

WELCOME TO

THE CGS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2

CONNECT. DISCOVER. EMPOWER



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, higher education faced many challenges. Certainly, there were unavoidable restrictions on campus and in society, but, here at AGU, we have turned challenges to opportunities and obstacles to possibilities. Education may have been permanently reshaped globally; however, we continue to adhere to our commitment in providing cutting-edge education and research. AGU's mission & vision remain intact at all times. We shall continue to encourage innovation, innovative solutions, and research. We always strive to be dominantly involved and engaged in the community. The world has witnessed digital transitions in the educational setting, and AGU has smoothly and effectively adopted this transition while making digitalization accessible for all. We truly appreciate the efforts and ingenuity shown by our faculty and staff who have all uniquely contributed to AGU's educational sustainability, success, and excellence. Our infrastructure, too, has facilitated for prominent knowledge sharing and academic progress. Our students have displayed perseverance, patience, and hope. AGU is a vibrant university with ideas that come to life through research, debates, seminars, workshops and much more. We have all faced and

challenged this unprecedented situation of uncertainty, yet of flexibility, too. So, at the end of this academic year, and, though, at a distance, AGU celebrates all your efforts and accomplishments in making the best of the current situation. We have been maintaining social distancing with all community members including our grandparents, parents, family members, colleagues, and friends; however, these sacrifices make for the greater good and cause to protect all our dear and vulnerable ones.

These trying times have tested our values—not only our personal values, but values towards our community, collective responsibility, and accountability. In fact, these values have helped us to heal, proceed and avail. Here, at AGU, we provide education to the experts and leaders of tomorrow based on research, innovation, and inspiration for our societies to manifest adaptability and resilience. Education, innovation, and research outstandingly play a role in our present world and likewise at AGU.

AGU shall remain an emblem of exceptional knowledge, distinguished success, and excellence.

So, let us all stay committed to maintaining the safety and well-being of AGU's campus community and the broader society in hopes to be together on campus in the near future.



Dr. Khalid Abdulrahman Alohalay
President of Arabian Gulf University

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies(CGS),

Prof. Soud Mohammed Almahamid, faculty members, and staff all look forward to another productive academic year.

As this academic year is about to end, a number of our graduate students will leave us ; thus, we wish all our graduates and their families well and may their graduation be a bright beginning to a new chapter of their lives. We also remind our dear graduates that AGU and CGS welcome you back at any time.

We also welcome our new students and wish them a successful academic and social journey. CGS is a friendly educational environment where you will enjoy your stay, and AGU will make you proud whenever and wherever you are.

At CGS, we provide world-class education and research. We are dedicated to advancing the frontiers of knowledge and to providing the best educational services to our students and community at large.

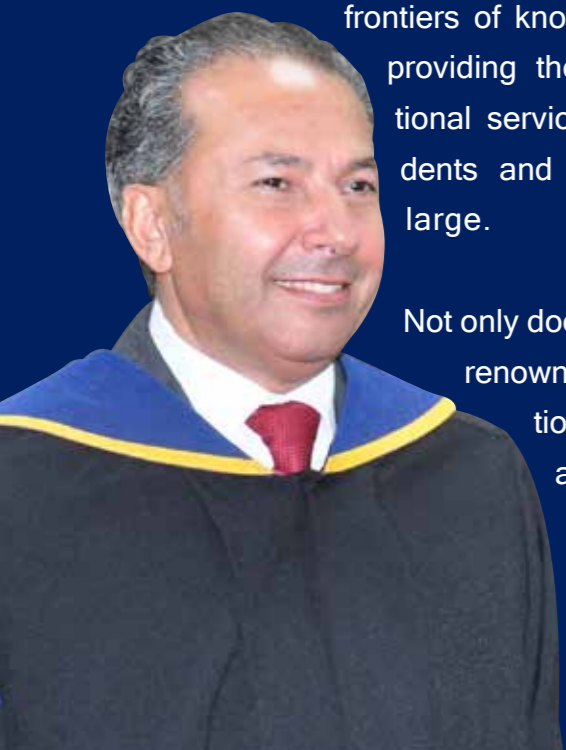
Not only does CGS have a renowned long-tradition of exceptional research and education, but it also holds extracurricular activities. In fact, CGS is a catalyst

encouraging risk-taking as well as an icebreaker in teaching and research.

Our recognized faculty members have unmatched expertise thereby always portraying competence and professionalism. CGS always strives to meet students' needs and leaps even further to fill in gaps by offering advanced seminars, workshops, and training sessions to staff, students and community members. Here, at CGS, we take pride in our staff's and students' ongoing achievements.

We have not only faced the COVID-19 pandemic, but we have also challenged it at many levels, while ensuring we promote the process of learning and teaching by applying innovative solutions that fit the new context. We have accepted the COVID-19 pandemic as a challenge and have considered the pandemic period as an exceptional learning opportunity by exploring further possibilities to advance our educational services. The pandemic has allowed us to benefit from the global pool of experts, which was not easily possible before. The COVID-19 pandemic has also encouraged our staff and students to have global impact by offering high quality teaching and research services.

Indeed, I would like to thank you all for the great year that has been distinguished with remarkable achievements for all, and I truly wish you all the best.



Prof. Soud Mohammed Almahamid
Dean of College of Graduate Studies



Prof. Alaaeldin Ayoub
Vice Dean for
Technological Studies

All my dear students,

I'd like to thank all of you for your great efforts and your cooperation with your professors to achieve this wonderful success in this exceptional academic year. I and my colleagues are really proud of you to achieve this great achievement during this challenging time of the global pandemic Covid-19. You had succeeded to make online meetings more energetic and interactive as you were able to work, interact and communicate with your colleagues and your professors. Also, I wish all the best for students who are still studying with us. It was clear that you did your best to be more interactive and cooperative and we will try together to overcome all the obstacles to achieve tangible academic results in the next year. Additionally, I would like to welcome the new students who are nominated to join the high studies faculty. You have to know that you are going to find more energetic and interactive academic environment and that we will be always supportive to you to achieve your goals. Now, it's time to wish all the best for all of you.



Dr. Maha Alsabbagh,
Vice Dean for Technological Studies

To our Dearest Students, Another academic year has successfully passed while we are still coping with COVID-19 impacts on teaching and learning. We have all took part in the massive transition from the traditional face-to-face meetings to the new experience of online communication in both teaching and supervision. We have built together, throughout this transition, new platforms and gained technical and interpersonal skills. Congratulations to those who graduated this year. We are so proud of you all, and wish you the best.

