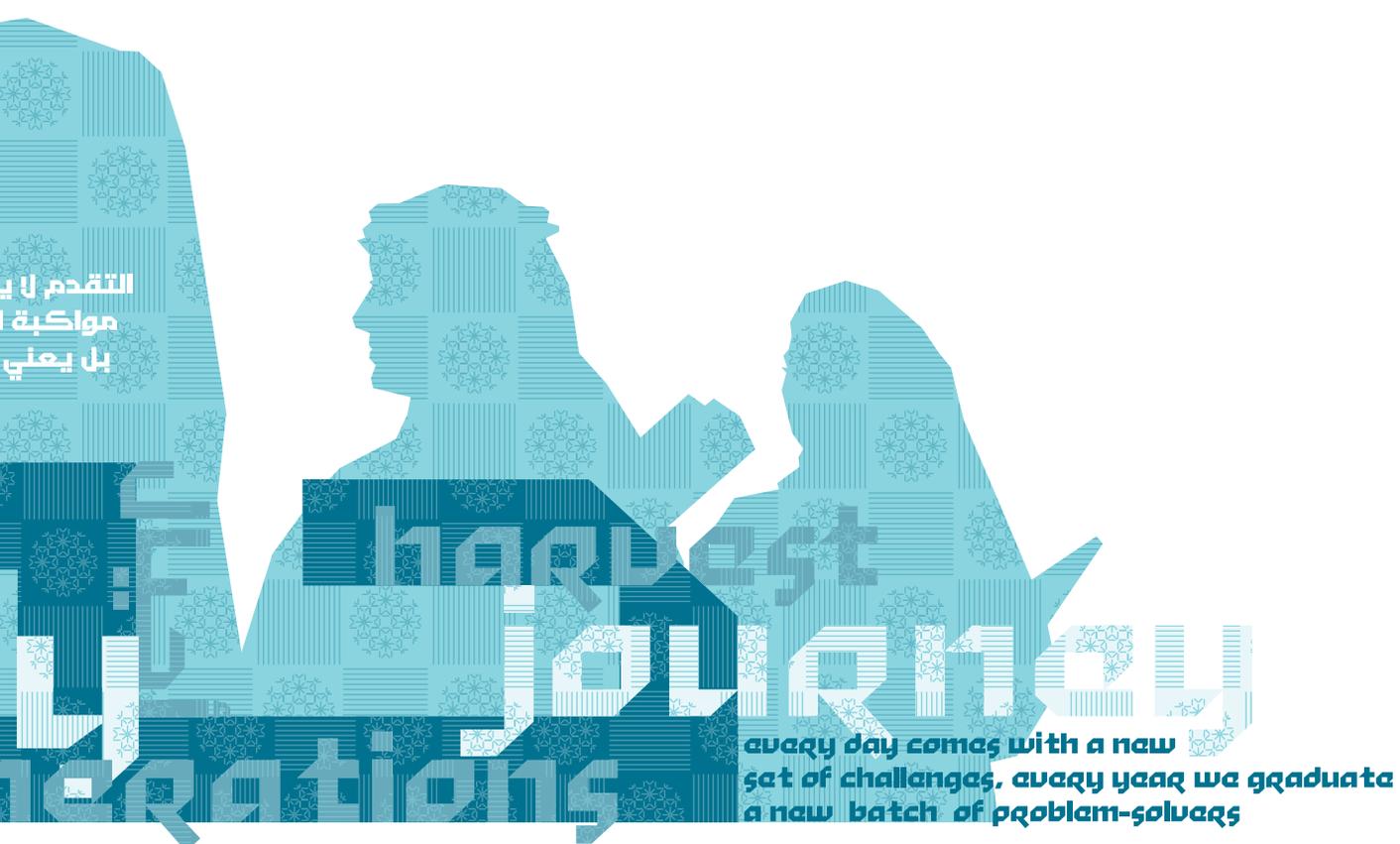




جامعة قطر
QATAR UNIVERSITY

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Building Generations for Success



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ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

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President's Note

As (QU) enters a new academic year, we reflect on the past year and the breadth of what we have achieved as the university advances its commitment to excellence in education, research and community service, and the development of a more cohesive campus infrastructure. We ended academic year 2013/14 on a high note of successful student academic outcomes, award-winning research, improved institutional efficiency, and recognized progress on Qatarization.

