade on the laboratory sector and to highlight its effect on food and medicine safety. Main discussed topics include the importance of manufacturing medicines locally in line with the highest quality standards, the implementation of a plan to address cases of crisis and emergency, and the establishment of strategies that support the achievement of economic independence and food self-sufficiency.

WTO law clinic to analyze the Qatar’s blockade

A team from QU College of Law (LAWC) led by Dr Talal Al-Emadi, LAWC Assistant Professor of Oil and Gas Law and Editor-in-Chief of the International Review of Law (IRL), launched a World Trade Organization (WTO) law clinic to study how the Qatar’s blockade could be analyzed under the WTO’s principles.

The team included LAWC Associate Professor and Sir William Blair Chair in Alternative Dispute Resolution Dr Francis Botchway and LAWC Assistant Professor and Centre for Law and Development (CLD) Director Dr Jon Truby. Twenty-four LAWC senior students were registered in the clinic.

Themed “A WTO Legal Clinic on Qatar’s Blockade”, the study was conducted under the umbrella of the TradeLab, a project supported by a 3-year National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) grant, and in collaboration with the Graduate Institute, Geneva and Georgetown University in Qatar.

The team studied the aspects of the blockade that violate the WTO’s principles and the procedures that Qatar should suggest. They also provided the solutions and remedies that are available for Qatar. The results of the study were revealed at the end of 2017 in a form of a free of charge report that has been distributed to the public and submitted to the Ministry of Economy and Commerce in Qatar.

QU celebrates Qatar National Day Organized a myriad of lively events



Led by the Students Activities Department, Qatar University (QU) celebrated Qatar National Day with an array of festivities that reflected the country's heritage, culture, and traditions.

The organization's celebrations on December 11-13 included two consecutive events on the male and female campuses. They featured five booths highlighting Qatari traditions, a traditional tent and Qatari food.

On the male campus, the celebrations featured the screening of two videos, national songs and poetry recitations, as well as traditional sword dances (ardah). A live performance themed "Love of the Nation", a session on the "Gaze of a Homeland", and a live operetta titled "The Story of the Nation" were also part of the celebratory program.

The event on the female campus was organized by the Female Students Committee for National Day, in collaboration with QU Housing and Inclusion and Special Needs Support Center. It featured a live performance themed "Love of the Nation" presented by high school female students, poetry recitations, various competitions, and a live operetta themed "We Are All Qatar". It also included five booths that showcased Qatar's achievements,



Qatari traditional food, photography and a traditional wedding show.

On the sidelines of these celebratory events, QU presented a booth at Darb Al Saai. The booth included educational activities on Arabic calligraphy, engineering, journalism, medicine, pharmacy, and traditions for visitors presented by students from various colleges -- "The Little Journalist" (College of Arts and Sciences); "QU History" (College of Sharia and Islamic Studies); "The Little Pharmacist" (College of Pharmacy); "I Am a Doctor" (College of Medicine); "Engineering Academy", "Architecture Studio", "CNC Machine" and "Chemical Engineering Lab" (College of Engineering).

Other activities included sessions on recycling by the Students Activities Department and educational workshops for high school students by Al Bairaqa Program.

As part of the celebrations at Darb Al Saai, the Department of Chemistry and Earth Sciences (DCES) at QU College of Arts and Sciences presented two booths. The first booth featuring plants was a collaboration with Murooj Qatar. Visitors were briefed on ways to grow plants from seed indoors and outdoors. Students were on hand at the second booth to provide experiments on how to remove heavy metals from eggshell and how to reveal fingerprints.

Commenting on the celebrations, QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham said: "The National Day is one of the most cherished events in Qatar. We celebrate our glory and shared identity and the history which shaped it. As the country's first national university, QU organized a myriad of events to celebrate the National Day and to promote national identity among youth."

Director of Student Services and Activities Mr Abdulla Al-Yafei said: "The National Day celebrations showcase the role of QU Students Activities Department to shape students to become competent and effective leaders in the society and to contribute to the fulfillment of the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the human and social development national strategies."

H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser honors QU 2017 Alumni Reunion

Opportunity to re-connect with alma mater



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Honorary President of Qatar University Alumni Association (QUAA), attended the QU 2017 Alumni Reunion, which was organized by QUAA under the patronage of Her Highness on November 28 at QU Library courtyard.

The event aimed to reconnect graduates with their alma mater, and to encourage mutual support and interaction between QU and its graduates.

Attendees included QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham, Minister of Energy and Industry and QUAA President H.E. Dr Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, members of QU leadership and college deans, Section Head of QU Alumni Relations Ms Buthaina Ibrahim Lanaqwi, Aws Al Naeem from Kuwait, Lubna Al Kharusi from Oman, and several QUAA members, as well as 2000 alumni and their friends and relatives.

The program featured a short film screening on the Association, a live operetta on “The Story of a Nation” performed by the Ministry of Culture and Sports, an exhibition for caricaturists from Qatar, Kuwait and Oman, and an exhibition themed “Souvenirs of a Graduate”.

Awards were presented to H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani for Distinguished Alumni, QU Sketch Chapter for Distinguished Chapter, and QU College of Engineering for 2016 Alumni Reunion Best Booth.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser congratulated H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani. She said: “I am delighted to be present today among a new generation of governors who graduated from Qatar University, and H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman, the guest of honor today, is a symbol of that generation. Times of crises test wills, competencies and capabilities, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman embodies all these qualities in the best way, especially in his response to claims from the blockading countries.”

H.E. Dr Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada said: “The Alumni Association serves as a link that binds together thousands of graduates from all over the world and brings them closer to their alma mater. I take pride in QU as the University provided the labor market in Qatar and beyond with around 41,000 graduates who are well equipped with the necessary skills and values and who serve their countries in the best way. Many of QU outstanding alumni became leaders in the Qatari society, and they contribute to the country’s development and growth.”



Dr Hassan Al Derham noted that since its inception, QU is committed to graduating highly qualified individuals to join leadership ranks in the labor market. He said: "QU accomplished many accreditation achievements for its colleges and programs. Additionally, the organization has been ranked 349 in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2018 and 37 in the QS Top 50 Under 50 2018 ranking among the world's leading young universities founded less than 50 years ago. These achievements are the result of the ongoing support provided by the country's wise leadership to QU."

Dr Hassan Al Derham inaugurates new academic year

Highlighted QU's achievements and future plans in Annual Convocation



The new academic year was inaugurated on September 28 with the Annual Convocation address in which Qatar University (QU) President Dr Hassan Al Derham highlighted the organization's achievements over the last academic year and its continuing efforts to meet the labor market's needs and to provide an optimal learning environment to ensure student success.

The event was attended by QU leadership, deans, heads of departments, program directors, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Dr Al Derham also honored QU members in various categories -- Outstanding Teaching Award, Merit Award, Media Award, Employee of the Year Award, and Young Alumnus Award.

Dr Al Derham welcomed the audience and the new faculty members and administrative staff who recently joined the QU family, wishing them a successful year. He said: "QU has always played a pivotal role in providing efficient solutions to the society's concerns while fulfilling its aspirations and needs. There is no doubt that the unjust blockade imposed on Qatar is a decisive moment in the country's history and a huge challenge to each institution and individual. In this context, we provided support to the students who are enrolled in universities at the siege countries to help them pursue their education. Hence, we established a committee to develop a plan for the preparation and implementation of events, lectures and seminars that are related to the blockade, reflecting QU's role as an incubator for thoughts."

Dr Al Derham noted that QU's new strategic plan for 2018-2022 is a roadmap for the transition from the reform phase to the full transformation phase. He said: "The organization's strategic plan started with an in-depth analysis of the challenges such as the academic risks that a large number of students may face, the small number of Qatari students who are enrolled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, the gap between the University's outcomes and the ever-changing needs of the labor market, and the limited social and economic impact of research, among many others."

He added: "In light of these challenges, it is necessary to place the student at the center of the planning and implementation process and to identify our values."

He also highlighted the recent achievement of the colleges of Education, Engineering, and Health Sciences in terms of academic accreditation and the graduation of six national students who have been pursuing their PhD degree abroad, wishing all success to the 85 scholarship holders who will add value to QU's faculty body.

Dr Al Derham noted that QU witnessed considerable expansion in line with the country's ever-increasing development. He also noted that the University recently launched five new undergraduate programs in Physical Education, Physical Therapy, Fundamental of Religion in Quran and Sunnah, Fundamental of Religion in Creed and

Dawah, and Sharia in Fiqh and Usul Al Fiqh. He further noted that the research and graduate studies sector achieved a huge development, which is reflected by the increase of the research outcomes from 928 in 2014 to 1410 in 2016, at a percentage of 52%. He said: "It is highly important to engage our students in research activities in order to improve their skills and abilities. In this regard, QU students participate through 531 research grants in 21 cycles of the Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP)."

Dr Al Derham also noted that QU has advanced its infrastructure and facilities via a range of building projects such as the inauguration of class halls for women and a gymnasium for men, as well as the student dormitories and the establishment of the Early Childhood Center (ESC). "This is part of QU's commitment to providing its students with a supportive learning environment geared towards improved outcomes and success", he said.

Outstanding Teaching Award -- Mr Hasan Abdalla, Lecturer of Mathematics at QU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Outstanding Teaching Award runner-up -- Prof Farhan Mujahid Chak, CAS Associate Professor of International Affairs.

Merit Award -- Prof Maha Khalil Al-Hendawi, Director of QU Core Curriculum Program, and Dr Ahmed Awaisu, Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Practice at QU College of Pharmacy.

Media Award -- Dr Mohamed Kirat, CAS Professor of Public Relations, and Dr Mahjoob Zweiri, CAS Associate Professor of Modern History.

Employee of the Year Award -- Ms Lolwa Al-Mansoori, Manager of Central Business Services at QU Social and Economic Survey Research Institute, and Mr Raouf Mohamed Neffati, Section Head of Student Information System.