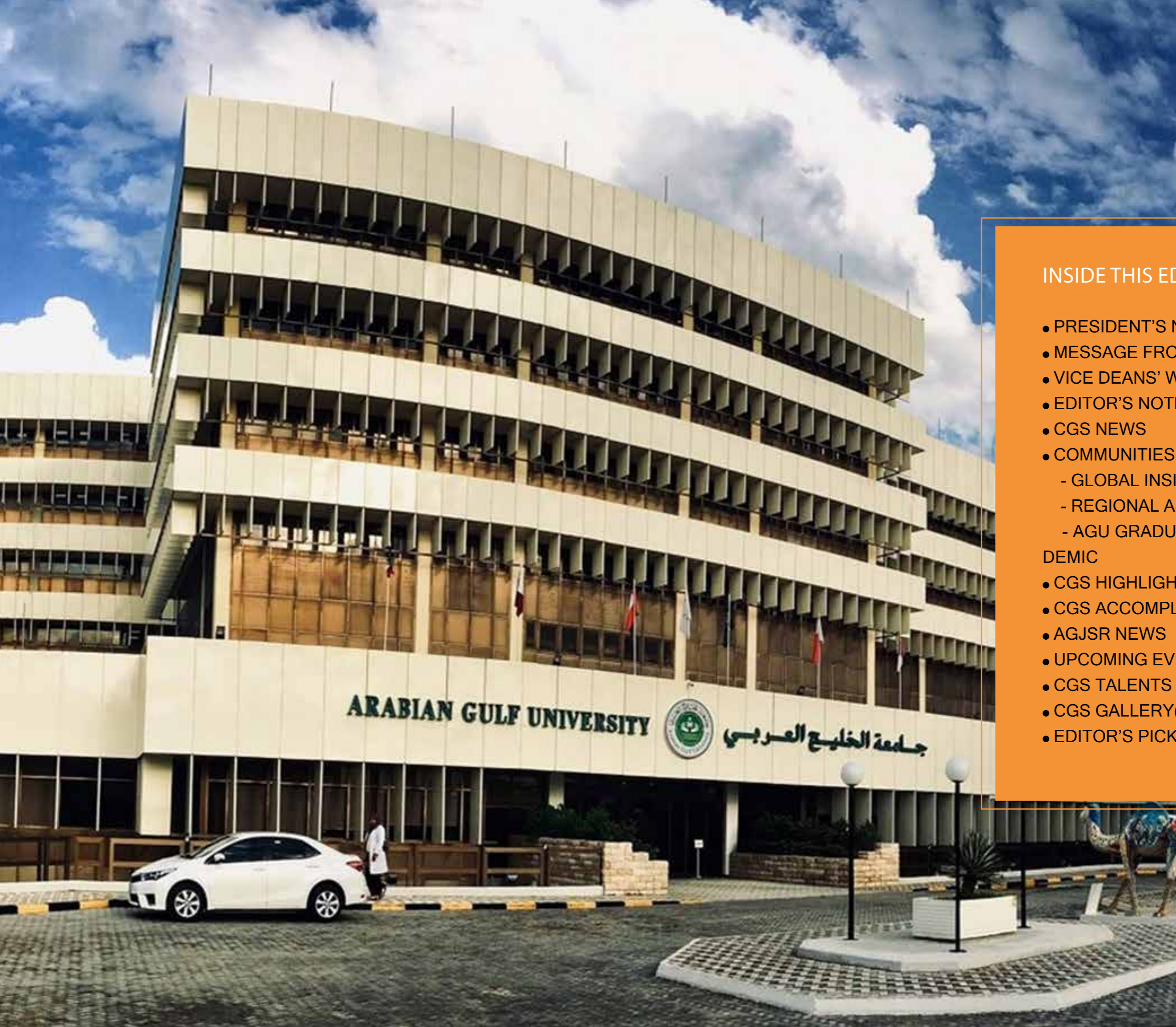


Dr. Nouredine Ben Khalaf
Vice Dean for research
& innovation

To all our actual students and future graduates, welcome to the new academic year!

2020/2021 has been one of the most challenging years in the field of education but together with your perseverance, eagerness for knowledge, patience and determination, we had a rich experience in finding innovative ways in conducting teaching and research to overcome the crisis. We are confident that 2021/2022 will be a successful year with more achievements and progress!

Wishing you the best & good luck!



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WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE CGS NEWSLETTER!



Luma Al Salah
The Editor

Dear Readers,
It is with pleasure I introduce you to this exclusive "challenging the COVID-19 Pandemic" issue which also marks the end of our academic year and resumes to take pride in the Newsletter's established slogan "Connect & Discover to Empower". The first inaugural issue was published in December 2020 to celebrate Bahrain's National Day while countering the social distancing norms due to the pandemic by establishing a platform to stay informed and updated. In confronting the pandemic, we have learnt to come together as one to make a difference. In the preparation process, this current issue has gone a step further by reaching out to the global community thereby highlighting how communities have rejoiced in unity to face the pandemic. Educators worldwide have become front liners and changemakers honoring the continuity and quality of education. In the next few pages, the reader will live the experiences of educators and students in different regions of the world, all presented in an all-inclusive publication. I must say it was a fun ride to learn from other communities and other institutions in order to capture the pandemic perspectives. The pertinent communication, the connections, the queries, and thoughts along the way all remain tucked behind the scenes but definitely inseparable from the depicted glimpses in the flip of the page. So, from this platform, I wish to thank

all educators and students from the GCC region and other regions of the world for their enthusiasm in sharing with AGU their educational experiences during the pandemic. It should also be noted that preparing and publishing this issue has been a challenge in itself since access to publication and printing services has been close to impossible due to the lockdown in Bahrain. Indeed, there have been countless obstacles; however, it has been a worthwhile voyage believing that with determination, there is always a way. The past academic year has definitely been a year of strength, potential, and courage to face the unknown as well as a year of reflection and wisdom to move on. We have all learned to build a new sense of community - virtually. We have all had our views and stances during these trying times; we have all lived stories to share and tell for a lifetime. Here, at CGS, we continue to aspire to bring the best of AGU. So, till next time, have a blessed summer! Enjoy reading through...

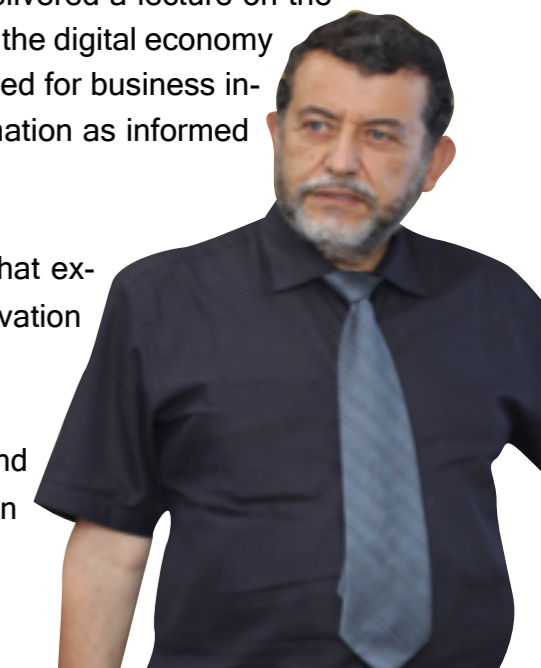


AGU HOSTS LECTURE ON THE REALITY AND VISION OF BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY Feb. 2021

Prof. Rustom Mamlook in the Innovation and Technology Management Department in the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) delivered a lecture on the reality and vision of business intelligence highlighting applications in the digital economy and how to benefit from them. Prof Mamlook indicated a growing need for business intelligence to guide decision-making, relating to the quality of information as informed decision-making promotes technological advancements.

Prof. Mamlook also discussed business intelligence emphasizing that extracting it from databases will be an important aspect in defining innovation in business and marketing.

The lecture was attended by a number of academic staff members and students at AGU's College of Graduate Studies (CGS) who engaged in a comprehensive discussion.



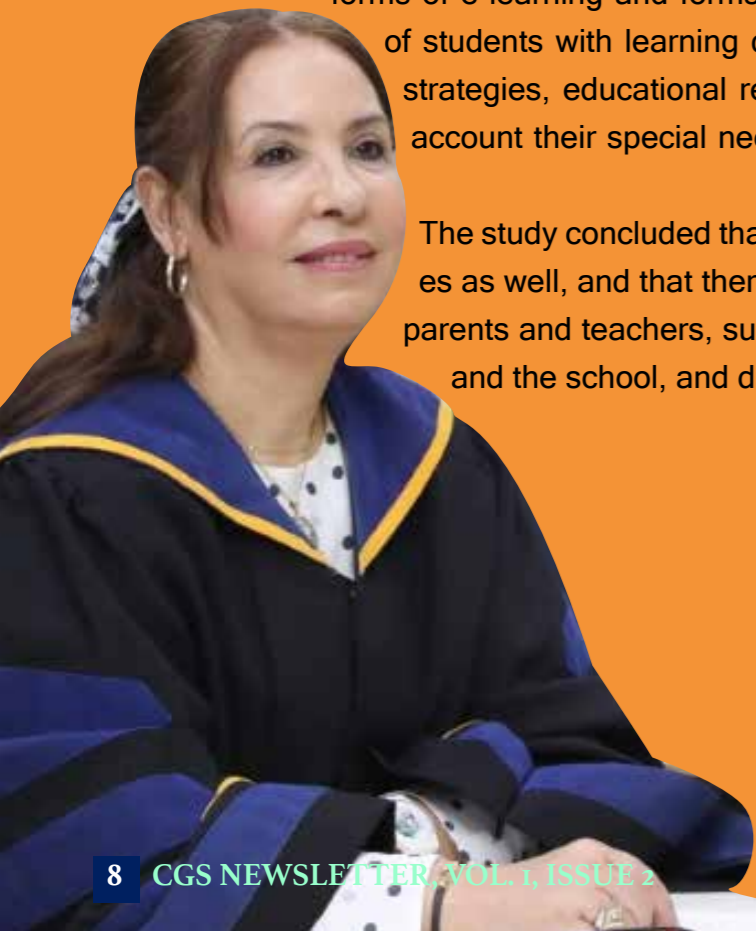


A WORKSHOP ON PARENTS' & TEACHERS' SATISFACTION WITH DISTANCE LEARNING Feb. 2021

The Department of Learning and Developmental Disabilities organized a workshop on the extent of parents' and teachers' satisfaction with distance learning for children with learning difficulties in light of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Kingdom of Bahrain, following a field study that monitored opinions of parents .

