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QATAR UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS Life

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The Qatar University Sports Complex hosts the inauguration of the 3x3 Basketball World Cup





Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief:
Kholeh Mortaza Mortazawi

Senior Editor:
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Editorial Committee:
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Bana Al-Sorour
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Student Volunteers:
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Proofreading Team:
Arabic: Dr. Mohammad Al-Rhawi
English: Mai Al-Mannai
Mohamed Shaheem

Creative Review:
Amna Abdulkarim

Photographers:
Mohamed Sherif

Senior Graphic Designer:
Shorook Al Fara



Website:
<https://www.qu.edu.qa/about/campus-life>

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

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Editorial of the Issue





In a refreshing format filled with diverse and enriching content, the latest edition of Campus Magazine emerges into the spotlight. Functioning as a reflective mirror, it meticulously showcases the dynamic events and remarkable accomplishments transpiring at Qatar University, extending its reach to both local and international audiences. Seamlessly integrating with other university publications, this edition serves as a robust bridge and a dependable source for disseminating knowledge, news, events, academic triumphs, and engaging dialogues with students, faculty, and administrative staff.

Within its pages, readers will uncover exclusive stories tailored to this edition, introductions to QU Press publications, updates from various colleges, reports on scientific conferences, literary and artistic creations by both students and professors, articles, studies, scientific research, sporting activities, health, culture, heritage, and cherished university memories. Notably, it sheds light on the university's active involvement in supporting our brothers and sisters in Gaza through solidarity campaigns organized by the university. Additionally, it discusses significant memoranda of understanding and agreements forged by the university with stakeholders, including governmental and private institutions within and outside the country

This edition places a significant emphasis on student news, recognizing them as the foundational cornerstone and primary focus. Multiple pages are dedicated to conveying their news, covering university management's interactions with them, updates on diverse student clubs, their activities, talents, and numerous achievements. Furthermore, outstanding university experiences are presented to benefit students, along with a myriad of other news and diverse creative, scientific, and artistic materials that we hope will achieve the desired benefit, instilling joy and pride in your hearts.

As we conclude the Fall 2023 academic semester, which unfolded seamlessly and in alignment with the university's outlined plan, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success—students, professors, staff, and administrators. We continually invite them to partake in ongoing development and improvement, recognizing that excellence demands constant advancement, especially in a constantly evolving environment.

We extend an open invitation to all to actively participate and contribute to the Campus Magazine. The magazine serves as a channel to convey our achievements to the local and international community. Let us collectively strive to elevate and evolve it, as it stands not only as a platform but also as a window to what lies beyond the university campus. Together, let us embrace excellence and celebrate the vibrant tapestry of Qatar University's accomplishments.

University News

QU inaugurates its Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha



Qatar University inaugurated its Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha, bearing the slogan “Cultivating Knowledge; Harvesting the Future.” QU’s Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha aims to showcase several research projects and innovations contributed by the university’s distinguished scientists and students. It includes several areas that allow visitors to learn about these pioneering projects and innovations that contribute to the country’s sustainability efforts.

QU President Dr. Omar Al-Ansari said, “It is our pleasure to be a part of Expo 2023 Doha, which is a valuable platform for Qatar University to share its extensive efforts in agriculture, environment and sustainability. Some of the most pressing challenges our world faces today are the issues of climate change, food insecurity, desertification, loss of biodiversity — and it is a shared issue. We all have a responsibility to use our resources, through research, technology and innovation, to find solutions to these challenges.” He adds, “We are eager to meet with like-minded individuals at Expo 2023 Doha and we welcome you to the Qatar University Pavilion, which showcases pioneering projects by our scholars in these fields and offers a glimpse of what Qatar University is doing to contribute to Qatar’s sustainability efforts.”

QU students engage with Dr. Omar Al-Ansari in ‘Meet the President’ event

The Qatar University Student Representative Board hosted a ‘Meet the President’ event for male and female students to meet and engage with QU President, Dr. Omar Al-Ansari. The gathering aimed at strengthening effective communication between the student body and university leadership, offering a unique opportunity for the President and senior officials to address student inquiries and concerns.

During the meeting, Dr. Omar Al-Ansari briefly discussed his academic and professional experience, noting that he was among the first batches of QU engineering graduates. He discussed the stark differences between life of students then and now, particularly concerning information sources and how to access them. He also discussed his experience working in Student Affairs and Academic Affairs which has been, he says, a guide in understanding student issues and aspirations.

Dr. Omar Al-Ansari noted that the university has keen interest in students, prioritizing them and providing them with the appropriate environment to thrive, innovate and benefit society. He advised the audience that university students have a huge responsibility to uphold and have a big and positive role in their society and nation.

He also advised university students to enjoy the academic journey and make the best of it, as it constitutes a significant part of their lives.



Students asked an array of questions, related to evening studies, student employment, extra-curricular activities and also on the university’s position on the current situation in the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Al-Ansari stressed that QU seeks to provide a student life that is rich in extracurricular activities and events for its students, noting that the university welcomes alumni to seek careers in QU and prioritizes them granted they meet the required conditions for employment. He also discussed the Academic Excellence Program, noting that the university had made some adjustments to the program, wherein the focus is now more on skills and experience.

QU hosts Palestine Solidarity Stand



The Qatar University Student Representative Board in collaboration with the Ealia Club, a club dedicated to the Palestinian cause, organized a solidarity stand in support of the people of Gaza. Representatives from Qatar Charity were present to collect donations to support the people of Gaza.

Dr. Eiman Mustafawi, Vice President for Student Affairs said on the occasion, “We stand here today at Qatar University to express and declare our strong rejection of the brutal crimes and massacres to which our brothers in Palestine are subjected to.” She adds, “We also appreciate the efforts of our students in defending the causes of the homeland and the nation, and affirm their right to express their opinions, ideas, rights and positions, through the establishment of such peaceful gatherings in support of important issues, and we commend their humanitarian and charitable role in urging donations to the relief of our people in Gaza in coordination with Qatar Charity.”

QU hosts University World Cup Basketball Championship

Qatar University, in collaboration with the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation, successfully inaugurated the 9th edition of the 3x3 University World Cup Basketball Championship at its Sports Complex. This prestigious event boasted the participation of elite university basketball teams from across the globe. Notably, this year's edition saw 24 teams from 17 countries, with Qatar's participation represented by teams from QU (male) and University of Doha for Science and Technology (female).

Dr. Eiman Mustafawi, Vice President for Student Affairs at QU, expressed delight in the success, saying, "We are delighted with the success of the 3x3 University World Cup Basketball Championship, which was held at QU's sports facility in an enthusiastic sports atmosphere with a substantial fan turnout." She continued, "We are satisfied with QU's basketball team reaching the quarterfinals, reflecting the university's commitment to developing collegiate sports and nurturing talented athletes. On this occasion, we commend the efforts of QU's team, including players, coaches, and administrators for their exceptional participation and performance in the



championship. This championship constitutes an opportunity for players to acquire new skills, compete enthusiastically, and enhance their technical abilities by engaging with strong regional teams."

It is worth noting that this championship, organized jointly by the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation and the International University Sports Federation in partnership with QU, showcased the participation of 24 teams from 17 countries, including 12 female teams and 12 male teams. Participating countries include: Brazil, Spain, Chile, Egypt, Mexico, Kenya, Ghana, Lithuania, Chinese Taipei, Mongolia, Iran, Romania, Ukraine, Australia, New Zealand, and the host country, Qatar.