Young Alumnus Award -- Mr Issa Abdullah and Ms Alanoud Ali Alfohaidi.

Details of QU new strategy (2022-2018) unveiled

A Strategy for Transformation from Reform to Transform



Qatar University (QU) released details of its new strategy (2018-2022) themed “A Strategy for Transformation from Reform to Transform” at a ceremony held on December 3.

The event was attended by QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham and QU Chief Strategy and Development Officer Dr Darwish Al-Emadi, as well as QU leadership, college deans, faculty and staff. It featured the screening of a short film on “QU Strategy (2018-2022)”.

QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham noted that QU’s new strategy is inspired from the speech of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on July 21, in which he said: “We require diligence, creativity, independent thinking, constructive initiatives and interest in academic achievement in all disciplines, self-reliance and fighting indolence and dependency. This is not just wishful thinking, and these are not mere dreams. Our goals are realistic and practical.”

Dr Al Derham highlighted the importance of education as it is placed at the heart of Qatar National Vision 2030. He said: “QU is the country’s first higher education institution. It has been an educational pioneer from the outset. We have rigorously pursued educational excellence and the highest quality research. We are dedicated to the improvement of opportunities for all our students.”

He added: “Building on the successful development of the University into a preeminent educational institution, we have developed a new five-year

strategy (2018-2022) which will map out the routes to achieving continuing performance excellence and build on our achievements in our key areas of education, research, institution and engagement.”

He also noted that QU’s strategic direction is derived directly from the University’s new mission, vision and core values and has been based on comprehensive strategic analysis. “Our goal is to deliver the best possible education to our students, to energize them to use their talents and to inspire them to achieve their potential”, he said, adding, “Our graduate and postgraduate programs have earned us a huge reputation as one of the most prestigious universities in the region -- a reputation we are determined to uphold. We have a growing number of master’s and PhD programs and an ambitious research capability which focuses on national development priorities. Our graduates are increasingly sought after in business and academia.”

Dr Al Derham further noted that QU’s new strategy is built upon the accomplishments and experience of the past 24 years. He said: “To develop this strategy, substantial analysis of current achievements, the aspirations and requirements of stakeholders and international and regional trends was carried out. We also took into consideration the plans and aspirations of Qatar National Vision 2030.”

He highlighted that QU is committed to six core values, derived from its guiding principles and aligned with its mission statement -- Excellence, Integrity, Academic Freedom, Diversity, Innovation, and Social Responsibility.

Dr Al Derham outlined QU’s core strategies which include Teaching and Learning Strategy, Student Experience Strategy, Research and Knowledge Advancement Strategy, Institutional Excellence Strategy, and Engagement Strategy. He also pointed to the enabling strategies, which are spread across the QU’s goals and which include Digital Transformation and Entrepreneurship and Innovation.



On higher education transformation, Dr Al Derham noted that QU is committed to transform higher education in Qatar by proactively playing a leading role in shaping and enabling the transformation of the nation's higher education system. He said: "We are positioning QU to transform into a proactive institution which leads higher education in Qatar by strategically harnessing the capabilities of other providers, while addressing the developmental needs of the nation as it moves towards a knowledge-based economy."

On education excellence, Dr Al Derham said: "We aspire to be an educational institution which offers the next generation of degree programs. Current degrees will need to be reimaged and reconstituted, competency-based learning should be embedded into the curriculum, which is to be supported by experiential learning methods. Resources will be directed to recruit, invest in and retain leading faculty and researchers, and we will draw on their creativity in reconstituting the curricula and pathways in a manner which distinguishes QU as a model national university. Our mission is to equip current and future citizens of Qatar with the skills, expertise and competencies they need to be able to contribute to, and lead, Qatar's development for the benefit of future generations."

Dr Al Derham pointed to the importance of preparing graduates who are well-rounded with attributes and values that maximize their impact. He noted that QU's new strategic direction will tackle the barriers to success which face the students. "We are implementing a holistic response which supports students from the high school level through to graduation, thereby enabling student success and a positive experience", he said.

He also pointed to the importance to excel in research that is focused, relevant, measurable, solution-oriented, impactful, and collaborative while advancing knowledge and innovation. He said: "To further maximize our impact and drive innovation and leadership, we are transforming our research model to identify and focus on key areas where

we have a comparative advantage. Research will be fully integrated with graduate studies and will actively promote QU-industry research projects and partnerships to support Qatar's economic development."

On institutional excellence, Dr Al Derham observed that QU strives to be recognized as a benchmark for organizational and operational excellence and sustainability. He said: "As a national university, we aspire to motivate and inspire and be a source of pride for our nation. To achieve this goal, the University will transform its organizational and operational structure to become a sustainable institution based on revenue generation and diversification, and the effective and efficient use of resources and assets. It is envisaged that this will be grounded in a renewed governance system, which will operate in an environment based on quality standards and operational effectiveness frameworks."

He also highlighted the engagement excellence which aims to foster effective engagement with local and international stakeholders, enrich education, strengthen research, impact socio-economic development and enhance visibility and image. He said: "Input from governmental and industrial sectors will enrich our curricula and research and in return, the University will provide technical expertise in those niche areas where we demonstrate excellence. Our expertise, research, innovation and education will be linked to the wider socio-economic needs of the nation."

In closing, Dr Al Derham highlighted the cross-goals such as entrepreneurship and innovation and digital transformation, and which affect many of the university-wide systems and processes. He pointed to the importance of incorporating digitization into activities and processes related to QU students' experience, teaching and learning, research, engagement and entrepreneurship to enhance their outcomes and impact. He also highlighted the necessity to accelerate the development of entrepreneurial ventures, technology start-ups and commercial outputs.

"We have enormous pride in how QU is meeting its challenges and achieving its goals with an unyielding commitment to realizing our mission and vision. With this strategy in place, we have positioned the University as a powerhouse of intellectual and academic achievement, without losing sight of the pastoral and nurturing care of our students and colleagues", Dr Al Derham said.

QU co-hosts THE World University Rankings Data Masterclass Discussed the performance data of universities in the Arab world



Qatar University (QU) in partnership with Times Higher Education (THE) hosted on January 16 the “THE World University Rankings Data Masterclass”, which discussed how the World University Rankings are built and which data are collected, as well as THE ranking methodologies and future plans for teaching excellence.

The masterclass also looked at the performance data of universities in the Arab world and on how rankings and performance indicators can evolve to best meet the developmental needs of institutions in the region.

The event drew the participation of several presidents, faculty, experts, and researchers of universities from Qatar, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Attending the event were QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham, QU leadership, deans, heads of departments, program directors, faculty, and staff.

A presentation by Mr Trevor Barratt, THE Managing Director, detailed THE's data credentials and the data for the World University Ranking -- Performance Data from universities (via THE), Reputation Data from academics (via THE) and Bibliometric Data from academics (via Elsevier). Mr Barratt highlighted the eleven ranking subjects which include arts and humanities; social sciences; business and economics; clinical, pre-clinical and health; law; education; life sciences; physical sciences; engineering and technology; computer science, and psychology.

He noted that the academic reputation survey increased from 143,484 votes in 2016 to 144,863 votes in 2017. He also highlighted that the THE World University Rankings 2018 Scopus Dataset includes 12,431,514 total publications and 62 million citations.

On THE World University Rankings methodology, Mr Trevor outlined the 13 metrics -- doctorates to academic staff ratio, doctorates to Bachelor degree ratio, field weighted citations, income to academic staff ratio, industry research income to academic staff ratio, international to domestic staff ratio, international to domestic student ratio, papers to academic staff ratio, publications with at least one international author, research income to academic staff ratio, research reputation, staff to student ratio, and teaching



reputation. He also outlined the five ranking pillars which include Citations (30%), Industry Income (2.5%), International Outlook (7.5%), Research (30%), and Teaching (30%). He said: “The calculation of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018 has been subject to independent audit by professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) making these the only global rankings to be subjected to full, independent scrutiny of this nature.”

The presentation also showcased the results of the THE World University Rankings 2018 and 2016-17, the characteristics of a world class university, and the Arab Ranking 2018.

Following was a session on teaching excellence metrics led by Mr Phil Baty, THE Editorial Director, Global Rankings.

In his presentation, Mr Baty noted that the THE World University Rankings are very heavily focused on research. It is right to focus on research for the world university ranking, he said, adding, “but of course we recognize the importance of the teaching mission, and we recognize some universities have no mission to research, and those who do of course take their teaching role extremely seriously. So, we forged a new partnership with the Wall Street Journal to develop a new teaching-led ranking.”

He highlighted the 2017 College Rankings which are based on the 3Ps of the learning process -- Biggs, Gibbs et al -- and gave a brief on the student factors (prior knowledge, ability, and motivation), the teaching context (objectives, assessment, climate/ethos, and teaching procedures), the learning focused activities, and the learning outcomes (skills, facts, and involvement).

Mr Phil Baty outlined the WSJ/THE College Rankings Methodology which includes 6 sources (IPEDs, THE Student Survey, College Scorecard, THE Reputation Survey, Elsevier

Scopus, and BEA); 15 metrics (finance per student, faculty per student, papers per faculty, student engagement, student recommendation, student interaction, subject breadth, graduate salary, graduation rate, reputation, debt repayment, student diversity, faculty diversity, percentage of international students, and student inclusion); and four pillars (Resources, Engagement, Outcomes, and Environment). He also noted that THE is planning to push the new teaching metrics globally.

On the sidelines of the masterclass, QU hosted on January 15 a gala dinner at the Ritz-Carlton, Doha. The ceremony featured the screening of a short video on QU and a presentation on “QU Overall Ranking Results” delivered by Mr Cesar Wazen, Director of QU Scholarships and Partnerships Office.