The workshop was presented by the Associate Professor of Social Cognitive Psychology in the Department of Learning and Developmental Disabilities at the College of Graduate Studies, Dr. Nadia Al-Tazi, and targeted teachers, specialists, school directors, researchers and those interested in the field of learning difficulties as well as parents and educators, who in turn were introduced to the forms of e-learning and forms of distance education. The study targeted parents of students with learning difficulties who need special teaching methods and strategies, educational resource rooms and individual education taking into account their special needs.

The study concluded that distance learning has its advantages and challenges as well, and that there are many challenges that have been overcome by parents and teachers, such as increasing communication between the family and the school, and diversity in strategies.



CGS ESTABLISHES NEXT GENERATION COMPUTING DEPARTMENT March 2021

AGU launches Next Generation Computing Master's Program, an innovative academic program that meets the needs of what is known as the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution based on information technology, artificial intelligence and information security.

In a ceremony attended by a group of members of the diplomatic figures and cultural attachés for the Gulf Cooperation Council states, the President of the Arab Gulf University, Dr. Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al-Ohaly, announced the launch of this program, to be next September, to come as a continuation of the university's journey in adopting new, creative and rare disciplines in the Arab Gulf region.

In this respect, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies stated that the graduate studies programs at AGU are distinguished and unmatched in other GCC countries' universities.

In addition, the Head of the Next Generation Computing Department, Dr. Adel Bouhula, gave a presentation on the department's specializations, objectives, expected outputs, and its usefulness to various vital sectors in the public and private sectors.



The French Arabian Business School: disrupting the disruption in 2021-2020



In September 2021, the Covid-19 situation tended to impeach all the travels to Europe, including the 2weeks residence in Paris for the MBA students of the French Arabian Business School. All the lights were red for this residence, scheduled in October 2020. The outbreak messed our traditional trip to Paris at the Essec campus and the staff of FABS was preparing to turn it online, unfortunately, surrendering against this virus, such as all the other universities of the Gulf.

That is the precise moment, at the very beginning of September, where all the management of the University told us: "deal: if you prove us you can do it, we will help you". It started with the agreement of the President, Dr Khalid Abdulrahman Alohal, requesting us to prove that all the safety measures will be taken during this residence. Then we prepared 12 pages documents proving that everything will be done to protect the health of our students approved by Professor Afif Bin Salih, Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at the CMMS.

However, it was just the first part of the adventure, and then we worked all along with the Dean of the CGS to open the doors: first, opening the doors of the French Embassies in Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabian and Kuwait, which were

closed since February 2020. With the commitment of all the university, we convinced them to reopen the visa section only for our students.

Then we had to convince the Saudi authorities as well as the French ones to issue the visas and the authorisation to leave the country... In addition, thanks to our determination, slots were given only to our students to apply for visas... and it worked! Then we had to find available flights but finally, we did it! As Mark Twain wrote: "They did not know it was impossible so they did it".

At the end of the journey, all the students were able to assess the chance they had.

In this troubled period, the AGU, through its French Arabian Business School, demonstrated that it was possible to turn an obstacle into an opportunity.



AGU Discovers New Sign of Inflammation March 2021



The "Molecular Medicines Reports" journal published the results of a study conducted by the Medical Biotechnology Research Team in the College of Graduate Studies at Arabian Gulf University.

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Dahmani Fathallah, who led the research team consisting of Dr. Nourredine Ben Khalaf and student Dalal Al-Mahtab, stated that the importance of this discovery lies primarily in that it came in the field of inflammation, which has been the main research area of the medical biotechnology program for more than a decade as inflammation is one of the most important biological processes of the immune system which helps in repairing wounds or tissue damage or fighting diseases. However, if the immune cells lose control of the level of inflammation, the process becomes exaggerated and can be directed against the body causing many serious diseases and complications such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, nerve diseases and even the COVID syndrome, which is currently sweeping the world.

The study focused on providing scientific information that clarified that this sign could be a target to develop drugs to treat inflammations. This outcome is considered a scientific achievement and a firm step that opens the horizon for the development of the fourth generation of drugs that treat infections.



CGS HOLDS “CREATIVE WRITING MATTERS” WEBINAR WITH US AUTHORS

MARCH 2021

ARAB GULF JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WEBSITE LAUNCHED March 2021

In his opening speech, Dr. Al Ohaly called the audience to take note of a seminar held back in the early eighties highlighting the directions of AGU. This recalled seminar presented recommendations to step ahead and beyond the classic and normal. Thus, in light of the launching initiative, Dr. Al Ohaly stressed the importance of research and innovation towards the path of excellence.

At the held event, Prof. Soud AlMahamid, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, stated that the Editorial Board of the Journal developed and converted its archives from 2010 until now into digital copies available on the Journal's website for all researchers free of charge. Moreover, it was noted that the Editorial Board focused on classifying the Journal in a number of prestigious databases within the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system to facilitate for an efficient and effective spread of the Journal's topics in numerous electronic scientific databases.

The Journal's website (<http://www.agjsr.agu.edu.bh>) was acknowledged for research submissions and submission regulations were discussed.

The Journal is registered under the international ISSN number: 1985-9899 for print copies and number E-ISSN: 2536-0051 for electronic versions, which are classification numbers for the Journal and are affiliated with AGU. These numbers were obtained as per the procedures and requirements of the Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research was first established in 1983 by the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), based in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Journal serves the local, regional, and global community and accepts research submissions in the fields of applied science, agricultural science, environmental studies, and technology.

The Editorial Board members were named to include Dr. Moiz Bakhiet, Dr. Diaa Rizk, Dr. Wael A. Ismail El Moslimany, Dr. Alaa Eldin A. Ayoub, Dr. Mohammad Shahid, Dr. Abdunnasser Al Jarrah, Dr. Merwan Hosni, Dr. Adel Bouhoula, Dr. Waheeb Al Nasser, Dr. Nouredine Ben Khalaf, and Dr. Fatima Al Jassim.



The College of Graduate Studies at Arabian Gulf University conducted a webinar on “Creative Writing Matters” planned, organized and presented by English Language Instructor, Mrs. Luma Fayez AlSalah. The webinar was attended by professors and students from different universities in USA, Bahrain and the GCC region totaling to almost 70 attendees. The webinar hosted two distinguished guest speakers: Director of the Writing Program at Wichita State University and Associate Professor of English, Dr. Darren DeFrain and Dr. Casey Pycior, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Southern Indiana who serves as Fiction Editor of Southern Indiana Review

The webinar began with Mrs. Luma's presentation on defining creative writing and the importance of creative writing while highlighting the role of creativity and language. Mrs. Luma also stressed on the link between creativity and innovative thinking in writing and narration. Urging on creative writing, Mrs. Alsalah encouraged attendees to think creatively and innovatively to capture reflections. She also explained how creative writing allows readers to share and live experiences that may have never been experienced before through a form of simulation through written words. Thus, language paves the way for

simulation, visualization, and conceptualization. According to Alsalah, language can create a virtual reality, thus creativity and effective writing skills go hand-in-hand and should be greatly accentuated. She also expressed that words crystallize images and that writing is a process of self-discovery revealing philosophies & wisdom while cultivating creativity. She also clarified that creative writing is not pertinent to any culture or social norms. Any writer can be creative in any community or society.