University Achievements

QU Health faculty member listed in the prestigious ASCP 40 2023 Under Forty list



Dr. Maha Al-Asmakh, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the College of Health Sciences, was selected as one of the 40 high-achieving esteemed honorees in the American Society of Clinical Pathology's (ASCP) prestigious 40 2023 Under Forty list. This recognition highlights her exceptional contributions to the field of clinical laboratory sciences and underscores QU's commitment to fostering excellence in education and research.

The ASCP President, Marsha Kinney, MD, said, "ASCP's 40 Under Forty program is an opportunity to recognize the next generation of pathology and medical laboratory leaders from around the globe." Dr. Maha Al-Asmakh commented on this statement, "I am very proud to be the first Qatari to be selected for this prestigious ASCP 40 Under Forty program. I am honored to represent my country, showcase my achievements in the field of clinical laboratory sciences, and highlight the contribution of QU and my department in educating the young generations of clinical laboratory scientists in Qatar."

The 40 Under Forty recognition has made a powerful impact on all its honorees, ranging from pronounced recognition within their organization to exciting media attention. Furthermore, during the recent QU's Annual Convocation 2023, Dr. Maha received a special honor dedicated to international achievement. Her remarkable contributions to academia highlight QU's commitment to fostering excellence in education and research on an international scale.

QU's Young Scientists Center wins a commendable seven awards in iCAN 2023 Canada



Qatar University's Young Scientists Center (YSC) achieves continued success, this time in the 8th International Invention Innovation Competition in Canada, iCAN 2023. The center swept seven awards including two gold awards, a silver award for projects submitted by the center's students, another silver award for the center itself, in addition to three special awards. This great feat came after stiff competition with 621 other projects from 50 countries around the world. The iCan 2023 competition aims to encourage inventors and researchers with creative abilities from around the world by providing a global platform for scientific competition, serving as a gateway for linking innovative ideas, technologies and solutions.

During the competition, students Khaled Al-Kubaisi, Khaled Al-Midfa, Saeed Al-Kuwari and Mohammed Al-Khulaifi, from Hayat Universal Bilingual School, won a gold medal for their project 'Innovative Football to Analyze the Players Physical Performance.' The high school students developed a football that evaluates player performance by utilizing artificial intelligence techniques, to be used in training evaluations. Nouf Al-Emadi and Naeema Al-Fakhro from Al-Arqam Academy for Girls also won a gold medal and a special award, for a project titled 'LiMn2O4-MXene as a new composite material to improve the performance of lithium batteries'. Their project helps in developing sustainable energy systems. Students Yousef Al-Enezi and Mohammed Al-Kuwari from Qatar Academy for Science and Technology won a silver award and a special award for a research project titled 'Generating green energy from nanocomposites made of polylactic acid'. The project aims to use a new, environmentally friendly source of energy by reducing the emission of toxic gases that contribute to the phenomenon of global warming.

Q&A

In an interview with Campus Life magazine
Professor Rana Sobh, Dean of the College of Business and Economics:

“Our goal is to prepare students who have the ability to positively impact their communities and keep pace with the ever-changing world of business”



- The college is committed to maximizing its influence on the local and regional business environment and society. It aims to foster collaboration and partnerships with various stakeholders.
- A significant update is the launch of the MENA Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability, aiming to promote sustainability goals.
- The college works on developing entrepreneurial competencies and cultivating an innovative mindset among students.
- The college seeks to establish a space innovation lab, accessible for all researchers.

Professor Rana Sobh, Dean of the College of Business and Economics at Qatar University, stressed that the business education landscape has been recently witnessing rapid changes and developments. The aim of business is gradually shifting towards a more holistic approach, where achieving financial profit does not conflict with positive environmental and social impact. Therefore, the college continues its efforts to establish the foundations of education that produce competent leaders and responsible individuals capable of effectively contributing to finding solutions to the challenges we face locally and regionally.

In an exclusive with Campus Life magazine, Prof. Rana stated, “The college, in order to achieve these goals, has given great importance to experiential learning, building strong relationships with the business community, and fostering a culture that encourages and supports innovation at all levels. Our goal is to prepare students who have the ability to make a positive impact in their communities and keep up with everything new in the constantly changing business world.”

• What is new at the College of Business and Economics for the academic year 2023 / 2024?

We are launching soon, a new strategic plan for the College, which includes six main goals relating to excellence in education through an inspiring educational experience, preparing highly qualified graduates and providing them with a competitive advantage in the labor market. In addition, the new plan focuses on conducting impactful research in areas of local and international priorities, maximizing its impact on the business environment and society. We also seek to increase the level of effectiveness in the college’s sustainable organizational and operational practices. As part of the new plan. We are also keen to promote sustainability and socially responsible practices in all aspects of education and research, as well as strengthen collaboration with stakeholders to create opportunities to enrich education, promote research and maximize our social and economic impact.

• **What about innovative initiatives in the field of education?**

We continue this year with our innovative initiatives such as the integration of simulation and use of educational games into some of our courses, which enhances student learning and engagement. To achieve this, we have developed a program via Coursera, which QU has a partnership with. Coursera is an online learning platform with 129 million registered learners from across the globe and includes more than 3800 training courses in line with the requirements of the labor market.

The college also strives to continue integrating emerging technologies in its curricula to ensure that our students are well-versed in the latest technologies that relate to business. The college is therefore proud to be teaching via the use of Metaverse digital space technology.

• **What is your philosophy regarding intertwining scientific research with the needs of society to produce impactful research?**

The college endeavors to maximize its impact on the business climate, as well as society, both locally and regionally and to activate its cooperation and partnerships with various stakeholders. This can be done through several initiatives, that we aspire to implement soon, which link scientific research with societal needs and disseminate scientific knowledge in a manner that suits policymakers and managers. This is in addition to participating in activities that lead to organizational and societal changes and contribute to making a fundamental impact on the way institutions work and on sustainable development in the country socially and economically.

For example, we recently signed an agreement with the Institute of Public Administration at the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau to contribute to human development in government agencies, through case studies, research and training programs that suit the needs of agencies and their employees. We also started a research cooperation project with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, where faculty members and graduate students work on research of strategic priority to the Ministry.

• **What are some of the new initiatives at the college?**

The most significant is the launch of the MENA Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability (MEBAS). It is the first of its kind in the MENA region and consists of 13 prestigious universities and aims to encourage regional collaboration between universities academically accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in combating the impact of climate change, promoting environmental conservation

efforts and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By focusing on curriculum development and integrating sustainability topics to ensure that QU students, the future leaders, have the knowledge and skills to balance economic development and environmental impacts. The alliance will also seek to create a strong research alliance that brings together researchers, experts, scientists and decision-makers from the MENA region to facilitate collaboration on various aspects of climate change and environmental research.

• **What have you done in regards to entrepreneurship as a general trend locally and internationally?**

The college works to develop entrepreneurial competencies and an innovation mindset among students through academic programs, materials and interactive entrepreneurial teaching methods. In addition, we seek to strengthen the culture of entrepreneurship in Qatari society through the work of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Organizational Excellence. This is done through specialized training programs, interactive workshops, distinguished competitions, and pre-incubation activities organized by the center in cooperation with relevant entities that support entrepreneurship in Qatar. These programs target Qatar University students and entrepreneurs in the Qatari community at large.