In his remarks, QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “Qatar University recognizes the importance of international rankings such as the Times Higher Education rankings, which include clear and highly accurate indicators and various details related to universities’ work and role.”

Dr Al Derham also highlighted the negative impact of the illegal blockade imposed on Qatar on all areas including the academic field and family relations. He noted that QU has accommodated the national students who have been affected by the Qatar-Gulf crisis and that the University did not end the service of any faculty member due to his/her nationality.

Mr Phil Baty said: “We are a very global business and our role is to help universities improve through data analytics and through face-to-face meetings to discuss the issues that matter to institutions. We have a great relationship with Qatar University and Qatar is a very good hub to have international discussions about the needs and policy-environment for universities in the Middle East region.”

QU achieves considerable improvement in international rankings



Qatar University (QU) achieved 7th place in the QS Arab Region University Rankings 2018, among the 100 top universities in the Middle East, Asia and MENA regions, improving by two places on its 2017 performance and by four places on its 2016 performance.

For the 2018 edition, 150 universities from 16 countries were evaluated. The QS University Rankings for the Arab region differ from the global ranking. They are developed with the aim to reflect specific challenges and priorities for institutions in the region. They include nine criteria: academic reputation (30%), employer reputation (20%), faculty-student ratio (20%), web impact (10%), proportion of staff with PhD (5%), citations per paper from Scopus (5%), papers per faculty from Scopus (5%), proportion of international faculty (2.5%) and proportion of international students (2.5%).

QU has also been ranked 52 in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2018, among the 350+ top universities from 25 countries in the Asia region. The announcement was made on February 6 on the THE website, naming QU 52nd among universities in the Asia region and 3rd among universities in the Arab world.

In calculating the top universities in Asia, the THE Asia University Rankings 2018 use the same 13 performance indicators as the THE World University Rankings, but they are recalibrated to reflect the priorities of Asian institutions, and to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons trusted by students, academics, university leaders, industry and governments. The performance indicators are grouped into five areas: Teaching -- the learning environment (25%), Research -- volume, income and

reputation (30%), Citations -- research influence (30%), International Outlook -- staff, students and research (7.5%), and Industry Income -- knowledge transfer (7.5%).

Additionally, QU has been ranked #37 in the “QS Top 50 Under 50” 2018 ranking among the world’s leading young universities founded less than 50 years ago. The announcement was recently made on the QS website, naming QU 37th among the top young universities in the world, and the first in the Arab world and the Middle East region.

In the 2018 edition, QU improved by 12 places as it was ranked #49 in the “QS Top 50 Under 50” 2016-2017. This improvement is the highest among all the top 50 universities, making QU the “Fastest Rising Young University”.

For the first time, the “QS Top 50 Under 50” ranking includes the “Top 50 Under 50” and the “Next 100 Under 50” -- enumerating, in total, the world’s 150 leading institutions founded after 1967. This year’s ranking includes universities from 25 different countries.

First published in 2012, the “QS Top 50 Under 50” celebrates the world’s leading young universities. It is published annually, based on the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings[®], and since 2015 has doubled its range to include the “Next 50 Under 50”. The QS World University Rankings[®] assesses universities’ performance across six indicators: academic reputation



(40%), employer reputation (10%), research citations per faculty member (20%), faculty/student ratio (20%), proportion of international students (5%), and proportion of international faculty members (5%).

For inclusion in the “Top 50 Under 50”, universities must be under 50 years old. This is assessed based on each institution’s date of establishment. Institutions formed within the last 50 years through a merger, or which previously existed under a different name and/or status, may also be included. Established in 1977, QU is 40 years old.

Commenting on this achievement, QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “As Qatar’s first higher education institution, QU has rigorously pursued educational excellence and the highest quality research. The University is committed to deliver the best possible education to its students and to inspire them to achieve their potential. Through its world-class graduate and postgraduate programs, QU has earned a huge reputation as one of the most prestigious universities in the region. The University has a growing number of master’s and PhD programs and an ambitious research capability which focuses on national development priorities.”

He added: “QU will continue in its efforts to address relevant local and regional challenges, advance knowledge, and contribute actively to the needs and aspirations of society. To achieve this, the University developed a new five-year strategy (2018-2022) which will map out the routes to achieving continuing performance excellence and build on its achievements in key areas of education, research, institution and engagement. The new strategy also focuses on the importance of providing academic and research programs that align with international standards and with the principles of the Arabic and Islamic culture and identity. We aim to prepare distinguished national leaders and to benefit from QU’s resources to develop the national human capital towards building a knowledge-based economy.”

QU Chief Strategy and Development Officer Dr Darwish Al-Emadi said: “Being selected among the top universities in the Middle East, Asia and MENA regions is an important milestone to QU at a time when the institution is becoming a leader in academic and research excellence in the region. It also underlines QU’s vision to be regionally recognized for distinctive excellence in education and research, an institution of choice for students and scholars and a catalyst for the sustainable socio-economic development of Qatar. In this context, QU plays a key role in fulfilling the State of Qatar’s aspirations towards a knowledge-based economy, and in providing the local and international labor market with distinguished graduates who will contribute to the country’s growth.”

QU Scholarships and Partnerships Office Director Mr Cesar Wazen said: “The ranking results prove that the resources devoted to research (income and PhD students) are increasing while QU is holding the quantity of research output steady, thus the quality goes up, leading to our biggest gain being in citation impact. Even in the current difficult times inflicted by the ongoing Gulf crisis, preceded by the drop in oil prices, resources were not affected. On the contrary, the general impression is that the resulting blockade served as a catalyst to the implementation of the shift to a knowledge-based economy. The R&D strategy is proving efficient by providing the country with human resources capable of adapting to change quite swiftly and QU, as the national university, serves as an incubator for all these ideas and leads the way in providing significant and useful research. For that reason, the trend of improvement in scores on ranking for our university has stood the test of time, but it is also bound to be consolidated with the country relying on its own resources to come out stronger from the current situation as H.H. the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani defiantly stated in October.”

National Sports Day celebrated

Events shed light on national identity and culture



Qatar Minister of Development Planning and Statistics H.E. Dr Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Nabit and Qatar University (QU) President Dr Hassan Al Derham, staff, faculty, students and their families joined on February 13 celebrants across Qatar in observing the annual National Sports Day, the second Tuesday of February each year as per the Emiri Decree No. 80 of 2011.

Through its Sports and Recreation Section in the Student Activities Department, QU conducted a series of sporting and fitness events on its campus and at Katara.

The activities headlined “#sports_unite_us” aimed to promote sports and healthy lifestyles throughout the community. They were organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Community College of Qatar (CCQ), Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), and Katara, the official host.

At QU Women’s Sports Hall, QU female students and staff participated in fitness and aerobics activities.

At Katara, the activities program included physical and fitness training for kids and adults, as well as sports and health awareness activities. A sideline exhibition featured health booths presented by members from QU College of Health Sciences and QU Sport Science Program in conjunction with QU Physiotherapy and Sport Injuries Section at the Student Activities Department. Visitors were

provided with information on sportive and healthy lifestyles, fitness, and nutrition, as well as free testing of vital signs and body composition. A booth for women was presented by QU female coaches with the aim to raise awareness on the importance of physical activity for women.

Also on the program were self-defense and equestrian performances and cross-fit activities presented by Lekhwiya, as well as various sports activities that suit all ages organized by CCQ and supervised by student volunteers.

Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “Qatar University is keen to strengthen its presence in the local community. To achieve this, the University has built a large number of partnerships and collaborations with government institutions. Our participation in the National Sports Day highlights our commitment to raise community awareness about the importance of sports in the daily life and health-related issues.”

CCQ President Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi said: “We are pleased to participate in the events of the National Sports Day for the third consecutive year. This participation plays an important role in driving forward the partnership between governmental institutions and organizations from civil society. This partnership contributed to uniting our efforts to reach the largest segment of the public through

the organization of various sports activities which attracted thousands of citizens and residents of all ages to commemorate this annual event. The National Sports Day is the cornerstone to build an active and healthy community at the physical, social and mental levels. The Community College of Qatar is keen to encourage its students to participate in the events of the National Sports Day and to make physical activity a part of their daily lives due to its positive impact on their academic achievements.”

QU VP for Student Affairs Dr Khalid Al-Khanji said: “The celebration of the National Sports Day is part of QU’s ongoing efforts to raise community awareness about the importance of physical activity to boost the learning process. This event brings people of all ages to interact together. It also highlights QU’s mission to shape a healthy generation physically and mentally by encouraging them to adopt a healthy lifestyle.”

QU Student Services and Activities Director Mr Abdulla Al-Yafei said: “The National Sports Day reflects the spirit of cooperation and collaboration among community members. The event is also considered as a good opportunity for students to unlock their skills and demonstrate their teamwork, volunteerism, and leadership.”

Manager of Sports and Recreation Activities at QU Student Activities Department Ms Asmaa Al-Naemi said: “We are pleased to attract each year a huge number of visitors to our booths that we present in cooperation with partners from QU community and the wider community. Our sports experts and volunteers were on hand to provide visitors with vital signs tests and fitness advices.”

Aquatic Center Section Head at QU Student Activities Department Mr Walid Dessouki said: “This event serves to strengthen links between various entities of society and to highlight the importance of collaboration and teamwork. It also provides the students with the opportunity to interact with members of the community, in line with the department’s mission to equip students with organizational and leadership skills.”



New gymnasium inaugurated

Part of QU commitment to motivate its members to exercise in their daily life



Qatar University (QU) President Dr Hassan Al Derham performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate QU new gymnasium on February 12.

The event, which comes on the sidelines of the National Sports Day, reflects QU's commitment to motivate and encourage the community members to exercise and practice sports in their daily life.

The ceremony included an address by Dr Hassan Al Derham and performances of physical and swimming activities by QU student athletes.