On their parts, Dr. DeFrain and Dr. Pycior discussed their books and works. Both confirmed the significance of creative writing and fostering creative writing programs. The guest speakers also stressed that language form and meaning have a way of “revitalizing language relationships” and thus improving writing skills. The professors also assured that creative writing is a laboratory for exploring oneself and improves empathy.

Mrs. Luma Alsalah concluded the session by addressing the question: Does Creative Writing Really Matter? & what matters and issues of creative writing should be taken into consideration which was led in an open audience discussion.





EDUCATIONAL STUDIES VICE DEAN WINS KHALIFA AWARD April 2021

Prof. Alaaeldin Ayoub, the vice dean of graduate studies for educational affairs, professor of measurement, evaluation and statistics at Arabian Gulf University (AGU), won first place of Khalifa award for education, in category of educational research. The winning research is entitled "Effectiveness of Educational Program Based on Challenge in Developing Academic Determination, Future Perspective, and Reducing Emotional Intensity Among Gifted Secondary School Students in Poor Environments".

Significantly the first place award for Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Ayoub's research is due to its modern and innovative method for teaching students in general and gifted students in particular. The study also deals with challenge-based learning,

developing the idea and developing a practical framework.

Also, the importance of the research in its approach to an important group of gifted people, namely the gifted students in poor environments, in response to the recommendations of studies to provide extension services and programs to meet their academic and future needs that help them overcome the factors caused by the surrounding environmental conditions.

Prof. Alaaeldin said, "Khalifa award for education is one of the most important scientific awards, judged at the global level and the level of the Arab world and that winning the award is a prestigious academic honor and reputation- a positive step in academic and professional growth."



A RESEARCH SEMINAR ON EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS April 2021

Prof. Abdulnasser AlJarrah, Gifted Education Associate Professor conducted The 'Experimental Designs' workshop to promote knowledge among graduate students in the field of educational research.

The workshop presented experimental designs and global designs that can be used in research noting the different research methods to be used with respect to the research topics and objectives.

Education Associate Professor conducted The 'Experimental Designs' workshop to promote knowledge among graduate students in the field of educational research.

The workshop presented experimental designs and global designs that can be used in research noting the different research methods to be used with respect to the research topics and objectives. Prof. Aljarrah noted the significance of correlations and variables in research highlighting that experimental designs may be in many forms and that some are better than others in controlling the factors affecting the internal and external validity of the research or the experiment. He also discussed external and internal validity in detail. The workshop wrapped up in a question-session and students showed much interest in the discussed research methods.



AGU'S REPRESENTATIVE OF WEST ASIA IN THE GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INITIATIVES April 2021



Dr. Sumaya Yusuf was selected by UNEP as a representative of West Asia in the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals Initiatives GO4SDGs

United Nations Environment Program has chosen Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering at the College of Graduate Studies at the Arab Gulf University Dr. Sumaya Youssef to be a representative of the West Asia region and a member of the global advisory group for the Academy of Sustainable Lifestyles Youth Initiative, in addition to being an international advisor to sustainable youth lifestyles, which is led by the United Nations Program Environment to achieve sustainable development goals.

Empowering youth to become future leaders and innovators in sustainable development and lifestyles is one of the global opportunities goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs), and to achieve this, the Sustainable Lifestyles Academy provides youth training for youth around the world, influencers and other relevant partners involved in driving the transition to patterns Sustainable life through the Academy, as young people demand to secure a better future around the world by taking actions for a better society; Through emerging initiatives they are changing their lifestyles, pushing governments toward better policies and accelerating momentum towards the transition to sustainability.



ARABIAN GULF UNIVERSITY IN ABU DHABI'S EXCLUSIVE SESSION ON CREATIVITY AND CHILDHOOD

April 2021



The General Secretariat of the Khalifa Award for Education held at its remote headquarters in Abu Dhabi a dialogue session entitled "Creativity, Childhood's Path to the Future", coinciding with the activities and events of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2021. AGU was represented by Prof. Alaaeldin Ayoub who won the award for his research entitled: The Effectiveness of a Challenge-Based Counseling Program in Developing Academic Determination and the Future Perspective and Reducing Emotional Tensions among Gifted Students at the Secondary Stage in Poor Environments. The researcher developed the idea and developed a practical and applied framework for its implementation. Challenge-based learning is a new approach to learning that combines teamwork, self-directed learning, peer learning, real-world problem solving, and learning. The importance of the research lies in addressing an important group of gifted students in poor environments and the im-

portance of that group to society and in response to studies' recommendations to provide services and counseling programs to meet their academic and future needs that help them overcome the factors caused by the surrounding environmental conditions. The research dealt with modern variables represented in the development of academic determination, perseverance, passion and focus on Opportunities, good planning for life and use of time, and reducing emotional sensitivity, emotional arousal and emotional rigidity resulting from the gap between talent and poverty.

In the meeting, Professor Ayoub addressed some future educational issues, such as the challenge-based learning model, one of the new ideas that have an effective impact on classroom practices, and evaluating the added value of enrichment, guidance and training programs.



AN ONLINE PLATFORM TO PRESENT ALL 1,300 THESES & DISSERTATIONS UP TO DATE

April 2021

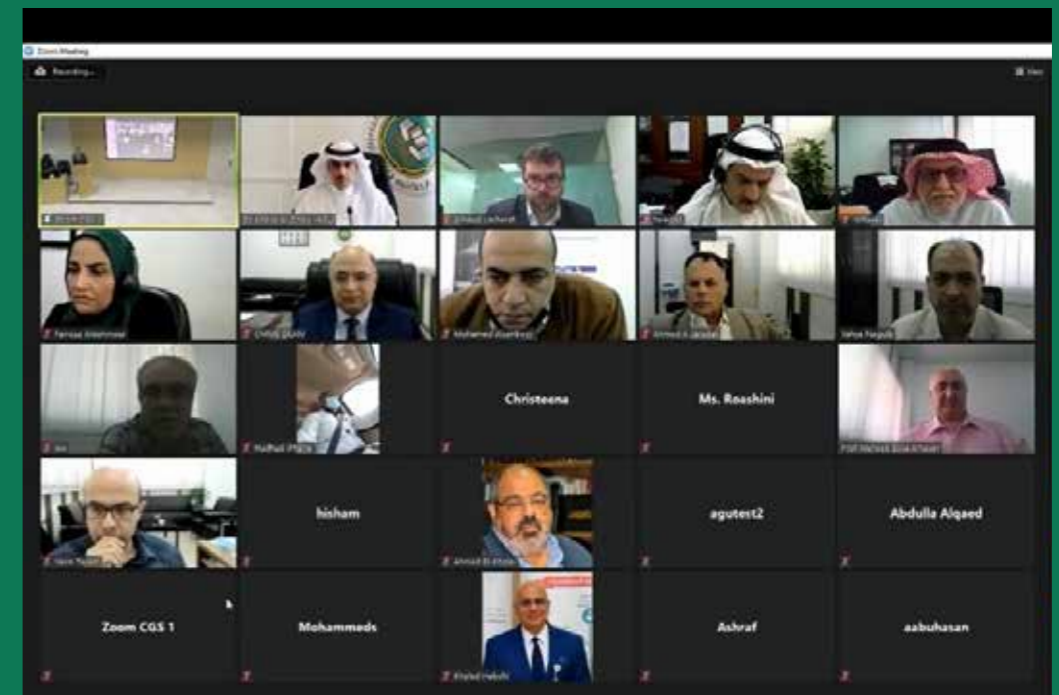


The College of Graduate Studies has launched an online platform for all its theses and dissertations totalling up to 1,300 discussed research studies since 1989.

In the launching ceremony, AGU president Dr Khaled Bin Abdulrahman Al Ohaly stressed that this initiative reflects the university's identity in valuing the significance of scientific research. He also addressed the importance of publication in distinguished journals and global scientific databases. Dr. Alahaly emphasized that research is one of the main pillars upon which the university was founded and noted that AGU has recently allocated two million dollars in budget to support the conduct of scientific research with regards to laboratories and equipment.