Furthermore, these programs seek to link the academic aspect with hands-on experience, allowing students the opportunity to contribute to new services and products for the community, using the knowledge and skills they attained. These initiatives also support the spirit of competition among students and promote creative thinking. Local entrepreneurs can also adopt some of these ideas, which further motivates students. This type of competition also changes student way of thinking and helps upbring a new generation of entrepreneurs that contribute to achieving sustainable economic development, which is one of the main pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

• **What is your strategy for the future?**

We look forward to continuing our journey and collaborating with all our partners to elevate our college and national university. The college is currently completing several MoU's that focus on developing joint academic programs and exchange of students and faculty members with prestigious international universities, to provide undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities to expand their expertise and experience, especially in the field of innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainability.

In Focus

Doctors of the future in QU labs: Exceptional efforts and high hopes

The College of Medicine makes concerted efforts to be a driving force towards innovation in the healthcare sector in Qatar, as well as a partner in tackling key national health challenges. It also seeks to be a reliable source of competence, care and takes its responsibility seriously where the health of the community is concerned, operating at a high level of quality and confidence. The college offers its students a wide range of improved facilities and services, in addition to research based education, optimizing the development of their research skills.

Campus Life talks to a number of faculty members in the college and students, the doctors of tomorrow, to discover their hopes and ambitions and the efforts of the academic staff in preparing them for the future.



Dr. Marwan Abu Hijleh, Dean of the College of Medicine said, “The College was established as an initiative by His Highness the Amir in 2014. The programs are designed in accordance with international best practices and in line with local context and the needs of the State of Qatar.” Speaking about the college developments since its establishment, Dr. Marwan pointed out that the college, which opened its door to students in 2015, has now become a second home for hundreds of students in Qatar as well as distinguished academics and researchers from around the world, an indication of its success in establishing its name among the most prestigious medical schools in the region and the world.”

Dr. Ammar Boudaka, Associate Professor at the College of Medicine said, “The College of Medicine continuously strives to be a beacon of excellence in medical education and research. To achieve its vision for the future, the college places great emphasis on clinical training programs and participation in international competitions as it enriches the learning experiences of its students, promotes excellence and highlights Qatar’s commitment to the advancement of health care and medical research. These initiatives helps the college to gain international recognition and helps students to prepare for their careers.”

Dr. Maha Desouki, Head of the Department of Pre-Clinical Education, said: “During the clinical pre-clerkship phase, which runs from the second year until the end of the first semester of the fourth year, the clinical education program runs horizontally to the integrated organ systems. For each Problem-Based Learning (PBL) case, students will attend one clinical resource session, in addition to a weekly clinical skills training session, where the students practice in the Skill Lab. In this lab, students practice their clinical skills on simulated patients under the supervision of clinical tutors from the college and doctors from primary and secondary care.”

She adds, “One of the most distinctive features of the training program at the College of Medicine, at this stage, is the training of students on how to perform ultrasound, in addition to providing an opportunity for direct contact with patients in primary health centers, giving students the opportunity to consolidate what they have learned in a realistic

scenario. At the primary health care corporation centers, our students follow up with doctors and monitor the daily routine in clinical practice. They will have the opportunity to meet patients with health problems similar to those they studied in their units. After each visit to the primary health centers, students receive a group lecture to review their observations and share their experiences with other students.”

Dr. Susu Zughaier, Professor of Microbiology said, “As a faculty member with an active experimental research laboratory in the field of microbiology, I focus on providing medical students with hands-on experience in basic science research. Students are enrolled in an elective research course or for research curiosity, which usually aims at in-depth learning of research methods and publication of scientific work. We encourage student enrollment through applying for student scholarships, making it easier for them to be included in ongoing research projects. Along with experimental research experience, we offer students the opportunity to participate in evidence-based population medicine research. I firmly believe that research expertise has an impact on the development of analytical and critical thinking skills that are essential to graduating high-quality health professionals.”



In talking to students from the College of Medicine, Amna Mohammed Al-Mannai, a sixth-year (final) student said: “I joined the College of Medicine at Qatar University in August 2018, to fulfill my desire of studying medicine from a young age, as medicine is a noble and great humanitarian profession. The College of Medicine has contributed greatly to my educational career, as it boasts a highly experienced international educational staff, and has provided its students with modern laboratories with high-tech equipment. During our course at the college, we received intensive field training in many health facilities in the country, such as primary health care centers and hospitals. The college provided us with an opportunity to intern outside the country at Mater Olbia Hospital in Italy. We also attended many medical conferences, conducted much scientific research, which has been published in scientific journals, and the college continues to prepare us to apply for residency programs to join HMC next year hopefully.”

Mohammed Al-Hor, a fourth-year medical student said, “The College of Medicine is considered a leading educational institution in the field of medicine. It provides students with the latest technologies and facilities necessary to prepare them for delivering high-quality health care. The college includes a variety of laboratories, including clinical and anatomy labs, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and devices that help students acquire the practical skills necessary for medical practice. During my preparation for scientific research, I greatly benefited from the guidance and advice of the faculty members at the college, who did not hesitate to support and assist me in developing my research skills.”

He adds, “The college plays a vital role in developing students’ skills by offering distinguished international training programs, in addition to providing opportunities for students to participate in field visits to healthcare facilities, helping them acquire valuable skills and experiences. We draw inspiration from these experiences and opportunities to confront various challenges, with the aim of delivering high-quality health care that aligns with the directives of His Highness the Amir.”

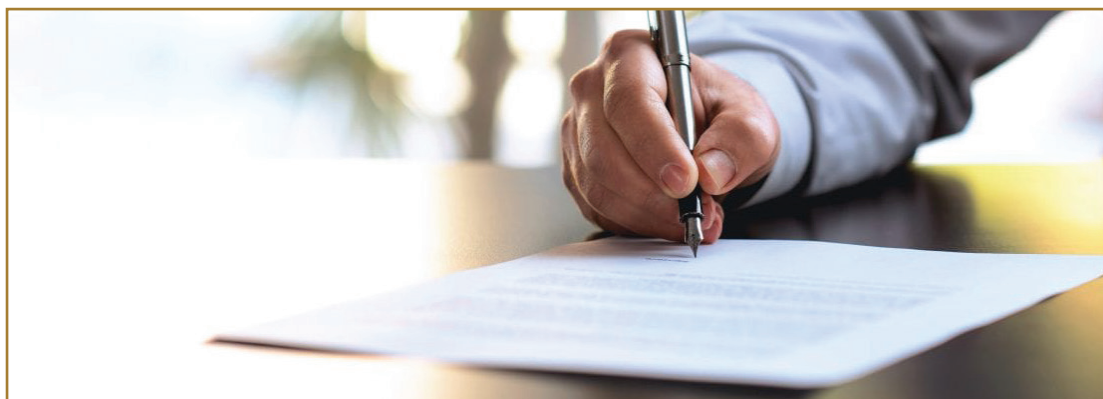
Agreements and MoUs

Qatar University enters into local and international partnerships with the aim of joint cooperation



Qatar University offers a wide range of opportunities for students to advance their academic and research careers, in their respective fields. This is achieved through a number of academic agreements and partnerships with relevant institutions in fields such as industry, government, academia, business and civil society, that are in line with the university's strategy to improve student output and academic performance, to launch their abilities, talents and creativity.

Memorandums of Understanding, agreements, and partnerships are valuable as they enable students to contribute effectively to academic, cultural and research activities. They also prepare students for the labor market through discussion sessions which bridge the relationship between students, experts, specialists and decision makers. Such agreements have culminated in the launch of several chairs on national, regional and international issues, with the chair officials assisting students in their graduation and research projects, as well as providing training opportunities to prepare them for the labor market.