The new gymnasium, which is located at the Aquatic Center (A04), is equipped with world-class fitness equipment. The Aquatic Center consists of three swimming pools -- Olympic pool, diving pool, and learning pool. It also contains a gym as well as a recreation center, which includes a sauna and hot and cold Jacuzzi. The facilities are available for both QU members and the general community with annual membership.

In his remarks, Dr Hassan Al Derham said: "Qatar University is committed to providing its community with a healthy and developed environment. Today, we inaugurated a new gymnasium for male students and we will continue our efforts to develop the University's infrastructure and increase our support of sports-related activities."

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QU; the first, largest, and most prominent institution of higher education in Qatar, graduates elite alumni, who hold leadership positions in the country. With a state-of-the-art Research Complex, 14 research centers, and 9 colleges, QU achieves academic and research excellence.



INTERVIEW

Mr Hareb Al-Jabri

“We are currently building a new demo plant for the production of food, fuel and health products”



Qatar University (QU) revealed the biofuel project on the eve of the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP-18, which took place in Doha in 2012. The project, only one of its kind in the region, aims to find a way of producing affordable, sustainable biofuels which do not rely on the use of valuable arable land and which can be produced efficiently in the punishing climate of Qatar. These fuels should provide an additive source of energy, specifically for use by the airline industry. If successfully produced on a commercial scale, the discovery will have international ramifications -- significantly reducing one of the airline industry's biggest fixed costs and providing a sustainable, environmentally-friendly fuel where carbon dioxide is recycled rather than accumulating in the atmosphere. During an interview, Mr Hareb Al-Jabri, Director of Sustainable Development Center (SDC) at Qatar University College of Arts and Sciences (QU-CAS) and Qatar Biofuel Project Manager, talked about the project's updates and importance.

What is new in the biofuel project?

During the first phase of the project, the research team produced three types of biofuel -- biodiesel, bioethanol and bio-crude oil. At the beginning of the second phase of the project, the team studied the economic feasibility of each type in order to specify which one of them aligns with the project's aim. The team started with conducting the techno economic analysis for the production of each type of biofuel in line with the resources available and the exist infrastructure of oil and gas sector. At the end of the analytical study, we converted the overall biomass into bio-crude oil and then separated its components using the available refinery systems. We are currently developing the techniques of the production process while considering the volume and the quality of the product.

Tell us about the importance of Qatar Biofuel Project

This project adds value to the oil and gas sector in Qatar. It aims to support the vision of Qatar Airways, which is to use environmentally-friendly fuel in the airline industry in order to reduce the negative environmental effects of the conventional fuel. The project will also contribute to carbon dioxide sequestration by recycling it to produce biofuels. Additionally, the project aims to invest in Qatar's natural resources to create products that will contribute to economic diversification, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the national aspirations towards a knowledge-based economy.

What is the role of CAS students in such research projects?

The SDC welcomes students from various colleges across QU to assist and support them in the implementation of their graduation projects at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The students have the opportunity to contribute to the center's research projects. Such opportunities help them enhance their knowledge and gain an in-depth experience in the field of research.



What is your opinion with regard to the national efforts towards the diversification of energy resources?

The State of Qatar has made huge efforts in the diversification of renewable energy resources. These efforts are highlighted in the Qatar National Strategy which started in 2011. The strategy focuses on the importance of supporting research projects related to the development of technologies for renewable energy, as well as to drive collaboration efforts with various local and regional institutions to produce renewable energy.

Tell us about the center's new research projects

We are currently focusing on various applicable research projects to provide solutions for the challenges that are facing the State of Qatar in different areas such as environment, food and water security, health, energy and more. In this regard, the transfer of the results from research and development level into implementation level is a crucial part of the center's strategy. Hence, we are currently building a new demo plant at the north of Qatar for the production of food, fuel and health products.

ACCREDITATION ACHIEVEMENTS

CED, CENG and CHS awarded academic accreditation Recognized for their high-quality programs



Qatar University (QU) announced on September 17 the academic accreditation of its colleges of Education (CED), Engineering (CENG), and Health Sciences (CHS).

By achieving this new academic accreditation, the total number of accredited programs at QU increased to 37.

CED was awarded a 5-year accreditation by the Specialized Professional Association (SPA)/Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) for its Bachelor of Education in Secondary Education/English. The college also achieved a 5-year accreditation by the SPA/Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) for its Masters of Education in Special Education (MSPED), and a 5-year accreditation by the SPA/Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) for its Diploma in Secondary Education/English.

CENG was awarded renewal of its accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for seven of its undergraduate programs -- Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and

Computer Science. ABET accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

CHS Department of Human Nutrition was awarded a seven-year accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). The ACEND accreditation has been awarded to three universities outside the United States – QU (Qatar), Kyung Hee University (South Korea) and Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), making QU the first university in the Middle East to achieve this accreditation.

Commenting on this achievement, QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “The new academic accreditation adds value to QU colleges’ numerous achievements. It reflects QU’s commitment to advance the quality of its programs and the level of its graduates, and the University’s ongoing efforts to strengthen links with the industry. Accreditation is a very important process to improve the learning outcomes and to ensure that they align with the needs of the labor market. I applaud the efforts of the deans, faculty, and staff in contributing to this achievement.”

CED Dean Dr Ahmed Al Emadi said: “By achieving academic accreditation, CED reinforces its position as the first national college of education to prepare professional educators who are able to serve the community and meet the needs of the labor market, in line with international standards. This achievement attests to the quality of the educational programs offered at CED and demonstrates the college’s commitment to ensure quality assurance and to provide an optimal learning environment that contributes to shaping the future leaders in the field of education, research and community service.”

CENG Dean Dr Khalifa Al-Khalifa said: “CENG has started a systematic process to apply quality assurance to all its programs. The college continued its efforts of re-evaluation of its programs and its academic and research goals, in line with the requirements of its accredited status. ABET highlighted in its assessment report the strong links that CENG has built with the labor market, promoting student engagement in local, regional and international activities that develop their skills and capacities.”

CHS Dean and QU Biomedical Research Center Director Prof Asma Al-Thani said: “The achievement of the ACEND accreditation is a testament that CHS Department of Human Nutrition meets the educational standards of ACEND and that it provides its students with the required knowledge, skills, and competencies to join the dietetics profession. CHS continues in its efforts to offer quality education and to graduate highly qualified national professionals who will contribute to advancing the health care sector.”

CHS Human Nutrition Department Head Dr Tahra El-Obeid said: “The achievement of the ACEND accreditation attests to the quality of the programs offered by the Department of Human Nutrition and demonstrates their alignment with international standards. This also shows that the College of Health Sciences at Qatar University contributes to shaping nutrition professionals to join the labor market. This achievement also required the intensive development of the department’s study plan and its alignment with the ACEND competencies to graduate highly skilled nutritionists. The developed program includes a one-year practical training to give the graduates hands-on experience and to enable them to join the profession.”



PARTNERSHIPS

Driving sustainable partnerships with local and international institutions



Qatar University (QU) is advancing its goal to become a leader of economic and social development in Qatar through signed agreements and strategic partnerships with industry, government, academia, business and civil society in Qatar and beyond. The University has signed more than 400 collaborative projects in over 130 countries. These collaborations contribute to promoting quality education and research in Qatar and the region. They provide a myriad of opportunities for students to advance in their academic and research experience in their relevant disciplines in line with QU's strategies towards improving student outcomes and maximizing their potential.

These agreements also serve to engage students in academic, cultural, research and other activities and bring them together with experts, specialists, leaders, and change makers, as well as with their peers from other QU colleges and institutions around the world.

QU signed many MoUs with various institutions, as follows:

- Joaan Bin Jassim Joint Command and Staff College, to establish collaboration in the field of research and strategic studies
- Qatar Leadership Centre, to develop human resources capacity and national competencies
- Sidra Medical and Research Center, to collaborate in the field of education, clinical training and research
- Qatar Rail, to cooperate in the field of research, consultancy and exchange of information
- Hasselt University Transportation Research Institute, to establish collaboration in the field of education and research
- Public Works Authority (Ashghal), to collaborate on research, consultancy and knowledge transfer
- Dlala Brokerage and Investment Holding Company, to establish collaboration in the field of education, research and training
- Al-Ahli Hospital, to establish collaboration in the field of education, research and clinical training
- Qatar Aluminum (Qatalum) and Norsk Hydro, to sponsor a 3-year Research Chair at QU Center for Advanced Materials
- Qatar Football Association, Aspire Zone, and Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, to establish and implement an academic program for talented athletes
- INJAZ Qatar, to provide QU students with professional training opportunities

RESEARCH

ESC team studies the possibility of using marine currents for energy generation

One-year research project at the northwest marine area and Fasht ad Dibal



A research team from Qatar University Environmental Science Center (QU-ESC) recently conducted an exploration trip on-board the research vessel Janan to study the northwest marine area and Fasht ad Dibal.

The team comprised 22 local and international researchers and experts in the field of biological, earth and environmental sciences. They will conduct a one-year research project to explore the geological setting and the physical and chemical conditions of the marine environment as well as the biological diversity of the ecosystem in the northwest marine area of the country. They will also study the possibility of using the prevalent marine currents for energy generation as well as the potentiality of finding freshwater resources in the coastal marine areas using the technology of remote sensing and geographic information system.

ESC Director Dr Hamad Al-Kuwari noted that the exploration trip will contribute to creating a database that will be used by

institutions from the public and private sectors for fisheries and aquaculture development and tourism investment. He said: "ESC will continue to deliver on its vision to be a leader in fundamental and applied environmental research in the Gulf region. The center is keen to attract national competencies and to provide them with the opportunity to conduct research that meets local environmental needs."