On his part, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies Professor Soud Al Mahamid revealed that the website contains theses published in their full versions from 1989 until the present day in order to serve all. He also stated that this initiative allows AGU affiliates to fully download and/ or print a thesis. He added that the website provides easy access to resources by research title, research supervisor or researcher's name, along with the year of publication or keywords.

The online ceremony was concluded by an open discussion.



CGS HOLDS RESEARCH DAY MAY 2021

CGS launched the activities of its Scientific Research Day by conducting an online ceremony under the patronage of his excellency Dr. Khalid Alohalay. This eventful day witnessed an opening ceremony, a plenary session and parallel sessions that brought together a selection of scientific researches prepared by members of academic staff, students and researchers.

In the opening ceremony, AGU's President Dr. Khalid Alohalay stated the importance of research in AGU strategy and encouraged all research initiatives.

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies Prof. Soud Al-Mahamid communicated the significance of this event during a time when the world has been suffering from a stifling health crisis, affecting all walks of life while requiring innovative research solutions to accelerate pace of recovery from this crisis and return life to normal.

On his part, College of Graduate Studies Vice-Dean for Research and Innovation, Dr. Nourredine Ben Khalaf added that the event offered a rich array of researches (about 40 papers), with var-



ied topics in different fields including medicine, environmental biotechnology, innovation management, natural resources and environment, learning technology, E-learning, gifted education, educational and developmental disabilities. Both guestspeakers were from Queen's University, Belfast, UK. Prof. Allen Thurston Professor of Education, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, and Dr. Alison Mackenzie, Senior Lecturer in the School of Sociology, Education and Social Work.

Dr. Thurston conducted a presentation on "Scientific writing for publication in international journals" discussing how and why to get published with special attention to proper editing.

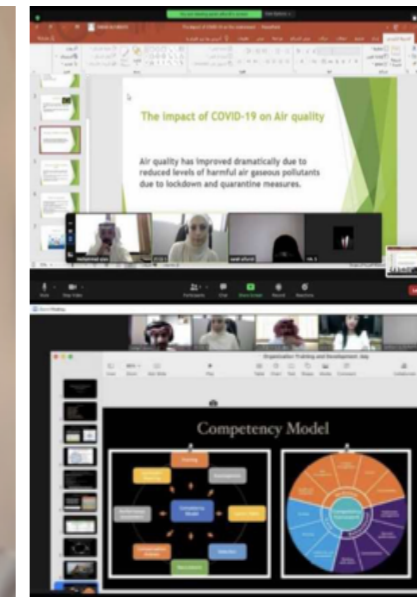
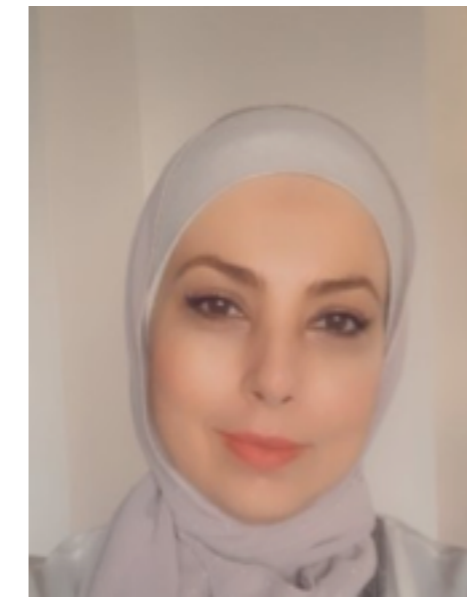
Moreover, Dr. Alison MacKenzie's presentation highlighted the principals of research ethics focusing on vulnerability, privacy, accountability and responsibility or research participants.

It should be noted that CGS Research Day attracted about 250 participants from 20 countries, from which 60% were PhD holders from universities across the MENA region. The participants also included representatives from about 15 gov-

ernmental bodies in the Gulf Region.

The event included the presentation of about 50 research projects by Faculty and Postgraduate Students of different technological and educational programs, highlighting the important scientific diversity among CGS departments and the rich portfolio of scientific research topics addressing major challenges faced today by the Gulf region as well as the Global community.

This year, the CGS research day highlighted AGU's vision and strategy, through showcasing an innovation-driven research in a multidisciplinary environment, and the importance of strengthening the Research capabilities through encouraging collaborative projects as well as allowing access to technological platforms.



CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION BEYOND THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

In an initiative to develop creativity and innovation beyond the virtual classroom in the College of Graduate Studies, Mrs. Luma Alsalah, English Language Instructor, encouraged students to apply English Language in their different fields of expertise and educational backgrounds.

In a time when virtual classrooms may have restricted certain endeavors, students were very apt in displaying their keenness in going beyond the virtual classroom setting and incorporating language creatively and innovatively in their workplaces in order to bring that experience to the classroom setting.

This initiative was greatly welcomed by students who were enthusiastic in sharing their innovative and creative successes virtually. Students brought their innovativeness and creativity from their various expertise to the educational setting through the lens of English language. Noteworthy, too, the students' presentations resembled their different fields, including leadership and management; training and development; giftedness and educational studies; environmental biotechnology; water and irrigation, as well as other environmental studies.

To capture a few, within the framework of training and development, innovation was highlighted in the competency model and best practices. In another project, under the framework of creative development, the importance of creativity was raised in deviating from the norm in a practical context and accepting risks in any new direction. The students also referred to several innovative steps in their practical fields, including the irrigation project associated with the Saudi 2030 plan, and also the applications of new technologies in studies of microbes that have not yet been explored.





SYMPOSIUM ON THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING IMPACT

June 2021

In “The Physics of Climate Change and Global Warming “ Symposium, Prof. Dr. Waheeb Issa Al-Nasser, Professor of Applied Physics discussed the current situation of the increasing global temperature level and the Earth’s periodic astronomical changes plus their impact on the climate, as well as the greenhouse gases effect on the climate. This online event resembled a joint scientific symposium organized by AGU in cooperation with RCTSST and TWA, UN.

On his part, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, Prof. Soud AlMahamid, encouraged to promote academic cooperation between the University and the Center. He also raised awareness by stating global warming isn’t an issue of luxury but of necessity.

Professor Waheeb Al-Nasser explained the phenomenon of global warming and climate change from a physical point of view. The symposium also tackled the impact of the Corona-19 pandemic on climate change.

Noteworthy , too, Prof. Dr. Al-Nasser expressed indications of a rise in the average temperature in the Kingdom of Bahrain for the period from 2020 to 2050. He added it could reach 10 C, more than the long-term average of 30 years.

In addition, the Regional Center was established in Amman, Jordan to serve the Arab countries. Its members comprise 14 Arab countries, and the Center also plans to expand its academic programs.



SCOPUS& WEB OF SCIENCE- RANKED AGJSR

June 2021

Dean of graduate studies and editor-in-chief of the Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research (AGJSR), Prof. Soud Al-Mahamid, announced ranking AGJSR in “Scopus & Web of Science” within predominant research database. He also stated AGU’s distinguished research and distinctive studies.

The Dean also stated that the AGJSR has published its third issue for this year naming several works including that of Lulwa Budalamah, Ahmed El-Kholei, and Odeh Al-Jayousi, entitled “Harnessing Value-based Financing for Achieving SDGs: Social Innovation Model for Arab Municipalities” ; Mohammed Abido, Kholoud Abou Seedo, Ahmed Salih, and Asma Abahussain, in a research titled “the effect of secondary-treated municipal wastewater discharge on nutrient concentrations in leaves and soils of gray mangrove in Bahrain. Also, “Internal and External Factors on Women’s Entrepreneurship Performance in The State of Kuwait” by Afaf Bugawa and Shaikhah Aljuwaisri was highlighted.



REGIONAL DISCUSSION ON FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

AGU was presented by Graduate Studies College Natural Resources and Environmental Engineering Assistant Professor Dr Sumaya Yousif in a regional discussion on Food Waste Prevention: innovations and solutions in the Arab region’ . The discussion was organized by the FAO Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for West Asia.