The following are the main agreements of the year:

- QU and the American University of Beirut signed an MoU to promote academic and research collaboration in the areas of food security and sustainable food production systems, laying the foundation for a multifaceted partnership centered on teaching, training, resources, and research generation, aligned with global imperatives for environmentally conscious practices in food cultivation and distribution.
- QU renews its partnership with the Seashore Group, reinforcing their commitment to providing essential financial aid to students with limited incomes through a dedicated program.
- QU signed an MoU with Apex Water and Services (W.L.L.) to enhance cooperation and leverage the shared capabilities for the benefit of both institutions. The primary focus of this collaboration is to engage in research and development in the field of water treatment in Qatar.
- QU and Vistas Global Company signed an MoU to enhance collaboration in academic, research, and professional fields, as well as to support students. The signing of the memorandum stems from the mutual desire of both parties to develop and strengthen their cooperation, leveraging their shared capabilities in education and training.
- QU signed an MoU with the Al-Sulaiteen Center for research, studies, and agricultural training to foster collaboration and leverage shared resources. Key areas of cooperation include scientific research, studies, skill enhancement, and practical training.
- QU and Elegancia Healthcare (a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding) signed a MoU, whereby the two parties will establish cooperation covering different, scientific, administrative, technical and research areas.
- QU and The Case Centre, a global organization dedicated to advancing the case study method, signed a MoU to foster collaboration and promote excellence in business education. The agreement formalizes a shared commitment to utilizing case studies as an effective pedagogical tool to enhance learning outcomes and prepare students for the challenges of the business world.
- QU and the Qatar Financial Center signed a MoU, setting the stage for a strategic partnership that promises to reshape the future of Qatar's innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Under the Microscope

Innovative coral restoration techniques in the Arabian Gulf



As climate change, coastal development, overfishing, and marine pollution continue to ravage the world's oceans, the Arabian Gulf's coral reefs are suffering an alarming rate of decline. The situation has prompted the Environmental Science Center (ESC) at Qatar University to explore innovative strategies to control and even reverse this troubling trend. Coral reef experts worldwide are turning to various restoration strategies for recovery, and the Arabian Gulf is no exception. Passive restoration focuses on management actions that improve the environmental conditions for coral survival and growth. In contrast, active restoration involves direct interventions, such as transplanting adult or juvenile colonies and

rearing coral larvae in nurseries. However, efforts to conserve and restore corals in the Arabian Gulf have mostly centered around coral translocations and deploying artificial reef units, leaving much room for improvement and diversification. To address this, the ESC team is developing and validating various coral restoration techniques, including sexual and asexual propagation methods and new designs for artificial reefs, with generous support and collaboration with QatarEnergy.

The team's initiatives have already produced impressive results. They established and operated Qatar's first land-based coral nursery and hatchery at the Ras-Matbakh Aquatic Research Center. At this facility, the team is pioneering procedures for coral fragmentation, husbandry, and reintroduction (outplant) to natural or artificial marine habitats, complete with long-term monitoring.

Perhaps the most groundbreaking development is the team's capacity to control and manipulate the reproductive cycles of dominant reef-building coral species, allowing for the production of sexual offspring multiple times per year. This innovation could significantly accelerate coral reef restoration efforts in Qatar and the surrounding region.

As the Arabian Gulf struggles with declining coral ecosystems, the ESC effort is a shining example of how cutting-edge restoration technologies can make a difference. They hope their efforts will pave the way for more comprehensive, sustainable strategies to protect and preserve these vital underwater ecosystems for future generations.

A Study in Prison Literature from a Comparative Narrative Perspective

The French Butterfly by Henri Charrière and the Arab Sensibility by Ayman Al-Atoum

Freedom is a universal human right without dispute; it is an inherent right for all humans throughout history and in all societies, regardless of the variations in eras, the diversity of societies in terms of geography, systems, development, culture, literature, and the composition of their social segments. Based on this perspective and the belief in the principle of freedom and human equality, both in the East and the West, this study, prepared by Dr. Seeta Al-Athba, Head of the Department of Arabic Language, embarks on an exploration of uncharted territory in the realm of literary studies.

Between Arabic and French literature there are points of agreement and difference. We see the two separated by the difference in language and culture and brought together by suffering. This is done by employing the comparative approach to look at two novels in prison literature: “They Listen to Her Feeling” by Ayman Al-Atoum, and “The Butterfly” by Henri Charrière, to explore the difference and similarity in three narrative elements: title, time and place.

The findings of this study concluded the following:

1. The unity of human experience, regardless of color, race, and culture, is evident. The arbitrary injustice faced by the protagonists generated a similar sense of oppression and bitterness. The prison experience, despite differences in location, produced narrative dimensions that were alike in two distinct works in language, culture, and geography.
2. The title revealed a difference between the entrenched collective dimension in the protagonist Iyad’s “They Listen to Her Feeling” and the individual dimension in “The Butterfly,” indicating a continuous interplay of these two dimensions in the spirit of the novel between Iyad Assad’s collective and Henri Charrière’s individuality.
3. The similarity of time in the two novels in its details, in terms of the weight of the passage of time and its slowdown, and the use of similar techniques to overcome time, such as dreaming.
4. The similarity of the two protagonists in dealing with time, and in its delay. How did the details of time remain present despite the delay in recording them? In a clear indication of the cruelty of the experience and how it is etched in the psyche of the two protagonists, without forgetting a detail.
5. The similarity of the basic space of the novel – which is the prison – is a closed place in which the most basic elements of humanity are negated.
6. The similarity of the layers of prison society, their characteristics and conditions between the two novels, we find prisoners, jailers and their collaborators suggesting that the similarity of prison space and conditions produced a similar society in both instances.

QU Press Publications

Intercultural Communication: From Luqianus to Abu Al-Ala Al-Ma'ari

Translation and Study by: Prof. Mohammad Harb Farzat

This intellectual, historical, and literary book attempts to unveil the elements of communication between three pioneers of human literature in the ancient Levant, starting from the ancient history of literature to the Golden Arab era of flourishing culture and literature; the era of Abu Al-Ala Al-Ma'ari.

The author studies three works of the momentous human literary heritage of three renowned writers, who represent the pillars of literature in the cultural history of Syria, going through three languages; from Aramaic, to Greek, to Syriac, and to Arabic. The first work is "The Story of the Wise Writer Ahikar," from Aramaic history in the first millennium B.C. The second one is "Dialogues of the Dead," by the Syrian writer Lucian, from the Roman imperial era, which was written in Greek, translated into French and published in 1860. The author translated it into Arabic. The third work under study is titled "The Epistle of Forgiveness" (Risalat al-Ghufran), by Abu Al-Ala Al-Ma'ari, from the fifth century A.H. / eleventh century AD.

The author focuses on revealing the roots of the linguistic, literary, and intellectual communication between Lucian and Abu Al-Ala Al-Ma'ari in the "The Epistle of Forgiveness." This obviously highlights his keenness to shed light on the connection, consistency and interaction between successive cultures, and the impact of this on literary works, and to introduce the works of Lucian and Al-Ma'ari in particular and their place in the history of human literature in general.

The third chapter was devoted to translating the book "Dialogues of the Dead," which consisted of twenty-three dialogues, which the author translated it from French into Arabic.

Fourth chapter, talks about Abu Al-Ala Al-Ma'ari in his "Epistle of Forgiveness" or as the author called it (Lucian's Culture in an Arabic Language), focusing on Al-Ma'ari's moral values, then about his thought, the Epistle of Forgiveness, and Al-Ma'ari cultural sources. In the fifth chapter, he concludes his talk about ancient Syrian wisdom in Hellenistic culture, all the way to Arab culture.