He added: "Qatar has a rich marine cultural heritage and diverse marine and terrestrial environments. Through using its scholars' expertise and advanced technological assets, ESC is committed to document, understand and protect these precious natural resources for the benefit of the Qatari society. The center also offers the community cutting-edge research outcomes in the field of marine, atmospheric and earth sciences to optimize the use of local natural resources."

QU-CPH First Qatari MSc graduate unveils milestone research on vancomycin dosing optimization



Qatar University College of Pharmacy (QU-CPH) graduated the first Qatari national holder of MSc degree in Pharmacy on December 10. Student Fatima Khalifa M A Al-Sulaiti presented her thesis titled “Clinical and Pharmacokinetic Evaluation of Optimal Monitoring Parameters and Sampling Schemes for Vancomycin Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Qatar”.

The project involved multiple phases and robust research methods across three hospitals in Qatar (Hamad General, Al-Wakrah and Al-Khor Hospitals) in an effort to determine the best approaches for vancomycin dosing optimization in Qatar’s heterogeneous population. The study explored the quality of routine vancomycin monitoring services in Qatar and compared the superiority of different vancomycin therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) approaches.

The project was supervised by CPH Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Practice Dr Ahmed Awaisu and co-supervised by CPH Associate Professor of Pharmacoeconomics Dr Daoud Al-Badriyeh, CPH Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Dr Hazem Elewa and Abb Vie Inc. Principal Scientist of Pharmacometrics Dr Ahmed Nader. Fatima Khalifa M A Al-Sulaiti noted that gram-positive bacterial infections such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections are associated with high mortality rate, prolonged length of hospitalization, and increased health care cost. She highlighted that these infections require appropriate and optimal management with safe and effective antibiotics. Vancomycin is an antibiotic

that is widely used globally to treat such serious gram-positive bacterial infections, she said, adding, “the drug is dosed based on the principles of TDM. Hence, it is necessary to design and provide patient-specific individualized dosing regimen to maximize efficacy and decrease toxicity.”

The study, first of its kind in Qatar, developed a vancomycin population-specific dosing model, which will allow population-specific calculations of vancomycin pharmacokinetic parameters in individual patients in Qatar’s clinical settings, an important tool in vancomycin dosing and therapy. It also identified the exact vancomycin monitoring practice deficiencies in the local setting, which will guide health policymakers to establish setting-specific protocols to improve TDM practices in Qatar.

CPH Dean Dr Mohammad Diab said: “The College of Pharmacy is proud to graduate the first female Qatari student with a Master’s degree. This is indeed historic for the college in its efforts towards human capital development among Qatari nationals. Ms Fatima’s research project on optimization of vancomycin therapeutic drug monitoring is instrumental in improving health outcomes among patients with serious infectious diseases. We at CPH are honored to work in alignment with Qatar National Health Strategy as this project will make a significant impact to pharmacy practice and health care outcomes in the State of Qatar. CPH is committed to its vision to be regionally and internationally recognized for distinctive excellence in education and research.”

QU Health Students Discover Novel Approach to Treat Leukemic Cancer



Two undergraduate students from Qatar University College of Health Sciences (QU-CPH) Department of Biomedical Sciences, in collaboration with external researchers from Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), innovated a unique approach to understand the underlying mechanism of a special type of leukemic cancer, by using an array of technology that looked into RNAs (Ribonucleic acid) in an abstract titled “Expression Profiling of Micro RNAs (MiRNAs) and Long Non-Coding RNAs (lncRNAs) in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) Patients in the State of Qatar”. The abstract was accepted in the conference of 59th American Society of Hematology annual meeting and published in a high impact (caliber) in the journal of BLOOD.

Students Salsabel Sami Elshami and Nada Mehdhar Nasser along with their peers from HMC studied the role of micro RNA and long von coding RNA in Chronic Myelocytic Leukemia (CML) for the first time. The study, first of its kind in Qatar, was supervised by Dr Pejman Hanifi-Moghaddam, Associate Professor in CHS Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Dr Nader Al-Dewik, Medical Technical Consultant. The study was funded by an internal student grant from QU and an Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP) grant from Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF).

The team discovered that a specific type of lncRNAs are associated with disease phase and response to treatment, compared to healthy individuals using cutting-edge technology

of Next Generation Sequencing. As all cells have a copy of genetic material (DNA) that is read and converted to proteins, which makes up bulk of our body, the conversion to protein is done via a secondary genetic material called messenger RNA. However, there is other RNA that is copied from DNA which is not used to make any protein. These are called non coding RNAs (ncRNAs). Up until now ncRNAs were considered as “junk” RNAs. Furthermore, these ncRNAs were shown to play an important role in other type of cancer study.

A graduate student in the Biomedical Sciences Department, Mrs Kholoud Aljassim, is further studying these promising results.

Commenting on the study, Salsabel Sami Elshami said: “It was a great opportunity to have my graduation project in such a creative environment. We learned many valuable things from our strong team work.”

CHS Head of Research and Graduate Studies Dr Maha Al-Asmakh said: “The College of Health Sciences will continue to deliver on its vision to have such outstanding students who wish to explore new horizons and seek solutions through research in order to contribute to the growth of the health care sector in Qatar and the fulfillment of Qatar National Vision 2030.”



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- Over 20,000 students at the undergraduate and graduate level
- First in the Arab region in the QS Top 50 Under 50 2018 ranking
- 7th in the MENA and Asia regions in the QS Arab Region University Rankings 2018
- More than US\$42m won in competitive research grants 2016 - 2017
- Qatar Biofuel Project, the only one of its kind in the region
- Pioneer of cloud cooling system for 2022 FIFA World Cup stadiums
- Groundbreaking research identifying sustainable solutions -- CO2 sequestration, lifelike prosthetic hands, social robots for autism therapy, and more
- Over 400 collaborative projects with leading institutions across the world



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PUBLICATIONS

“The Faces of the Castle (Narrative Excavations)”

by Dr Loay Ali Khalil
Maysaloon for Printing,
Publishing and Distribution; 2017

The text of **The Faces of the Castle** provides different points of view and opinions for the same thing. The author used a secondary title “Narrative Excavations” to highlight the vast significances and connotations of a word.



“The Culture of Violence”

by Dr Yousuf Al Siddiqui
Research and Islamic Studies
Unit, 2017

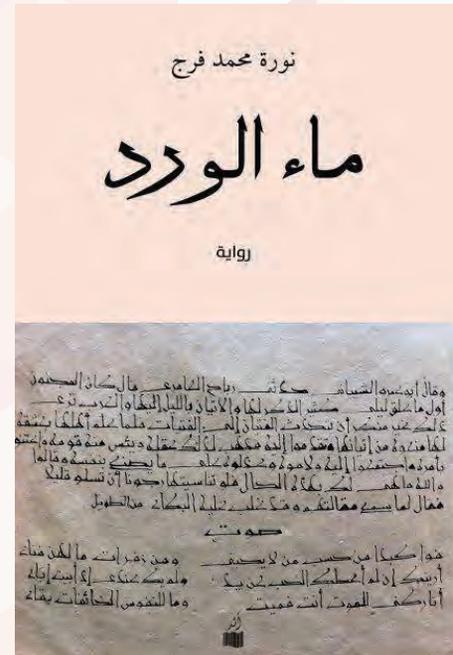
This book aims to explain the growing influence of the cultural and religious criterion in the creation of international relation patterns, and how this is clearly reflected on most areas of life, especially with the emergence of the intellectual western strategy, which manages international relations. It also highlights the cultural dimension of the majority of the members of the current US administration and the phenomenon of violence among Muslim extremists.



“Rose Water”

by Dr Noora Al-Khanji
Dar Athar for Publishing and
Distribution, 2017

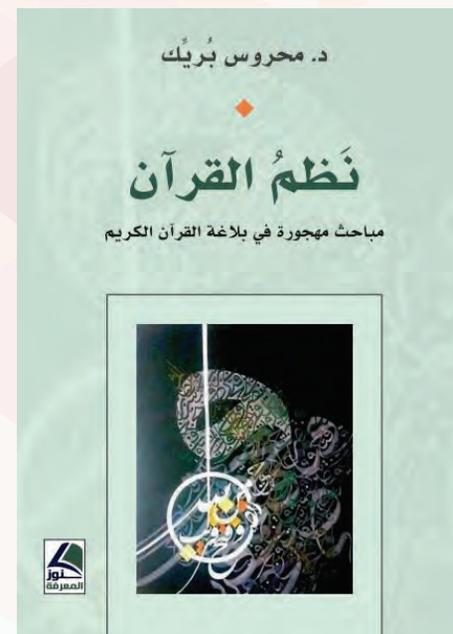
The **Rose Water** is a historical, police and romantic novel. The story happens at the beginning of the fourth Hijri century two years after the theft incident of the black stone by the Sarmatians. The citizens of a city named “Laza” found during the morning of the first day of Ramadan a pharmacist dead in his home. Since then, they started searching for the killer and the motive behind the crime. However, the research revealed the secrets of the castle and the scandals of the city.



“Nazm Ul Qur’an”

by Dr Mahrous Breik
Kunouz Al-Ma’refa Publishers,
2018

This book deals with some of the common synthetic and rhythmic phenomena in the Holy Qur’an, which despite their prevalence had not received the attention they deserve. Hence, the semantic interpretation is the concern of the author as he used throughout the book pages the criteria of the rhetorical and interpretational sciences, as well as functional grammar.



COLLEGE NEWS



كلية الآداب والعلوم
College of Arts and Sciences
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“Wild, Medical Plants, Islamic Knowledge and Botanical Preservation in Qatar and the Gulf: An Interdisciplinary Approach”



Organized by the Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) in collaboration with the Qur’anic Botanic Garden (QBG) at Qatar Foundation (QF), the conference aimed to provide an opportunity to plan an interdisciplinary approach to study medicinal herbs, including those mentioned in the Holy Qur’an and other sacred Islamic texts. It also aimed to raise awareness on the importance of traditional herbs in the modern medical context.