As keynote speaker, Dr Yousif addressed technical opportunities for organic waste management and food waste management priorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as the GCC countries in her presented study. She also tackled the management of food waste and organic waste while also highlighting obstacles.

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

Global Insights

The complexities of Covid this past year has brought home this recognition across the globe of the need for change and their traditional academic norms. Scared to change, scared of losing their intellectual relevance, scared of unknown future scenarios, scared of the loss of income, scared of losing viability and wholly unprepared for the new expectations they are now being forced to recognise a post-pandemic and can no longer avoid.

We are at a unique and unknown place whereby for the first time in history teachers and most lecturers have no idea of what jobs they are preparing their students for. It's not necessarily all about the technical shifts we are making by going online now with the advent of Covid, successful transformational change is more concerned with co-construction of Partnered Pedagogy now with the students and employers. Employers haven't wanted higher degrees now for years, in this new normal they are seeking proven and experienced soft skills that can quantify and lift everyone's wellbeing. They need Team Coaches who can lead groups of low morale employees into positive agents of change - high performing teams with agreed expectations and project manage them towards milestone goals and shared visions. Universities will have to acknowledge and accept these sudden paradigm shifts in the needs for pragmatic life-skills and the wide ranging soft-skills that their stakeholders are increasingly realising they require.

Dr. Laurence H Brown
Ed.D, MA.Ed, PGCE(FE), TEFL, BA(HONS), Cert. Ed., NSA, EFQM, BQF, FRSA.
Worcestershire, UK, 06/2021

In March of the year 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic became a reality and below is the impact related to C. Bruce Stephens' teaching. I was scheduled to teach domestically in Seattle, WA. In April, Kansas City, KS in June, San Diego, California for the first two weeks in September and Orlando, FL. In October. Classes were to be taught through the University of Kansas Aerospace Short Course Program where I have taught for ten years. Classes to be taught included 8 different courses for different levels. All classes were cancelled. In addition, all international classes to be held in Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, and Columbia were also all cancelled. In June of 2020, The University requested that courses would be taught online. Since that time, I have converted seven of my eight courses to online and taught four courses online. At the present time we are planning to continue Onsite courses in September 2021 in San Diego, CA.

Thanks
Bruce Stephens
Kansas University Aerospace Short Course Instructor, USA

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

The past 15 months have been like nothing else we have ever experienced. Nobody imagined anything like this could happen. That we would be locked down, isolated, experience loss and face what for many of us would be the biggest test in our lives so far. But from these testing times emerged the strength of humanity and here in this short article I want to share what I noticed in my students during these months. When faced with unprecedented challenges they rose to them. No complaining, no self-pity, no can't, no won't. But instead I saw resilience, strength, self-control, self-organization and maturity. I saw students arriving on time for Zoom calls, even though they were alone - the excitement of living far from home for the first time, turned into a monotony of isolation. It would have been easy for them to miss sessions. But they didn't, they were there every single time. Not just there, but contributing and even more, sharing how they felt, how it affected them, willing and able to turn the lesson on reflective practice into the actuality of reflective thought. Able to identify the key themes that previous cohorts had struggled with and exemplify the theme with a personal reflection, demonstrating huge learning and carrying their new insights forwards. Those reflections were full of initial loneliness, isolation, doubt, uncertainty, but through their experiences these amazing students realized their inner strength, their core toughness, their ability to turn adversity into opportunity, to learn about themselves and recognize that they are the captain of their own ship and can navigate through the storms of life. And what we know as educators is that experience makes you stronger, to face your fears and stand up to them means that you won't be fearful a second time.

Dr Caroline Holden, University Student Success Specialist, UK

I have been studying at the University of Western Australia, Perth, for more than three years. As a research scholar, my responsibilities include planning and conducting researches, as well as supervising undergraduate students in their research laboratory sessions. Although the city where I live, Perth, is considered the safest place in the world in the sense of Covid-19, where we had to wear facial masks for only two weeks through this pandemic, there were many negative impacts of this pandemic on my study. Firstly, my research is based on purchasing sensitive bio-materials from overseas, closing the international borders, as well as the significant reduction of the international flights, negatively impacted my ability to conduct some critical parts of my research. Secondly, there were many plans to attend international scientific conferences, however, everything in this area was cancelled or postponed. As a result, I had to deal with many challenges and obstacles; luckily, though, the university and my supervisors were very supportive and we worked together to get through this stage with minimal losses.

In the end, although the effect of this pandemic is highly variable worldwide, there are indeed several negative consequences on humanity all over the world. Unfortunately, we may need years to fully recover from the impact of this pandemic and return to our normal life as before 2020.

Submitted by
Majdy IDREES-PhD Student
University of Western Australia, Perth
17 Monash Ave, Nedlands 6009 WA
Australia

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

I have been teaching at Friends university, KS, USA for the last 20 years and currently covering the Supply Chain Management concentration for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. As an Adjunct faculty teaching one night a week 6-10 pm, I design my on ground course to include at least one guest speakers from the local industries as well as one field trip to a manufacturing company. However, the year 2020 was very unexpected and exceptional not to be able to accommodate any of these options due to Covid-19 pandemic early shut down. The teaching model was quickly switched to online and we had to adjust and get used to Zoom meetings to accompany the Moodle teaching platform. Friends university opened back its campus spring semester of 2021 based on CDC guidelines as people started to get vaccinated. Moodle class platform got transformed into a mixture of three sessions. (Online, web based, and on ground). The web based students join the in-class lecture via zoom and can interact live with the class. However, on-line students are not required to join and can complete their study work on their own. When it comes to in-class interaction, I had little challenge engaging the web based students, and ended up encouraging a few to join in person. From my perspective, the pandemic has put many strains on educators as well students, and forced all to adapt as much as possible, and in reality, there is nothing like to be in class with students face-to-face.

Submitted by
Sammy Jay
Friends University
College of Business and Technology
University Ave., KS 67213

At the start of the pandemic, it was a difficult beginning for learning, education and business, as the COVID-19 had had a high impact, a deep impression, and a great challenge to the continuity of the educational process on graduate studies.

However, Arabian Gulf University had distinguished technical solutions, and its response was quick while keeping pace with the latest technologies. Also, learning methodologies were diverse including direct lectures, brainstorming, discussion panels, innovation labs, learning through problem solving, summarizing papers and scientific theses. These methods have directly contributed to increasing the level of self-learning ability and learning by doing.

Moreover, the technical solution was a motivator for us, students, towards free and self-reading of previous studies relevant to the specialization of technology management and business innovation.

Mohammed Alais,
Department of Innovation and Technology Management Department, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

The pandemic's effect on higher education has been rapid and radical in many aspects. Everybody had to make changes that they never thought they needed or even that they could do. The main thing was being flexible, and adapting to using technologies and techniques that we never needed to explore before. Transforming to remote format, seen as un-explored option before, became the only way forward. This meant that our teaching strategy had to change, and innovative methods to interact with students had to be rapidly deployed with various degrees of success. We had to envision ways to keep the students' engaged while staring at a monitor showing lecture notes. Fortunately, our colleagues were cooperative and we started sharing ideas and experiences how to manage the situation. Using social media, and remote meeting applications became our main tools for teaching. As for evaluation, the challenge was even higher. Our paper-based exams, team-work assignment, and in-class activities became obsolete. We had to use virtual teams, online assessments, and conference meetings. This pandemic proved academicians can be flexible, adaptable and agile as needed. The main concern was that the students should not be at a disadvantage due to the pandemic. We simply could not let COVID-19 pandemic win.

Dr. Sa'ed Salhiieh
Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering at the British University in Dubai

COVID-19 took all of us by surprise. The Diversity and Cross-cultural communication course met on campus only once before a shut down. Students were disappointed.

I've been teaching 4 hours 6-10 pm every week via Zoom. Being a Certified Online instructor, it was easy for me to move to a 100% Online. Academically, all was good. My Moodle shells allowed for a seamless transition. But it has been extremely hard to listen about deaths in students' families. A few students contracted COVID-19 themselves. I met with students via Zoom individually between weekly classes - they needed to share their sad stories.

Friends University opened its campus for spring semester, and life became a "new normal". We got used to seeing students in masks.