The author has included two appendices in the book, which are considered vital references for scholars and researchers, accompanied by translations from various languages into Arabic.

The book includes references and scientific sources that list a part of Lucian and his intellectual, literary, and historical works. Another appendix is attached to the book with written examples of the author's work in Arabizing the book "Dialogues of the Dead." The book is unique as it combined translation, investigation, study, and in-depth intellectual comparison.



The Foreign Policy of Smaller Gulf States: Size, Power, and Regime Stability in the Middle East

Authored by: Máté Szalai

Translation and Commentary: Mirdif Al-Qashouti

Edited by: Alreem M. A. Al-Adba; Nabil M. M. Darwish



This book was originally written in English by Máté Szalai and was published in 2022 by Routledge Publishing. Given the importance of the book to the Arab readers, Qatar University Press sought to translate it into Arabic, in a clear and refined language.

The book examines how the smaller Gulf States were able, over the last decade, to increase their influence in the Middle East. They have often benefited from their small size as a foreign policy tool, although their size is still considered an irresolvable weakness, which makes them secondary actors to the greater powers such as Saudi Arabia or Iran. This study identifies specific ways in which material and perceptual smallness affect power, identity, regime stability, and leverage in international politics.

Through six main parts, the author discusses the foreign policy of smaller Gulf States, and a number of important matters fall under each part. In the first part, he discusses the four types of state size and foreign policy, which are “absolute size,” in which he stresses the concept of the absolute smaller state. Also, through his focus on “relative size,” he touches on the changing views of the concept of a relatively small state, and the alliance with the stronger party, defined as soft power. It means the neoliberal narrative; then “perceptual size and identity” and the behavior of small states, as well as “normative size and foreign policy instruments” and the application of the complex size model to empirical research.

The second part focuses on the application of small states theory in the MENA region, and the formation of states under the protection of the greater powers.

The third part focuses on how to determine the relative and standard size and the Gulf State’s image in the international community. The fourth part explains the absolute and perceptual size, Gulf States security of the ruling systems in relation to space, climate, environment, geopolitical factors, demography, social homogeneity, military size, hydrocarbon resources, economy, labor market, methodological developments, individual military strategies, and commonalities, in addition to the difference the security of governance systems.

The fifth part examines the history of the foreign and security policies of the smaller Gulf states under the Gulf union, as a form of the integration dilemma, addressing the ‘Iranian threat and its perceptions in the region,’ the First Gulf War; then the Iranian Revolution, and making alliances with the great powers, in addition to the Second Gulf War, the effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its repercussions, and the strategies of the ruling regimes for survival and continuity.

The author concludes with the sixth part, which covers the smaller Gulf States in the era of regional tensions, and the so-called Arab revolutions. Speaking about what he calls ‘Islamic networks,’ the Qatari-Emirati competition, the Iranian-Saudi rivalry, then the Gulf crisis and Qatari diplomacy in dealing with it, ending the book by talking about the history of Israeli-Gulf relations, and his interpretation of the Abrahamic Accords in the region.

College News



HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser witnesses the Opening Ceremony of the 11th International Conference on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and Honorary President of the QU Alumni Association, attended the 11th International Conference on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP), All Together Better Health (ATBH) XI, hosted by Qatar University and held in the Middle East for the first time.

The biennial ATBH XI conference aims to inspire and provide opportunities to share knowledge, compare perspectives, exchange experiences and transform current understandings of IPECP.

The theme for this year's conference is "Cultivating a Collaborative Culture: Sharing Pearls of Wisdom" with the following subthemes related to interprofessional education and collaborative practice: Sharing models of best practice, informing national, regional and global policies and standards, advocating for health and wellbeing, embracing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and promoting safety in and beyond health services.

ATBH is the leading global IPECP conference, providing a collaborative forum for transnational champions to promote IPECP towards improving global health through consensus-based partnership, share ideas and address emerging health care challenges.

Student trip to attend the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea



The College of Law organized a student trip to Monaco for the ABLOS 11th Conference, which is organized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

The Conference was organized under the theme 'Ocean Geosciences: From the Past Century to the Future Decade,' and included a number of topics including marine governance and legal considerations, and solving the ridges enigma of Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

It is important to note that College of Law Dean, Dr. Talal Al-Emadi is a member of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Law of the Sea in Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

QU hosts the 8th Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference: “The Family in the Gulf: Continuity and Change”



The College of Arts and Sciences organized the Eighth Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference themed “The Family in the Gulf: Continuity and Change,” in collaboration with the Gulf Studies Center at QU and the Doha International Family Institute. The conference focused on illuminating the significant evolutions influencing the fabric and dynamics of family life across the region.

The intricate tapestry of family life is experiencing unprecedented diversification globally, spurred by sweeping economic, cultural, and social changes. In the Gulf region, a momentous transformation is silently influencing the institution of family, intersecting with politics, economics, education, gender, law, social media, religion, and culture.

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of the Gulf Studies Center at the College of Arts and Sciences, highlighted the conference’s significance: “The eighth edition of the Gulf Studies Center conference at QU focuses on a highly important topic: the institution of the family in the Arab Gulf countries. Interest in this family is increasing alongside the challenges facing Gulf society due to global openness through the communications revolution. The conference focuses on issues concerning the Gulf family: the age of marriage, the challenges of establishing a family, and the extent of changes, especially with the decline of the extended family and the shift towards smaller families with fewer children. Experts and academics from Gulf countries and abroad participate in the conference, and the conference papers will be published in a book documenting the discussions and transferring knowledge to future generations.”

The launch of the Future Tech Forum



The Kindi Center for Computing Research (KINDI), under the College of Engineering and the Artificial Intelligence Organization launched together the first edition of the Future Tech Forum. The Forum is a pioneering initiative that aligns with the vision outlined in the National Cybersecurity Strategy and the Artificial Intelligence Strategy, offering a roadmap for the future. QU, through the Future Tech Forum, is committed to advancing cybersecurity within the State of Qatar and cultivating cutting-edge artificial intelligence solutions in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The Future Tech Forum is sponsored by the National Cyber Security Agency and Vodafone in the Platinum category, Qatar Aluminum and QNB in the Gold category, Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) in the Bronze category, with media sponsors Taswar and Social Jet, and Fotad Company as contributing sponsors.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Ali, Director of Kindi Center for Computing Research and Advisor of the Artificial Intelligence Organization, highlighted the profound impact of artificial intelligence on various fields and its potential to redefine future jobs and standards. The Future Tech Forum aims to fulfill research objectives in the areas of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity through collaboration with government agencies and local and international private companies. He said, “The Future Tech Forum sets the stage for a vibrant culture of collaborative efforts, demonstrating the power of initiatives led by Qatar University students and its vision of empowering future leaders in technology and innovation. As we embark on this transformative journey, we look forward to shaping the digital future of the country through partnerships, knowledge exchange, and collective efforts in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.”



كلية الإدارة والاقتصاد
College of Business and Economics
جامعة قطر QATAR UNIVERSITY

Launch of the MENA Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability



The College of Business and Economics launched the MENA Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability (MEBAS) during the second day of the 6th International Conference 'Entrepreneurship for Sustainability and Impact' (ESI). The alliance is dedicated to mitigating the impact of climate change, promoting environmental conservation, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations since 2015.

The launch of MEBAS marks a distinguished effort to connect business schools in the MENA region, noting the importance of the alliance and its impact on the future of business in the region. Through collaborative initiatives, the alliance will facilitate the exchange of best practices, innovative ideas, and cutting-edge research, to ensure that member schools remain at the forefront of sustainability education and play a key role in driving sustainable practices in the wider business community.