The program agenda featured five sessions and many presentations delivered by Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS) Prof Ali Al-Qaradaghi, Professor at QU College of Medicine Dr Serhiy Souchelnyskyi, Professor of Organic Chemistry at CAS Chemistry and Earth Sciences Department Prof Hala Al-Easa, QU Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) Research Assistant Professor Dr J Jed Brown, and Professor of Organic Chemistry and Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies, Research and External Relations at the University of Nizwa, Oman Prof Ahmed Al-Harasi. They presented on “The study of Medical Plants in Islam”, “Medicinal Plants in the Treatment of Cancer”, “Qatar’s Natural Pharmacy”, “Comparative study of the chemical composition of the halophyte species native to the Arabian Gulf”, and “Medical uses of Frankincense, Luban”.

A sideline exhibition featured information booths on medicinal plants and their seeds and leaves, as well as the medicinal plant products.

CAS Dean Dr Rashid Al Kuwari said: “This conference brings together experts from various fields to highlight the importance of medical and pharmaceutical research in studying the enormous possibility of using wild plants in Qatar and the region to produce medicines to treat diseases, including cancer. We look forward to the fruitful results that will emanate from the discussions and bring hope to millions of patients for a safe and affordable “Made in Qatar” medicine.”

CHSS Director Dr Kaltham Al-Ghanim said: “The conference aims to develop an interdisciplinary framework for the study of herbal medicine in Qatar and the Gulf region. The results will contribute to designing future interdisciplinary projects that involve faculty from QU colleges of Arts and Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Sharia and Islamic Studies. This event will also encourage humanities and social sciences young researchers to develop the study and analysis of herbal medicine and determine its sustainable value in the current medical practices.”

QBG Director Ms Fatima Al-Khulaifi said: “This conference is the first collaboration between the Qur’anic Botanic Garden and Qatar University Center for Humanities and Social Sciences. It aligns with the vision of Qatar to lead the human, social, economic and environmental development through education and research.”



“Fiscal Policy and Economic Development - Fiscal Sustainability and Diversifying of Government Revenues”



Organized by the Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) in collaboration with Qatar Financial Center (QFC) Authority, the conference drew the participation of a large number of international economists and tax experts and professionals.

It aimed to discuss the importance of diversifying government revenues, the appropriate design of VAT law and the current situation of tax compliance in Qatar. It also aimed to identify the importance of restructuring the tax system in Qatar, to assess the current situation of tax administration and the challenges to manage VAT, and to raise community awareness about the new government policies, as well as to encourage research in the area of fiscal policy.

Keynote speakers were Mr Mario Mansour (International Monetary Fund), Prof Rick Krever (University of Western Australia), Mr Michael Evans (University of Melbourne), Prof Jeyapalan Kasipillai (Monash University), and Prof Binh Tran-nam (University of New South Wales). They discussed issues related to the way to diversify government revenues and the need of tax reform, drafting challenges of VAT law, how does tax administration successfully manage VAT, and how to improve tax compliance.

The event's program featured four panel discussions titled “Tax policy and tax reform in developing countries and Qatar”, “Determinants for drafting value added tax (VAT) law in Qatar”, “Tax administration in GCC countries and the challenges to manage VAT”, and “How to develop a tax compliance culture in Qatar”. It also included a roundtable discussion on VAT and banking transactions.

In his remarks, QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “QU is committed to fulfill the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. This is reflected through its new strategy (2018-2022) which includes numerous pillars such as driving education and research excellence and improving quality and social engagement while addressing socio-economic needs, generating general policies that address the main challenges faced by the government and society, playing a crucial role in the development of national human capital towards an innovation-based economy, and improving work efficiency while achieving financial independence. To achieve these objectives, a number of cross-strategies have been implemented covering many areas such as education, research, social engagement, entrepreneurship and institutional efficiency.”

He added: “This event highlights QU's role to enhance social engagement in solving socio-economic issues that impact the government and society. In this context, the College of Business and Economics offers many applicable research outcomes and local and international events that provide relevant recommendations for decision makers.”

QFC Authority CEO Mr Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida said: “I would like to thank Qatar University for hosting this important conference, which focuses on the economic development of Qatar and strategies that are needed to ensure we continue to prosper. Now more than ever, it is important that we push forward on our ambitions to diversify our economy, continue to expand our economic and trade relations and look for new ways to source revenue for our economy. Reforms such as VAT will help generate revenue and move us away from being an oil dependent economy.”

He added: “QFC continues to attract FDI and providing a competitive platform for businesses to expand to Qatar. We will continue to support the development and diversification of Qatar's economy, broadening our platform to cater to the needs of the country, and reaffirm our economic attractiveness as a nation.”



“My Paintbrush & the Blockade”



Organized by the Media Chapter in collaboration with CED, the art exhibition aimed to showcase the paintings created by QU students who attended the “Visual Arts Integration” course. The opening of the exhibition was preceded by Qatari Artist, Abdulaziz Sadeq.

CED Assistant Professor of Educational Sciences Dr Latifa Al-Meghaissib said: “During the Visual Arts Integration class, I was surprised by the power of expression the student had when I asked them to draw paintings about the blockade. This made me think about presenting their work in this exhibition, which allowed them to share their love and empathy towards Qatar. Among them were those who highlighted the positive aspects of the blockade, such as the power of the State of Qatar and its achievements during the blockade, while others tackled the negative aspects, such as human rights violations.”

Media Chapter Vice President Ms Amna Abdulkarim said: “In the light of the blockade, our need for creativity as an outlet increases as the challenges of this reality increase. This is why we, at the Media Chapter, decided to support the students of the College of Education in their artistic views on the blockade and embrace what their brush strokes expressed.”

The “Visual Arts Integration” course is offered to undergraduate students of the College of Education to prepare them to be able to integrate visual arts in their teaching methods.

“Cyber Security Week”



Organized by KINDI Center for Computing Research, the Cyber Security Week aimed to gather experts and researchers to exchange their expertise and ideas and provide solutions to the current challenges in the area of cyber security.

The opening session, which is themed “Cybersecurity and the Blockade: Opportunities and Threats”, was attended by QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham, QU VP for Research and Graduate Studies Prof Mariam Al Maadeed, CENG Dean Dr Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Qatar Armed Forces Commander of Signal and Information Brigadier Abdul Aziz Falah Al-Dosari, Ministry of Transport and Communications Assistant Undersecretary Eng Khalid Sadiq al-Hashmi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Technology Director Dr Saif Mohammed Al-Kuwari, Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) Information and Communication Technology Programme Director Dr Munir Tag, Thales Critical Information Systems and Cyber Security Specialist Mr Baptiste Cazagou, and Tubitak representative Dr Devrim UNAL, as well as CENG faculty, staff and students.

The week covers various activities including a training session titled “Introduction to Secure Software Development” and training cybersecurity series on “Introduction to Web-Hacking”, “Web-Hacking Contest” and “Anti-Blockade Hackathon”.

In his remarks, Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “Through this week, QU is supporting the vision of the National Cyber Security Strategy, which represents a roadmap to raise awareness of the importance of cybersecurity, and contributes to the preservation of the fundamental rights and values of Qatari society.”

He added: “This event urges the need to develop efficient mechanisms to combat cybercrime, increase awareness of its risks and enhance security in public and private organizations and institutions. It also contributes to keeping abreast of contemporary technology that makes electronic systems more secure and cohesive, and address cybercrime challenges such as cross-border crime and cyber-attacks.”

KINDI for Computing Research Director Dr Noora Fetais said: “Until recently, cybercrime was limited to individuals or small groups, but as Internet networks expanded, these crimes became more complex and widespread, causing significant damage to companies and institutions. Although there is an evolution in the systems of some institutions, they are not immune to cyber-attacks because of the development of mechanisms and methods of electronic hackers, and hence all institutions need to develop a plan for the development of their infrastructure to enhance cybersecurity.”



“Environmental Challenges and Impact on Global Health”



The Fourth International Congress on Pathogens at the Human-Animal Interface (ICOPHAI) 2017 was organized and sponsored by Qatar University (QU), Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), The Ohio State University (OSU), Université de Montréal, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, The John E. Fogarty International Center (FIC), Phytobiotics, Solar Cool Technologies Inc., Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), and University of Gondar.

The event brought together a large number of health, agriculture and environment scientists and policy makers from many countries such as Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Qatar, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and the USA. They discussed the “One Health” concept and exchanged information on infectious and non-communicable disease risk factors, complex issues such as antimicrobial resistance, current technological advances in diagnosis, and vaccine development, as well as the limitations and gaps in knowledge on pathogens at the animal-human interface.

The opening ceremony was attended by QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham, QU College of Health Sciences (CHS) Dean and Biomedical Research Center (BRC) Director and ICOPHAI 2017 Co-chair Prof Asma Al-Thani, MoPH Health

Protection and Communicable Diseases Manager Dr Hamad Al Romaihi, OSU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Dean Prof Rustin Moore, and ICOPHAI 2017 Chair Prof Wondwossen Gebreyes, as well as a large number of officials from QU.

The Day One featured a keynote address by MoPH Advisor Dr Roberto Bertollini, in which he discussed the “Environmental changes and their impact on global health”, a special session on “Zika Virus, Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases” led by Texas Biomedical Research Institute President and CEO Dr Larry Schlesinger, and two plenary sessions on “Parasitic and Environmental Zoonoses” and “One health and impact on climate change”, as well as a panel discussion on “Environmental Challenges and Impact on Global Health”.

It also included many presentations on a wide range of topics such as “Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever among the One-Humped Camel (*Camelus dromedaries*) in Central Sudan”, “Dengue and Chikungunya in the Middle East and North Africa: A Systematic Review”, “Challenges to Control Ebola in West Africa: A Review”, “Corona viruses detected in bats of Rwanda: diversity at human-wild life interfaces and a call for one health approach”, and “Molecular characterization of *Echinococcus granulosus* s.l. cysts from cattle, camels, goats and pigs in Ethiopia”, among many others.