An unexpected transition of on-campus courses to online and synchronous online had a positive impact. There was an urgency for learning how to teach online and professors had to grow professionally no matter what. Unfortunately, many did not have Moodle shells supporting their on campus courses.

In conclusion, the quality of educational process during the COVID-19 pandemic depended on instructor's proficiency in using online pedagogy.

Valentina Chappell, Ph.D.
Professor of Business and Technology
Graduate school
Friends University, KS, USA

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2019 from Wuhan in China, it had an impact on all aspects of our lives. Among the areas which were strongly affected were schooling and education. The global shutdown culminated in a lockdown of educational institutions in most parts of the world as the situation worsened. The closure of universities, colleges, and schools created a serious and devastating situation for educational organisations and administrators who were left with very few options.

I faced the pandemic with all the facilities, comfort and help that my country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, has provided for us as educators making our work much easier during this pandemic. His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister made certain that there were no serious concerns over online/digital learning, for instance poor technology, a lack of internet connection or insufficient engagement between students and their teachers. Therefore, in accordance with His Highness's directives, our educational institutions in Bahrain modified their curricula and created content that was appropriate for online lectures and assessments. Nevertheless, among the major challenges encountered by higher education students of Bahrain were a lack of campus interaction, group study difficulties and instructor response time. To attain better learning results, educational organizations created relevant and effective subject matters, set up an effective delivery mechanism, and provided digital literacy training courses, workshops and webinars for their current teachers. Many technical concerns were resolved as a result of this, as well as other issues such as the absence of socialization in the traditional classroom, a lack of engagement and interaction between the students and their instructors and finally response time. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, online learning is proving to be equally successful as traditional learning and it yielded positive outcomes in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Dr. Sofia Hashim
English Language Lecturer
English Language Centre, University of Bahrain

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I finished my coursework as a PhD researcher and started writing my thesis. I was afraid of the lack of sources and communication difficulties with the thesis supervisors but all of that dissipated as the Arab Gulf University and its librarians facilitated the means of communication easily through the use of information sources. There was also proper and effective way of communication with faculty members and supervisors through the internet. And today, here I am a graduate of the PhD program in the Department of Gifted and Talented Education. All thanks to the university, its administrators, and everyone in it.

Dr. Muneera Ghablan
Gifted Education Department
Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

I had probably one of my harder classes in the program, go completely online when the Coronavirus started back in March 2020. Our first week for this course was in person then the pandemic started. My teacher did a great job of uploading lectures via Zoom that were a couple hours long and we still met via Zoom during normal time when face to face sessions would have taken place. In normal situations I do not like learning strictly via online. By this I mean where a teacher uploads a lecture video every week and assignments are pre-determined. The only piece of interaction you have are when you ask questions via email or schedule a Zoom meeting. This causes me to learn less in my opinion as I am not able to ask specific questions that help me understand the subject better. I ask a lot of direct questions or ask questions with scenarios that help me grasp the concepts better. Going back to my March 2020 class, I found that meeting via Zoom and discussing everything as a group was very beneficial. The uploaded long lectures were uploaded and then the class Zoom meeting took place. This sequencing also helped with the homework that was assigned.

I would still prefer to learn and take classes via in person versus online. This is even after my experience with both a strictly online course and an on-ground course that was taught via Zoom. It seems that the university had good measures in place for the pandemic. Zoom being the key technology for this success. My teachers seemed to do a great job of adapting to the new style and by Summer 2020 my teachers had a good grasp on things. I will never take a strictly online only class as I feel that you do not learn as much about the subject. Not being able to interact with classmates and instructors on a regular basis exacerbates the process but it does not cause me any stress while learning.

Submitted by MBA Student
Tyler Hort
Friends University, KS, USA

Since our field is experiment-based science, we faced so many challenges during the pandemic. The main issue is lab access; working in the lab to conduct experiments is not as easy as it used to be. This has caused delays in the projects' timeline. However, as a researcher I'm happy with the massive amount of published data and information that has been released during the period of the pandemic, which makes a researcher's life easier. Honestly, COVID-19 has taught us how to adapt under any condition with limited resources.

Stay positive ^ _ ^
Dalal Al-Mehatab
Health Biotechnology-PhD student
Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain

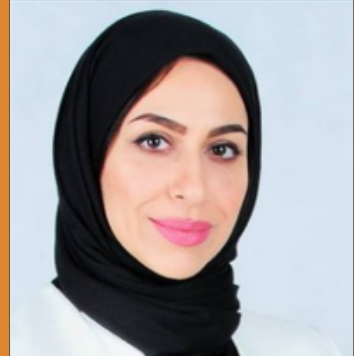
As a student, I will talk about the experience and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. From my experience, I say that life according to the precautionary measures had positive and negative aspects. At the positive end, I achieved and accomplished more than usual with different learning outcomes including the ease of organization and evaluation while benefiting from files and technologies. Also doing several tasks at the same time has been a plus. However, the duration of the pandemic we are facing has led to a lot of negative psychological and nervous pressures due to the long working hours in front of the computer screen.

Ramla Alameri-PhD student
Innovation & Technology Management Department, AGU Bahrain

CGS HIGHLIGHTS



Professor at the Department of Innovation and Technology Management at the College of Graduate Studies in Arabian Gulf University, Prof. Odeh Al-Jayousi stressed that sustainable innovation in cities has become a necessity. Prof. Al-Jayousi emphasized the importance of adopting an open innovation approach, strengthening international and regional partnerships as well as exchanging knowledge to challenge world crisis during a remote lecture organized by the Dubai Water and Energy Authority on sustainable cities and innovation.



Assistant Professor of the Environment Management Program in the College of Graduate Studies, Dr Sumaya Yusuf, has taken part in an online key regional meeting entitled “Resource Efficiency in the Arab Region: Monitoring Progress of SDG 12 and Building Back Better from Covid 19”. It was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) West Asia Office and the League of Arab States.



Dr. Eid Abu Hamzeh, Associate Professor in the Department of Learning and Developmental Disabilities presented the importance of previous studies in the preparation of conducting research in a workshop attended by graduate students. He tackled how to review previous studies in the research process while also specifying the significance of publications.



English language instructor, Mrs. Luma Alsalah prepared and conducted a standardized English language exit exam for the college of graduate studies’ students at the beginning of the academic year. The exam tested students’ competency and fluency in English Language targeting to assess their levels.

CGS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LAUNCHING PROJECTS

- Launching the Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research website (dated back to 1983).
- Launching a new online Database collection for previous theses and dissertations (AGUsoft) - dated back to 1983
- Preparing and launching the research ethics guidelines both in Arabic and English version

INDEXING PROJECTS

- Giving each article published in the Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research (DOI number and back issue to 2010
- Listing the Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research in Engineer village (Elsevier) and CABI
- Indexing the AGJSR in Scopus-AGJSR
- Indexing the AGJSR in Web of science

PROJECTS INAUGURATED & ESTABLISHED

- Establishing a new department (The New Generation Computing Department) offering three master programs
- Inauguration of CGS Newsletter
- Standardizing English Language Exit Examination
- Starting the Educational Studies Accreditation Gifted Educations in progress).

