

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

17 JULY 2016 – Issue 37



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 37th issue of the President's News Digest. As you are all aware, I received an honorary doctorate of technology from Loughborough University in the UK on Friday 15th of July. The ceremony was streamed live on the attached link



[\(http://www.lboro.ac.uk/students/graduation/webcast/\)](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/students/graduation/webcast/)

The above link will be available for the 2 next weeks.

I would like to share with you my acceptance speech

Vice Chancellor,
Mayor of Charnwood
Distinguished guests
Graduates and their families
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a privilege and an honor to receive this honorary doctorate from a university where I spent the best 5 years of my life studying for masters and PhD between 1986 and 1991. Unfortunately it took me one year longer because I spent a lot of time playing Tennis and Volleyball amongst many other sports and trying to convince my wife to marry me which she did at the end, I hope she didn't regret her decision. This recognition means a great deal for me because of my connections with the University.



Dear graduates

I came all the way from Bahrain to receive such an honor. I can say with Pride that my university in Bahrain, the Applied Science University, is also honored that its president is recognized in this way especially that we are celebrating this year 200 years of trade

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relations between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Bahrain. We are just about to launch some exciting joint programs with 2 British Universities which coincide with this historical 200 year celebration. I sincerely hope that we will do some similar joint work with Loughborough in the future. My advice to you graduates is to be thankful all the time and that's why I would like to give some acknowledgements to institutions and individuals who contributed to my success before I give you some humble advices which you may find useful. I would like to acknowledge the following:

Loughborough University and its leadership, especially the Vice Chancellor Professor Bob Allison, for offering me such a prestigious honor. I know for sure and from all league tables that our University is going places and I am very proud to be associated with such a successful Institution.

My family in Bahrain, my wife Faiza who has a PhD from Loughborough, of course we met in the University and got married and my 2 daughters Sarah and Hannah.

My family in Lebanon, including my late parents God Bless their souls and brothers and sisters who sacrificed everything for our education.

Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, my good friend and boss and the current chairman of the board of trustees at the University in Bahrain and colleagues at Applied Science University.

Professor Peter Brandon for being a good mentor and boss during my 20 years at Salford.

Hariri Foundation for sponsoring my studies in the UK

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) and its staff and members, I spend 5 very enjoyable years as VPs and President of this institute, special thanks go to Chris Blythe, chief executive, Bridget Bartlett, deputy chief, and my friend Saleem Akram who is in the audience. The CIOB is 182 year old, has a membership of around 50,000 from across the globe. I was the first ever president who came from the Middle East and Muslim world, this tells you something that you can achieve irrespective of your background, religion, race or gender.

Last, but not least, special thanks to all staff and friends at Loughborough, especially Prof Andrew Price, my good friend and PhD supervisor, Prof Tony Thorpe, who was the Masters in Construction programme director and remains as a good friend and Prof Ron McCaffer for his support all the way from the Loughborough years until present.





Dear graduates:

Based on my humble experience, I think 8 ingredients will make you succeed:

1. Always lead by example.
2. Innovate day and night.
3. Keep your knowledge up to date, it is easier nowadays, especially with social media and the use of technology.
4. Be tolerant and do not let prejudices stop you from achieving your dreams, just say I am going to make it because of my capabilities.
5. Celebrate success and learn from failure.
6. Remember that the only constant in life is change, the message here is to embrace change.
7. An element of luck.
8. And finally and most importantly show passion and love to all what you do. A vital ingredient for success.

A very final advice to our graduates please be practical and pragmatic in this life, I would like now to tell you the story of the king and the toaster.

I would like to conclude by thanking the University once again and to wish our graduates every success in whatever they do in real life. God bless you all and see you in Bahrain soon.

This is a prestigious recognition and we should use it to our advantage to promote our university in the media and press. You can tell from the list of individuals who have received honorary doctorates from Loughborough last week that we are on the international map.

Loughborough Honorary Graduates and University Medalists 2016

Tuesday 12 July 2016 at 10.30 am

- **Professor David Delpy** - DSc - Former Chief Executive of EPSRC and former Vice-Provost for Research, UCL

Tuesday 12 July 2016 at 3.00 pm

- **Daniel Mansfield** - DSc - Former Research Manager at Taylor Hobson Limited

Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 10.30 am

- **Professor David Llewellyn** - DUniv - Emeritus Professor of Money and Banking, School of Business and Economics, Loughborough University

Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 3.00 pm

- **Richard Thornley** - DTech - Managing Director, Bell Helicopter Company Ltd. Japan

Thursday 14 July 2016 at 10.30 am

- **Tony Pixton** - DTech - Former Director of Ford Motor Company, Volvo Car Corporation and Mazda Motor Corporation

Thursday 14 July 2016 at 3.00 pm

- **Professor Dame Ann Dowling** - DTech - President of the Royal Academy of Engineering

Friday 15 July 2016 at 10.30 am

- **Professor Sergei Novikov** - DSc

Friday 15 July 2016 at 3.00 pm

- **Professor Ghassan F Aouad** - DTech - President of Applied Science University, Bahrain and Past President of the Chartered Institute of Building.

VISIT TO THE UK

During my visit to the UK last week, I met (with Mr Mohamed and Ms Hind Al-Khaja) colleagues from LSBU and Cardiff Met to brief them about the HEC approval of our joint programs. Both institutions are absolutely delighted and they are both looking forward to a January start.



VISIT OF PROFESSOR NEWTON

Last week we hosted Professor Newton for a week to help us with programs of limited confidence, accreditation and many other aspects including HR and Finance.

I would like to conclude by wishing you and your family's happy summer breaks after all the hard work over a hectic year. Please come back full of energy, motivation, and innovation as we have a challenging 12 months ahead of us.

INJAZ MEETING TO PLAN NEXT YEAR EVENTS WITH ASU

Prof Saad Darwish President's Advisor and Dr Faiza Zitouni Dean of Student Affairs hel a meeting with Ms Hanan ALSheikh from Injaz. The meeting planned for next year events. Three events will take place; Be Entrepreneur, Company, and Careers. ASU has an excellent relation with Injaz and will continue its collaboration to support entrepreneurship and students volunteering.



DR. AHMED ARBAB GAVE AN EXCELLENT SPEECH ABOUT EDUCATION AND THE ROLE OF ASU

As part of the CE Office Dr. Ahmed Arbab faculty member in the College of Administrative Sciences/Department of Business Administration played an effective role in helping the Secondary School of Abdul Rahman Al Dakhil for boys. Being part of the school board he gave an excellent speech about education and the role of ASU as being one of the best Bahraini private universities. The school Headmaster awarded Dr. Arbab with an appreciation certificate.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Please keep your course portfolios up to date

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It always seems impossible until it is done”.

Nelson Mandela



Enjoy Reading