The Day Two comprised three plenary sessions titled “Innovative Capacity Building, e-Learning and Outreach approaches”, “Antimicrobial Resistance and Drug Related Issues” and “Biosecurity, Biodefense, and Disaster Response”. It also included many presentations on “Bovine Tuberculosis infection in pastoral cattle and wildlife at livestock-wildlife interface of the Greater Ruaha ecosystem, Tanzania”, “Gastro-intestinal parasites infections in mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) of Rwanda Volcanoes National Park: One Health Implications”, “In vitro antimycobacterial activity and cytotoxicity of selected medicinal plants against pathogenic and non-pathogenic mycobacterial strains”, “Diversity and antibiotic resistance profiles of *Escherichia coli* strains from migratory bird (*Branta leucopsis*) and Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) reveals dissemination of multi drug resistant (MDR) *E. coli* to pristine arctic environment”, and many more.

The Day Three featured two plenary sessions titled “Pathogenesis, Vaccine Development and metagenomic Technologies” and “Food-borne and Water-borne Diseases”. Discussions focused on a wide range of topics such as “Point-of-Care Lionex and Lipoarabinomannan (LAM) antigen tests and rapid Tuberculosis detection in cattle using non-invasive samples”, “Characterization of diverse novel porcine astroviruses in East African smallholder piglets”, “Tumor Necrosis factor -308 gene polymorphism and risk of *Plasmodium Falcifarum* malaria infection among people living in Denbia wereda, Northwest Ethiopia”, “Detection and Phylogenetic Genotyping of Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) Among Blood Donors in Qatar”, and more.

Also on the event’s program were poster discussions on “Food-borne and Water-borne Diseases”, “Zika Virus, Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases”, “Parasitic and Environmental Zoonoses/One health and impact on climate change”, “Innovative Capacity Building”, “Antimicrobial resistance and Drug Related Issues”, and “Biosecurity and Biodefense and Pathogenesis, Vaccine Development and metagenomic Technologies”.

In his remarks, Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “In a world with a growing population of 1.1% annually, there is a tremendous increase in environmental stress, and accordingly, it is mandatory for nations and communities to come together to address sustainability issues. In part, international scientific collaboration has become a must to find solutions for many challenges facing the humanity such as providing energy, food, and clean water for people around the globe. With this notion comes our responsibility as academics, researchers, and policy makers to meet, discuss, and promote sustained international cooperation for effectively dealing with world’s growing crises.”

He added: “In Qatar, we invest about 3.5% of nation’s GDP to support research and build a knowledge-based economy that not only benefit our nation, but also all mankind worldwide. Despite the unfortunate situations that we are facing in this region including the blockade on Qatar, which in the first place weaken the interaction between scientists, we are all here to work together and reinforce our commitment to provide a peaceful and healthy environment for many generations to come. We welcome you to this meeting and we look forward to fruitful and informative discussions over the next few days.”

Prof Asma Al-Thani gave a short brief on QU, CHS and BRC. She said: “Qatar is the first nation in the region to host such a big event on “one health”. The “One Health” concept is increasingly embraced by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), as well as regional academic and policy-making bodies. This holistic view of health and capacity allows the improvement of public health and the implementation of sustainable programs for control and prevention of zoonotic diseases and environmental hazards of public health significance. We will continue to work with our national partners for the great advancement of this nation and to fulfill the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.”

Dr Hamad Al Romaihi congratulated QU for hosting the Fourth International Congress on Pathogens at the Human-Animal Interface (ICOPHAI) 2017. He said: “Climate change, water security and nuclear weapons are key threads that require multidisciplinary solutions. The highly pathogenic flu is the most overwhelming thread in the world. This event is important because it urges each individual to take part in the preparedness and response to such kind of threads through research and the translation of knowledge into control measures. It is our responsibility to seek areas of collaboration and to support each other. We look forward to the informative, engaging and inspiring discussions that will emanate from this conference.”

Prof Rustin Moore said: “The Ohio State University recognizes the interconnectedness between animal health, human health and the environment, as well as the importance of collaborative work across many years and around the globe towards a one health approach.”

Prof Wondwossen Gebreyes pointed to the world’s growing population and the global factors that are affecting health such as urbanization, industrialization and climate change. He noted that the goal of ICOPHAI 2017 is to bring together scientists from developing and industrialized countries and to stimulate interactions using the “One Health” concept.



“Annual White Coat Ceremony”



73 second-year Medical students took the College of Medicine Student Oath and donned the symbolic white coat in front of an audience of more than 260 invited guests and well-wishers.

Organized for the second consecutive year, the White Coat Ceremony aimed to celebrate the second-year Medical students who successfully completed their transition year and entered the Medicine program. It is designed to acknowledge the students' commitment to the profession and reassert values of compassion, professionalism, and dedication to patient care, as they enter the medical profession.

Attendees included QU President Dr Hassan Al Derham, QU Vice President for Medical and Health Sciences and CMED Dean Dr Egon Toft, Medical Director and Director of Qatar Center for Organ Transplantation (QCOT) at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) Hamad General Hospital Dr Yousef Al Maslamani, as well as QU officials and CMED students and their families, faculty, and staff.

In his remarks, Dr Hassan Al Derham said: “We, at Qatar University, are committed to equipping our students with the necessary skills in order to become highly effective physicians in line with the best international standards. This medical oath is a commitment that you, as students, take upon yourselves from now and forever. I wish our students all the best in their medical studies.”

He added: “Qatar University is also committed to equip its College of Medicine with the best facilities. We are

discussing with the Ministry of Public Health and Hamad Medical Corporation the possibility to build a new hospital that will provide student clinical training in the near future.”

Dr Egon Toft said: “Today marks an important transition for the new students into the medical profession and underlines the level of their commitment to making great strides in their future career goals. I encourage you to become lifelong learners in your role as providers of optimum health care to your community. This symbolic event is just the beginning of a long journey that will open you to a wide range of opportunities that will ready you to contribute to advancing the health and welfare of the Qatari society.”

He added: “As a college, we are committed to provide Qatar with qualified doctors who are embedded in the local community, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy. The college will continue to deliver on its mission to graduate physicians and future leaders who are competent, caring and motivated with a strong sense of responsibility towards the health of the community.”

Dr Yousef Al Maslamani gave a lecture, in which he welcomed the new students who will start their training at HMC hospitals. He pointed to the role of trained physicians in helping the new students to join the workplace and achieve success.

CPH faculty and students achieve national and international victories



Three faculty members and seven students from CPH achieved a number of wins for their research projects presented at national and international events.

CPH Assistant Professor Dr Hazem Elewa and MSc Student Loolia Badr won the Best Poster Award at the “Annual Research Day” recently organized by Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) Medical Research Center, for his project titled “The effect of genetic and non-genetic factors on warfarin dose variability in Qatar Population”.

Postgraduate pharmacy students Farah Zahrah, Sara Abdulrahim and Nour Isleem won the Best Student Poster Award at the 4th Qatar International Pharmacy Conference. Titled “Physical comorbidities and their management in patients with severe mental illness”, the poster was supervised by CPH Assistant Professor of Pharmacy and Coordinator of the Structured Practical Experiences in Pharmacy (SPEP) program Dr Monica Zolezzi.

Additionally, QU CPH fourth-year pharmacy student Ola Hussein, Licia Shamoun and Dima Kawas won the 2nd Best Poster Award at the 6th International Pharmaceutical Conference ZTIPC 2017 organized by Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan Faculty of Pharmacy and University

of Toledo College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences under the theme “New Horizons in Pharmaceutical Research”. The research titled “Discovery of Novel Plant Derived Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors as Potential Neuroprotective Agents” was conducted under the supervision of CPH Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry Dr Ashraf Khalil.

Congratulating the students, CPH Dean Dr Mohammad Diab said: “The participation of our faculty and students in these conferences give them the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and knowledge in line with CPH’s vision to advance health care in Qatar and beyond. These achievements reflect the quality and excellence of our faculty and student work at the national and international levels. We congratulate them on their achievements and wish them all success.”

CPH Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Dr Alla El Awaisi said: “The College of Pharmacy plays a key role in supporting faculty and student research and participation in conferences which inspire them to excel. We are always confident of our students’ and faculty’s abilities and we are proud to see them compete and win at the national and international levels. I congratulate the winning students and faculty and thank them for being excellent ambassadors of the College of Pharmacy.”



New graduate programs launched



CSIS launched a new PhD program in Fiqh and Usul al Fiqh and a new Master's program in Religions and Dialogue Among Civilizations.

The PhD program in Fiqh and Usul al Fiqh is the first of its kind in Qatar. It includes 60 credit hours equally distributed between course and thesis. The duration of the program varies from three to six years for full-time students. The program comprises 10 courses -- 6 required and 4 elective -- for 30 hours. Admission requirements include a master's degree in Fiqh and Usul al Fiqh or equivalent from a university or college accredited by an international accrediting association or by the Ministry of Higher Education or comparable authority in that country; a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0; knowledge of Arabic Language; and passing the personal interview.

The Master's program in Religions and Dialogue Among Civilizations is the first ever in the region. It includes 10 courses -- 6 required and 4 elective and a supplementary search of 6 academic hours. All applicants to the Master of Religions and Dialogue Among Civilizations program should complete a Bachelor degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.80 out of 4.00 or equivalent from a university or college accredited by an international accrediting association or by the Ministry of Higher Education or equivalent in that country. They should also have knowledge of Arabic language and pass the personal interview.

“Qatar’s International Positioning on Peace and Justice”



Organized in collaboration with The Hague Institute for Global Justice, and Innovation Centre for Education Doha LLC(G) (iCE Doha), the event was attended by LAWC Dean Dr Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, faculty and students.