The College of Business and Economics at QU aims to encourage regional cooperation between universities academically accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in combating the impact of climate change, promoting environmental conservation efforts and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have been adopted by all United Nations Member States since 2015. Through the alliance, MEBAS, and in partnership with numerous accredited universities across the Middle East and North Africa, the College of Business and Economics takes a pioneering step in combatting these challenges.

Launch of the art exhibition for charity 'Gaza: A Pulse of My Colors'



The Department of Art Education in the College of Education organized a charitable art exhibition titled “Gaza: A Pulse of My Colors” in collaboration with the Culture and Arts Chapter of the QU Alumni Association. His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Faleh bin Nasser Al Thani, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the President of the QU Alumni Association inaugurated the exhibition.

This remarkable art exhibition, “Gaza: A Pulse of My Colors,” took place at the College of Education and showcased the artistic talents of students from the Department of Art Education, along with several distinguished alumni artists.

Dr. Latifa Al-Meghaissib, Head of the Department of Art Education at the College of Education, shared her thoughts about the exhibition, stating, “Art is a reflection of society, and among the current events in the world, the war on Gaza has left a profound impact with martyrs, injuries, bombings, destruction, and a long-lasting blockade that has deeply affected human sentiments. Particularly, artists, who employ their brushes as expressive means, are deeply moved by these events. The charitable art exhibition, which is organized in collaboration with the Culture and Arts Chapter of the QU Alumni Association, aims to allow art education students to express their feelings about ongoing events such as the war, the blockade, and the destruction in Gaza through their artistic works. These artworks are displayed in the exhibition and are also available for sale. The profits will be channeled through Qatar Charity to support the victims of the Gaza conflict.”



كلية الشريعة والدراسات الإسلامية
College of Sharia and Islamic Studies
QATAR UNIVERSITY جامعة قطر

Book launch: 'Encyclopedia of Complete Works of the Scholar Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi'



The College of Sharia and Islamic Studies launched a four-day conference, titled “Readings on Issues of Renewal and Rationalization in the Thought of Scholar Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi,” which included the book launch of the “Encyclopedia of Complete Works of the Scholar Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi,” a comprehensive treasure trove of Islamic scholarship, offering invaluable insights into various aspects of Islamic thought.

Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at QU, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Ansari, spoke on the occasion, in launching the encyclopedia, which is a monumental work consisting of 105 volumes that encapsulate the life’s work of the revered Sheikh. He said, “Today we celebrate the inauguration of the “Encyclopedia of Complete Works of the Scholar Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi,” as we mark the opening of the conference, organized by the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies.”

The conference features eight scientific sessions, addressing topics such as renewal concepts, Islamic finance, jurisprudence, women’s issues, civil jurisprudence, and national challenges. Each topic involves discussions on several papers.

Conversation with a Talented Student

QU Talent, Anood Ali:

“My goal is to become an international artist”

Anood Ali is a 33-year-old junior QU student, studying art education. Anood has a number of talents but favors her talent for creative writing, and chose to major in art education due to her interest in drawing, handcrafting and design, which she practices regularly. In this interview we highlight her passion and future ambitions.



***Firstly, can you talk to us about the role your parents played in helping you to develop this talent?**

I became an artist as a direct result of my family, who are all talented in this field. I realized my talent at the age of nine and developed this talent first through school, and now in university, now that the art education major was reopened. I am now part of the second batch of the program following its relaunch.

***Has this talent had a positive impact on your life?**

Of course. Being talented in art is human orientation and a channel to rid oneself of negative energy and convert it into positive energy. This allows the artist to be innovative

and creative. Art can be a vessel for healing, where the individual can channel their energy into a creative process.

***What are your aspirations for the future in this regard?**

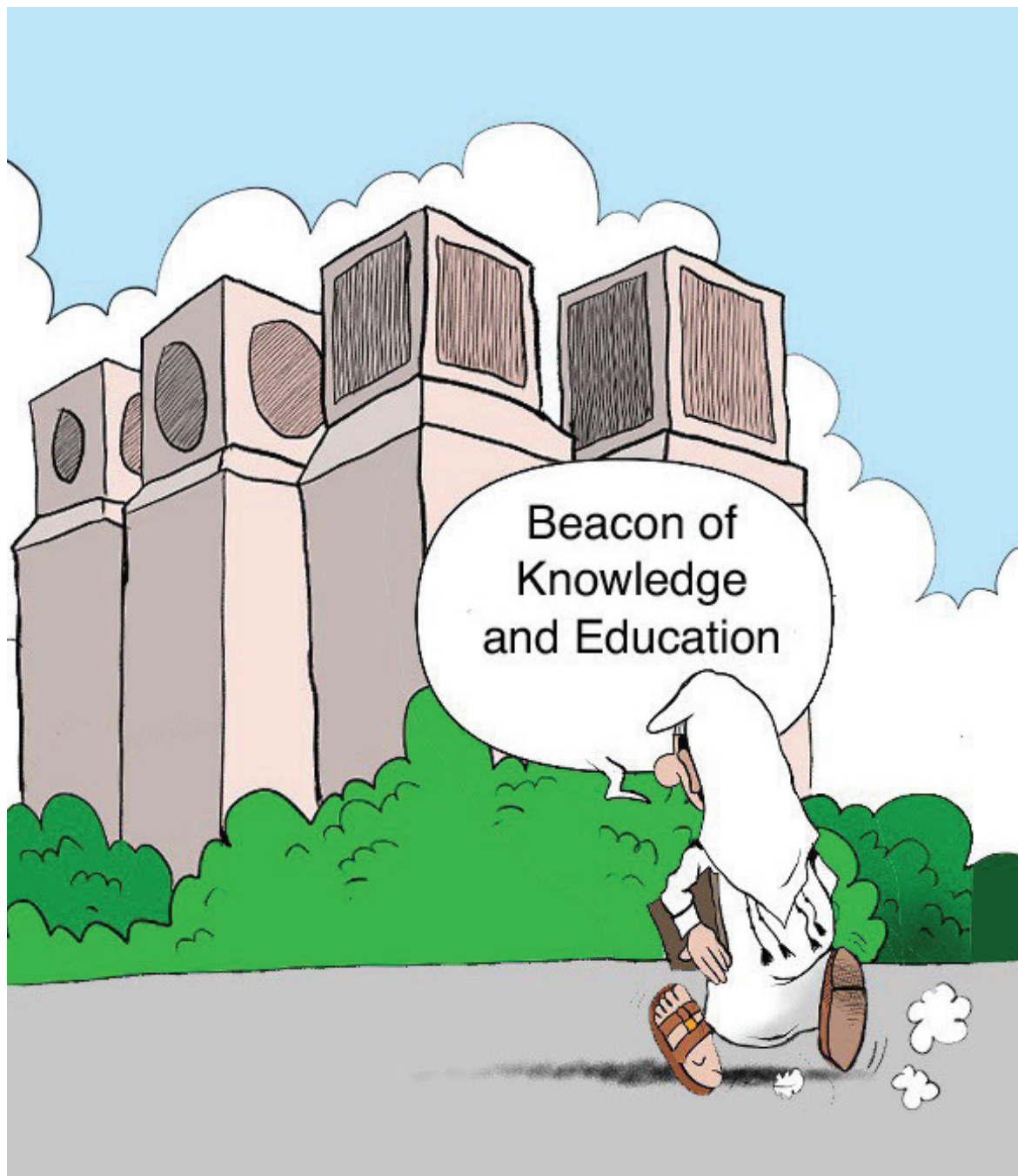
I aspire to complete my undergraduate and postgraduate studies. This is a foundational step in reaching my greatest dream, which is to become an international artist and own a private art gallery. I believe studying in this field will contribute greatly to my ambitions.