PREPARATION PROJECTS

- Preparing theses templates (Arabic and English Templates).
- Preparing a system for academic staff publications (fully integrated with SAP)(soon to be launched).
- Preparing full jobs descriptions for all the faculty members and managerial staff
- Prepared a comprehensive report for productivity improvements at the university level
- Prepared a comprehensive report about the difficulties that face AGU researchers
- Prepared a template for following the progress of master and Ph.D. students in their research

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- Developed a revised version of students’ admission in Ph.D. programs.
- Developed a new approach for distribution AGU research funds and its attached forms
- Publishing three issues of AGJSR and the fourth is coming soon this year

CGS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<p>UPGRADING AND UP-DATING PROJECTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrading the old learning management system(Moodle) with a new version was installed and running for both teaching and theses supervision) - Launching new version model for French-Arabian Business school - Revising Ph.D and Master theses and dissertations guide - Translating the Arabic version of dissertation guideline into English. - Developing and Translating a research ethics guide - Renovating e-learning lab. - Integrating Microsoft aims with the new version of Moodle - Revising and editing the existing code system for the CGS programs - Developing a set of Professional diplomas in different fields of specialty. - Updating the CGS faculty website content (for all the departments). - Updating the FABS website content - Translating the CGS website content 	<p>RESEARCH PLANNING AND SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Projects & research groups(eg. IWB, NWW, the Relational Study) - Research Day Event <p>WEBINARS AND CONFERENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Meeting on Food Security - Innovation Forum - Agricultural Forum - ESCWA meeting <p>TRAINING WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING E-COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experimental Designs - Meta-analysis: An Introduction (1-2) - Systematic Literature Review - Global Warming Symposium 	<p>WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of the Gifted Training Program - Assessment of Natural Resources Institutions Workshop - The Art of Public Speaking Workshop - The Series Workshop on the Art of Writing Science - Creative Writing Webinar - PBL Methods Lecture - Dyslexia Workshop <p>COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS OF TEACHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing E-Learning plan. - Conducting Remote teaching study. - Conducting a Comparative study between traditional and e-learning. - Developing the Research plan 2020/2021.
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Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research (AGJSR) Major Achievement During the Academic Year 2020/2021

- Launching of AGJSR web-portal with online submission and review system <https://agjsr.agu.edu.bh/>
- Publication of 3 issues of Volume 37
- Issue number 4 of Volume 37 in progress (completion in July)
- Digitalization of AGJSR archive since 1983 (37 volumes) and upload of pdf documents (1175 papers) on the new AGJSR website for open access (in progress)
- Integration of AGJSR published papers in Crossref Database with the assignment of DOIs for publications (in progress) <https://agjsr.agu.edu.bh/publications/issues/218>
- Registration of AGJSR ISSN in the International Standard Serial Center: Print (ISSN): 1985-9899 ISSN 1985-9899 (Print) | Arab Gulf journal of scientific research | The ISSN Portal
- Creation of the electronic ISSN for the journal online version within the International Standard Serial Center: (E-ISSN): 2536-0051 ISSN 2536-0051 (Online) | Arab Gulf journal of scientific research | The ISSN Portal
- Reactivation of AGJSR Indexing in SCOPUS and WEB of Science Databases from 1983 up to 2019

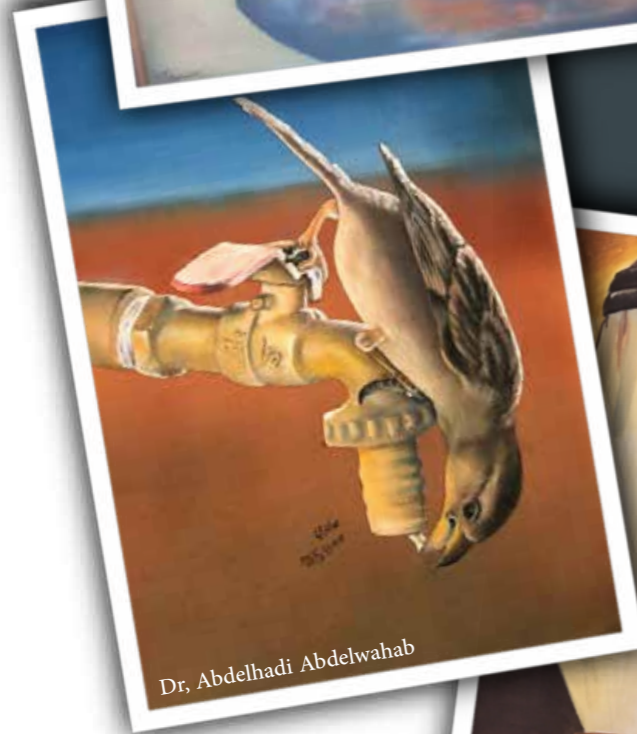


UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Holding international conference in education quality (February 2022).
2. Holding writing and publishing a research paper in leading Journals (November 2021).
3. Launching several workshops, seminars, webinars (During the year).
4. Publishing high quality research papers (during the year).
5. Annual Research Day (March 2022).
6. Developing STEM professional Diploma (September).



DR. SOUMAYA YUSUF



Dr, Abdelhadi Abdelwahab

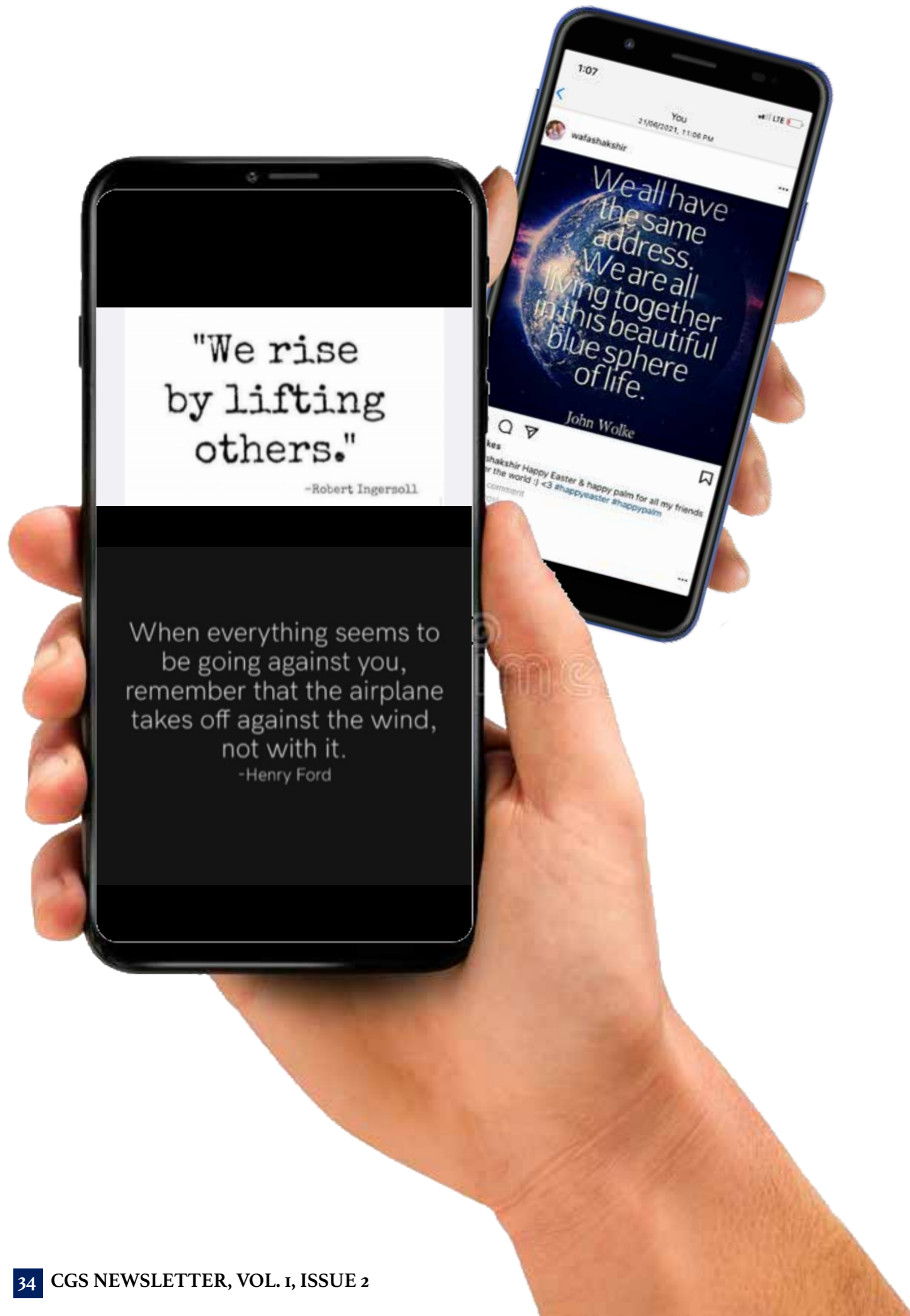


YOUSIF AHMED AWAD



Zainab Mahmood Sultan





STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

WELCOME TO

THE
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