Guest of honor Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to Qatar H.E. Dr Bahia Tahzib-Lie gave a speech in which she highlighted that The Hague is called as the International City of Peace and Justice and the legal Capital of the World. She said: “I am proud that many important international legal institutions, in particular the International Court of Justice, have their seat in The Hague. Over 14,000 professionals in The Hague work at these institutions, working everyday towards peace and justice in the world. For the Dutch, a just world is a prerequisite for a safe world. Developing and safeguarding the international legal order is so important to us that we have even enshrined it in our Constitution. The Kingdom of The Netherlands will be a member of the UN Security Council in 2018. Our focus will very much be on our core foreign policy goals, including conflict prevention and sustaining peace, the protection of civilians, and the rule of law and accountability. The Netherlands is keen on working with its international partners and welcomes Qatar’s partnership.”

The program agenda featured presentations delivered by iCE Doha President and Honorary Ambassador-at-Large

for The Hague Institute for Global Justice Dr Winand D.E. Staring and The Hague Institute for Global Justice CEO ad interim Mr Steven van Hoogstraten and Non-Resident Distinguished Fellow Dr Stephen Rapp. Discussions focused on the legal dimensions of the Qatar’s blockade from different legal perspectives such as international law, maritime navigation law, diplomacy and international dispute resolution, international human rights law, the general theory of international organizations, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The participants also had the opportunity to discuss the topic of “cyber-attacks” as an act of aggression by judicial re-interpretation and analogy to previously defined acts of aggression, as well as the subject of threats to attack civilian aviation based in Qatar, in the context of crimes against humanity.

Dr Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi said: “The aim of these seminars is to raise awareness among individuals and students of the importance of principles and ideals to consolidate the meaning of justice. In the current period, we must shed light on these laws and strengthen our relations with international, civil and justice institutions besides the human rights organizations in facing the challenges of the blockade.”

TALENTED STUDENT

“I Paint Portraits of Famous Characters”

Interview with Jawaher Al-Attiyah



Jawaher Al-Attiyah, Literature and Translation student at Qatar University College of Arts and Sciences (QU-CAS), is a Qatari national promising painter. Jawaher is well-known for her black and white portraits of famous characters. During an interview, she talked about her talent, ambitions and future plans.

Why did you choose to paint portraits?

I paint portraits of famous characters such as Batman and The Joker. I have chosen this type of painting due to its special and western aspect.

Tell us about your artistic journey?

I started painting since a very early age. My family continues to support and encourage me. My mother is a pioneer in this domain, and my brother and sister also have the same talent but they did not dedicate themselves to develop and master skills. I always strive to do my best.

Are you planning to participate in art events?

Of course I do. I also really want to specialize in comic strips, as this type of art is not very popular in Qatar.

What are your future plans?

Well, I want to continue developing my talent. I always try to combine between my talent and my studies. As a student in

literature and translation, I like to create a blend of pictures and words that reflects targeted messages. Additionally, I want to work in the very near future in video games production.

How do you manage your university studies with your artistic work?

I organize my time and priorities. I work on my paintings while ensuring that I achieve my academic responsibilities and duties. This requires a high level of coordination, follow-up and prioritization. However, due to my family's and friends' support and encouragement, I was able to realize my academic and artistic goals.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Normal Calorie Intake Required for a University Student

By Dr Tahra El-Obeid, Head of the Human Nutrition Department, College of Health Sciences



Students who meet required calorie consumption are expected to prevent gaining excess body weight when they go to university. Researchers conducted a study published in a 2009 edition of the “Journal of the American Dietetic Association” and which stated that over 25% of university students gained more than 2kg over the course of 2 months while transitioning to university. Nevertheless, lack of calories will lead to fatigue and difficulty concentrating in the course work. The number of calories a university student requires is dependent on his/her gender, body weight and activity level.

Women

According to the Dietary Guidelines, women aged between 19 and 30 years old require 1,800 to 2,400 calories each day; sedentary women need 1,800 to 2,000 calories, moderately active women require 2,000 to 2,200 calories, and women aged between 19 to 30 who lead an active lifestyle need about 2,400 calories each day to maintain a healthy body weight. “Moderately active” is engaging in physical activity that is equivalent to walking 2 to 3km per day as well as light daily activity, and “active” means exercising the equivalent of walking more than 4km each day in addition to light daily activity.

Men

Male students require more calories than female students, simply because men normally have larger frames and more lean muscle mass. The Dietary Guidelines for men aged between 19 and 30 require 2,400 calories to 2,600 calories, 2,600 to 2,800 calories if they are moderately active and about 3,000 calories each day if they are active. These are general calorie requirements, as individualized needs may vary.

Calories per Kilograms

Assessing a college student's calorie needs using his/her body weight is a quick and easy way to determine his/her individualized needs. The University of Washington devised a system, adults need 13 to 18 calories 1/2kg of body weight each day depending on their activity level, and 10 calories per pound of their ideal body weight if they are obese or sedentary. Based on these recommendations, a 90-kg male college student, who regularly engages in moderate-level physical activity, needs 15 calories per 1/2kg of body weight, which is about 2,700 calories each day to maintain his current body weight.

Athletes

Intense training for athletes have a calorie need greater than the recommendations set by the Dietary Guidelines. Specific calorie needs depend on the athlete's training regimen and his/her size. Researchers conducted a study published in the “North American Journal of Sports Physical Therapy” and found that the average energy intake of women college swimmers was 3,229 calories per day. Another study published in the “Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition,” showed that college powerlifters participating in intense training require 50 to 80 calories per kilogram of body weight each day, which is about 23 to 36 calories per pound of body weight each day. This means a 100kg strength-trained athlete may require 4,600 to 7,200 calories each day during periods of intense training.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

My Precious Pearl

by Roudha Ali Al-Hammadi, College of Arts and Sciences

“What is homeland?” Is it the geographical area where we were born, or the place of our childhood memories? Do we inherit homeland from our fathers and grandfathers? Is it the color of our passports that makes us different from others? My homeland is greater than all these.

I still remember the first time when I traveled abroad. I was a child of no more than five years old. I could not sleep that night, as everything outside “Our Doha” -- as I used to call it -- looked strange. Like other children, I used to joyfully play and discover places around me. However, by the end of each day, I would tell my father that I wanted to go back to Qatar. I have read a lot about love of the homeland; at school, my teacher used to say: “My home”, and we used to repeat after her: “If I forget it for a moment, my soul would take me back to it”. I used to repeat the national anthem in the morning in the school yard.

A strange feeling used to overwhelm me whenever we acclaimed: “Qatar will remain free in the spirit of its loyal people”. I couldn’t understand such rhetoric and poetic expressions. All what I did know was that sense of security whenever I was in my homeland. A feeling that I used to miss whenever I go abroad.

The sun is one, the sky is one, and the moon is one; but the sun, moon, and stars of Qatar are different. Its breeze gets into my body and heals my sorrows. Everything is different, the blue color of its sea, the streets, pavements, land, and soil. Everything in my country is unique and different, as Bader Shaker Al-Sayyab says: “The sun in my homeland is more beautiful than others, and darkness, even darkness there, is more beautiful.”

Homeland is the mother who gives her children without taking back; who keeps giving her wealth with no limits; it is the mother to whom, wherever we go far, we believe we will be going back to. She will be waiting for us. She is our shelter. Home is our safe heaven. Qatar is our “Mother: Al’ouda” as we call her in the Qatari language. Every time I travel away and stay for long, I feel lost and lonely. And when I breathe other than Qatar’s air, I feel frustrated. Home is the everlasting light which enlightens the darkness inside me.

During my visit to an Arab country, an old man once told me: “I haven’t seen people who love their homeland and rulers more than the Qataris do”. How come that we don’t love a land that makes us proud about it day after day especially after the June 5, 2017. The good thing about crises is that they show things as they are, and today, I discovered my people’s love and loyalty to our great homeland. Finally, I realized what the gist of homeland the belonging, dignity and pride, and love for a nation that I am quite ready and fully determined to defend.

Qatar is the state that proved to the world that achievements do not need a wide geographical area or millions of people. All that it needs is its people’s love and loyalty. Today, Qatar’s deeds and achievements speak loudly, and as it is said: “Only fruitful trees are thrown with stones.”

May Allah save you my precious pearl “Qatar”. You constantly grow in the hearts of your people.

STROKES OF CREATIVITY

Qatar, people and land

by Halima Mohammed Abdulrahman, College of Education



ARTICLE

“Academic Presence in Media”

by Dr Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of QU Gulf Studies Center



With the expansion of media channels, whether traditional or modern, and the diversity of topics and issues tackled that necessarily concern people, the need for experts to help deliver media messages to the world and to make it more influential to public opinion is growing. Those experts are academics who are specialized in a certain discipline after years of study and experience.

The media follower -- given that media has involved personal lives of individuals -- is clearly aware of the increasing presence of academics and experts in media in political, cultural, economic, social and even entertaining programs. Appearance of academics in the media, especially in television and radio, can be understood in one of the following contexts or sometimes in more than one context. If in any of the political, economic, social or cultural programs, it can be for the purpose of analysis, clarification and interpretation, and perhaps to present a different view of what is frequently repeated in media. In this case, media would need an academic to provide an advanced level of depth

and credibility of what is presented which reflects the sensitivity of the role of media in the society. Academic presence in the media can help media outlets to know public opinion trends and the prevailing views, which helps them in planning for their programs.

However, the above does not necessarily mean that the media can always be of an advantage to the academic. Media has the power to change the academic into a tool that works according to its agenda. Academics therefore, should avoid being tools and take into consideration the impact and advantage on the public opinion as criteria when dealing with media. It is important to highlight that academic appearance in the media should be a mean and not a goal in the sense that it spreads knowledge from the classroom to a wider space, and helps to understand phenomena not to mention its ability to train people to accept different views and to be constructive.



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