***Has any of this been challenging for you?**

Challenges are a normal part of life, but when you are passionate about what you do, it helps you to achieve your goals. As a student, a wife and a mother with four children, my biggest challenge is balancing my role at home with my professional goals.

Comic

Artist: Abdulaziz Sadiq



Creative Corner

Ruby Rebellion

By Hana Muneer, QU Broadcast Journalism Student



Ruby blood splattered on a marble wall,
Is this what they get for seeing all?
Beyond the façade of development and prosperities,
Brushed under the carpet are the ugly realities,
To what lengths have you gone to scratch it all?
With the claws of those lucrative dolls,
Staring are the naïve eyes of those you serve,
Unintended souls with the convenient nerve,
To sway along with those cajoling words,
Surprisingly among them are those omniscient
nerds.
Hear not,
Then fear not,
See not,
Then worry not,

Else it's not the flattering words you should expect
to face,
Pulling the trigger and slashing knives,
Is the easiest way to win the race.
Hush remains the incident,
Zipped remains their mouths,
Abundant fear grips their lungs tight.
Many glide along with the flow of the stream,
Ignoring and subtly clapping to their masking
speech.
My heart goes out to those who dare,
To fight for mere free air,
Ounces of ruby blood have they had to sacrifice,
Whilst broadcasting the truth they see with their
doubtful, dissenting eyes.

Hana Muneer says her poem is “a tribute to journalists, activists and dissenters who have been killed fighting the good fight.”



Amidst the Bustle of Campus Life

By Asma Umar, QU Architecture Student

Amidst the bustle of campus life,
I often find myself feeling alone
Surrounded by so many people
Yet still on my own

The peaceful mornings on campus,
Are bittersweet to say the least.
The promise of a bright future,
But the present feels like a beast.

I walk the same paths each day,
Wishing for a moment of connection.
But the faces blur and fade away,
Lost in their own direction.

Yet there are moments of solace,
When the campus comes to life.
Playing with cats and hearing birds,
Eases the sting of the strife.

So, I hold on to any hope,
That one day I'll find my place.
For now I'll keep moving forward,
Towards a brighter space.

Campus life may be melancholic,
But it's also full of beauty.
And in the end, the struggle will be worth it,
For a future that's truly groovy.

Arabic Calligraphy

By Mohammad Hosam Al-Nahas, Lecturer of English,
Foundation Program



Font type: Al-Diwani (adapted)

Translation: “And none knows the soldiers of your Lord except He.” Surah Al-Muddaththir Ayat 31
(74:31 Quran)



In this artwork, the word “He” (Allah SWT) has been increased in size and colored red to refer to His dominance and glory. The word “soldiers” (agents/servants) in the background has been repeated to illustrate the multitude of God’s soldiers in the universe. They are not limited by place, and their number and capacity are known only by God Almighty. The different shades and colors of the word “soldiers” symbolize the difference in nature and functions of God’s soldiers. The circular shape in the middle refers to the Earth.

Student Art

Painting: Heritage sails in the world of Vincent van Gogh
By Yasser Ahmed Al-Saadi, College of Engineering



“Through this painting, I wanted to integrate Qatari heritage, specifically maritime heritage, and the painting ‘Starry Night’ by Dutch Post-Impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh. I did this by employing the symbol and a type of dhow, the sanbuk, known as a traditional boat in Qatar. Through this work, I wanted to show the beauty of the boat in navigating the skies, defying the hardships and rigors of life in the past, and how our ancestors lived and adapted to the conditions of the past before the discovery of oil.”



Sports and Recreation

Nutrition for the Elderly

By Ms. Tamara Al Abdi and Ms. Hiba Chatila, Lecturers,
Department of Human Nutrition, College of Health Sciences

As we age, our nutritional needs undergo significant changes, and it becomes increasingly important to prioritize health and well-being. Proper nutrition plays a crucial role in maintaining good health and overall quality of life among the elderly. With aging, there is a natural slowing down of the metabolic rate, leading to reduced calorie requirements. However, it is crucial to emphasize that despite lower calorie needs, the requirement for essential nutrients remains as vital as ever.

It is very important for elderly to focus on a healthy eating pattern that includes nutrient rich foods that provide essential vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. A key concern for elderly is preserving muscle mass, which naturally diminishes with aging. To address this, an adequate intake of protein from sources such as lean meats, fish, eggs, legumes, and dairy products is essential. Protein not only helps in maintaining muscle mass but also supports various bodily functions. Hydration can be challenging for the elderly as the sensation of thirst may diminish with age. To ensure proper hydration, elderly should aim to consume at least eight cups of fluids daily. Additionally, incorporating fiber-rich foods like whole grains, fruits, and vegetables into their diet is crucial for promoting digestive health and preventing common issues such as constipation. Osteoporosis and the risk of bone fractures are significant concerns among the elderly. Maintaining strong bones necessitates including calcium-rich foods like dairy products and leafy greens in their diet. Ensuring an adequate intake of vitamin D, either through sunlight exposure or supplements, is equally important, as vitamin D plays a critical role in calcium absorption and overall bone health.

Apart from nutritional needs, the elderly should be aware of other concerns such as malnutrition, often resulting from factors like reduced appetite, difficulty chewing or swallowing, and certain medical conditions. Managing chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, or heart disease often requires dietary modifications and careful monitoring. Additionally, some medications may interact with specific nutrients, affecting their absorption, underscoring the importance of elderly consulting health care professionals.

To address these needs and concerns, instructions for a healthy diet include encouraging a balanced diet with a variety of fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, whole grains, and dairy. Portion control is essential to avoid overeating, given that the elderly may not require as many calories as they did in their younger years.

In some cases, supplements may be necessary, particularly for nutrients like vitamin B12 or calcium, and consulting a health care provider for guidance is advisable. For those with dental problems or difficulty swallowing, choosing soft and easy-to-chew foods is recommended. Regular check-ups with health care providers can help identify nutritional deficiencies or concerns early on, and social engagement, such as eating with friends and family, can boost appetite and social interaction, improving overall well-being.

Student Clubs

Alaa AbdEltwab, President of the Wmnahyaha Club:

“We aim to invigorate issues of the Islamic Ummah for the university community’s awareness”

Student clubs are organized under the supervision of the Student Activities Department at Qatar University. The clubs play a vital role in building educational and life experiences among students and providing them the opportunity to engage in non-academic student activities that help integrate them into the university community with colleagues who share the same interests. Student clubs also provide rich development opportunities, which equip students with teamwork skills and help refine other practical skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership. Campus Life speaks to Alaa AbdEltwab, President of the Wmnahyaha Student Club where she sheds light on the team’s goals and activities.

In a statement to Campus Life, Alaa AbdEltwab, President of the Wmnahyaha Club says, “The club mainly aims to revive the issues of the Islamic nation in the awareness and conscience of the university and student community and the whole world and to instill cultural awareness among all members of society.”

Regarding the activities and events recently organized by the club, she said: “The ‘After Eight’ campaign in 2022-2023 aimed to shed light on the struggles of Muslims in India within the student community. The campaign name ‘After Eight’ is a reference to the condition of Muslims after eight centuries of Islamic rule in India. The team organized various events to highlight different aspects of this issue, including a play titled ‘Cell Number Nine,’ which was attended by approximately 200 female students. The play focused on the suffering of Indian Muslim women, by shedding light on stories of Muslim women who were unjustly imprisoned.”

“Additionally, a panel discussion called ‘Muslims in India: Right and Duty’ was organized with the participation of faculty members from the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies. We also organized the ‘Ramadan League,’ in which 11 teams participated, each consisting of seven university students. The campaign featured an activity called the ‘Forbidden Zone,’ one of the largest events in the campaign, where visitors moved through various stations, starting from the investigation office. They were given a crime scenario written by the team and became responsible for solving it, searching for missing evidence inside an interactive and engaging maze. Visitors then moved to the crime office to learn about documented real-life cases and atrocities against Muslims in India, followed by various interactive stations including games and puzzles. The visitors concluded their journey by visiting the eyewitness booth, where they were isolated from the outside world to experience virtual reality using VR glasses. This aimed to simulate some of the daily and continuous challenges faced by Muslims in India.”

Speaking about the most important goals that the club seeks to achieve, she says, “The club seeks to achieve a set of goals, among the most prominent of which are: spreading intellectual awareness of national issues and promoting the values of volunteering, participation, and solidarity with various causes. The aim is also to enhance the values and ethical standards of community student work in the Arab and Islamic environment, as well as to instill the value of social responsibility and citizenship. This is done to strengthen students’ sense of belonging and connection to their community and nation. Additionally, the club aims to equip team members to emerge as influential and effective individuals in addressing the issues of their society and nation.”

Feature

Radiation of Islamic Civilization: An Inspiration for Students of Scientific Disciplines

By Dr. Alla El-Awaisi, Director of Clinical Operations and Engagement at QU Health

In the golden ages of Islamic civilization, many Muslim scholars excelled in various scientific fields, making monumental contributions that influenced many local and global societies. The impact of these scholars extended to countries in Europe and other societies of that time. The benefit derived from the scientific output of Muslim scholars and their works became evident, with the writings of Muslim scholars becoming the primary references for education and learning in European universities and scientific institutes for many centuries.

For example, the name of the renowned scientist and physician Ibn Sina shines brightly, as he significantly contributed to various scientific fields, especially in the field of medicine. His book titled “The Canon of Medicine” became a key reference for medical education and had a profound impact on the development of medicine in medieval Europe. As for Al-Razi, he played a major role in the advancement of medicine and chemistry. His book “Al-Hawi in Medicine” had a clear and evident influence in European societies, leading to its widespread circulation in European universities as a scientific material for medical education.

One of the prominent Muslim scholars, also known as the father of operative surgery, Al-Zahrawi, whose book “Kitab al-Tasrif,” known in English as “The Method of Medicine”, is a 30-volume Arabic encyclopedia on medicine and surgery and was considered a key reference for many centuries in European universities for the learning and teaching of medicine and surgery. Most hospitals worldwide still use surgical tools invented by this unique scientist. The renowned pharmacologist Ibn al-Baitar emerges as one of the greatest scientists in the field of botany, herbs, and pharmacology. His book “The Book of Medicinal and Nutritional Terms” served as a primary reference in plant sciences and pharmacology in European societies for many centuries. The book provided a comprehensive insight into the uses and benefits of various plants and herbs in preparing medicines and remedies.

These innovations and scientific contributions by Muslim scholars in the golden ages of Islamic civilization have been and continue to be an integral part of the history of Muslim scientific and intellectual excellence. They served as a starting point for the immense advancements in science witnessed by Europe and the Western world in subsequent centuries.

The world today is living in an era where technologies evolve, and knowledge changes at a very rapid pace. Therefore, it is essential to motivate and encourage students to be creative and distinguished in their fields of specialization, especially in scientific and technological domains, following in the footsteps of their predecessors who excelled in various fields.

It is the duty of our students today to strive for remarkable achievements that resonate and leave a positive impact on society, playing a key role in scientific and technological advancement. It must be emphasized that creativity and innovation in health, engineering, and natural sciences will have an advanced role in improving the quality of life and addressing challenges faced by individuals and communities.

Our students at QU must exert clear and substantial efforts to achieve success and excellence, for those who strive will find and those who persevere will succeed. A clear goal is like a guiding candle, illuminating their path and providing direction in their academic and personal development journey. They must focus on playing effective roles to enrich their experiences comprehensively, whether through achieving specific academic objectives or through active participation in non-academic activities within or outside the university. This helps in building a strong foundation of success, academic achievement, personal and social development. This can be achieved through taking advantage of practical work opportunities, engaging in leadership roles, participating in research and innovation activities, and utilizing technology.

Performance Development

Parenting in the Digital Age: Challenges and Solutions

By Dr. Badrane Benlahcene, Research Associate Professor, Ibn Khaldon
Center for Humanities & Social Sciences

Our world today is living in a digital age that has contributed to bringing humanity closer together and facilitating communication and information. However, this era has presented individuals and societies with significant challenges, especially for Arab-Islamic communities. These communities are not producers of digitization, but they are not immune to its spread and effects. Finding solutions to their growing challenges has become more complex, attracting various demographics, particularly children. This underscores the necessity of striving to protect and provide them with suitable upbringing in the face of these challenges.

Challenges on parenting:

One of the challenges parents face in raising their children in this context is related to the family value system and the social, mental, and physical development of children. Additionally, the rights and privacy of children are significant concerns. The family structure and its value system encounter more challenges as social media manages to breach cultural boundaries, disseminating standards and values different from our own. This has limited positive cross-cultural communication and mutual interaction, favoring the dominant culture and its values.

Furthermore, digital communication technology has led to the transfer of lifestyle patterns, behaviors, and family forms from cultures that possess high digital marketing capabilities. Consequently, the value system within our families is subjected to significant distortions, negatively impacting social upbringing, complicating parental guidance, and adversely affecting the representation of societal values. This can lead to a contradiction of values, disruption in the function of the family, and a lack of clarity in its structure and educational functions.

Therefore, experts warn of the harmful effects of digitization on children and the risks associated with unbalanced use of digital applications. This necessitates parents' attention and understanding of the underlying risks because the absence of parental guidance and excessive use of digital media disrupts the social, mental, and physical growth of children. It exposes them to risks such as isolation, lack of activities, addiction, and reduced interaction with their surroundings and society. Moreover, it limits opportunities for forming real-world friendships, developing equitable feelings, and satisfying natural needs.

Excessive use of digital applications can lead to weakened social skills, exposure to psychological harm, weakened ethical awareness, and reshapes children's thinking in ways not fully understood. There is a strong correlation between internet addiction and anxiety, depression, boredom, and isolation in children and teenagers. This may cause symptoms such as tremors, nausea, anxiety, impaired self-control, insomnia, obesity, low self-esteem, and the proliferation of harmful values and habits.

Parental education becomes more challenging, especially in the face of challenges that violate children's fundamental rights and the need to protect their privacy from breaches and bullying. Some researchers suggest that agencies and social organizations should increase awareness among families about children's rights regarding digital media use. They also recommend raising awareness through educational and informational programs directed at families and schools. Building a value system that focuses on upbringing according to our Arab-Islamic culture and contemporary requirements is crucial.

My University Album

In this section, we look back at a number of beautiful university memories. In this issue, we return to the eighties and nineties of the last century, where we review a series of events and activities organized by the university with the aim of shedding light on the Palestinian heritage and culture.

- November, 1989 (Opening of the Palestinian Exhibition, organized on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People)



- March, 1988 (Charity Market in Support of the Palestinian Intifada)



- December, 1994 (Lecture: The Arabs of Palestine 48 in the Occupied Territories)