We were proud to witness the myriad of institution-wide achievements that marked the level of QU's progress and demonstrated the steadiness of the vision for our continuing development.

The Strategic Plan 2009-2013 was successfully completed and we launched Strategic Plan 2013-2016 detailing 4 areas of focus – to nurture the student experience, optimize institutional effectiveness, build international recognition, and recognize scholarly excellence.

Additionally, research at QU received a boost with an ambitious 5-year roadmap of 4 priority areas of research excellence - Energy, Environment and Resource Sustainability; Social Change and Identity; Population, Health and Wellness; and Information, Communication and Technologies (ICT).

The academic year will also be recorded in our history as the one in which QU opened its state-of-the-art research complex and 3 new research centers of excellence.

Campus expansion continued at pace during the year that included upgraded IT services, transport and road network development, and the ongoing construction of student halls of residence and the new College of Engineering, College of Pharmacy, Early Childhood Center, and central stores.

The residence halls and a planned Student Center are indicative of our resolve to ensure a vibrant student campus life by providing a scholarly and active environment to draw student engagement, motivation, and success.

Our focus on supporting students in their determination to succeed led us to implement a First-Year Experience (FYE) self-study in 2013. The self-study will serve to identify opportunities for improvements which will lead to higher levels of student learning, personal growth and persistence in achieving success.

2013/14 also saw a number of international recognitions and accreditations such as the PharmD Program by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP), coming just 3 years after the program's establishment; and the Continuing Professional Pharmacy Development Program (CPPD) being awarded by the American Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE), making the program the second in the Gulf to achieve this status from the Council.

In addition, the organization was accorded ISO/IEC 27001 for the ISMS in the Information Technology Services (ITS) Department, and ISO 9001:2008 for the Quality Management System at our Qatar Mobility Innovations Center (QMIC) from the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Outstanding faculty and student accomplishments also lit up the academic year: NPRP first-time Exceptional Proposal Award; State Awards for Sciences, Arts and Literature to 4 faculty; Emir Academic Excellence Award to 10 graduates; champions of National Round Microsoft Imagine Cup 2013 and 2014; 1st place GCC Hybrid Car Grand Prix 2014 (GTL category), and other accolades were all achieved this year.

We cannot however rest on our laurels as there is still much to be done and to accomplish. As you know, there is no deadline for academic development and progress. Each year we look to developing and implementing new initiatives and strategies to keep us in synchrony with students and parents' expectations and to be relevant to the needs of the labor market and the wider community.

The Strategic Plan 2013-2016, 5-year research roadmap, and infrastructure expansion plan underpin our goals and objectives in the coming years to ensure readiness for increased student numbers, institutional growth, new and emerging sectors in the job market, and new areas of research to sustain ever-changing societal challenges. These markers are aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the development strategies as well as with the national development plans leading up to FIFA World Cup 2022.

QU is one of the leading partners with organizations and institutions in Qatar in contributing to the country's development. In strengthening the university academically and institutionally, we are stepping up to our responsibility as the first national institution of higher education to be an active participant on the national stage, graduating well-educated students to take up positions at QU and in the professional sectors, conducting sound community-driven research, and advancing well-designed high-school outreach programs and other stakeholder engagement initiatives.

Our efforts advance towards Qatarization in-house and in contributing to quality Qatarization by grooming a well-educated workforce in Qatar. QU continues to recruit graduates and returning scholarship students to its faculty body and administrative units. In 2014, 13 scholars who benefited from the QU scholarship program joined the organization, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from their studies at top-tier universities around the world, and over 50 more are currently on their



respective graduate programs. In May, we graduated 1269 students comprising 989 women and 280 men, well-prepared to take up leadership roles in Qatar's burgeoning knowledge-based economy.

I am proud to say that our commitment was recognized with the Partnership Excellence Award for Qatarization efforts from Qatar Petroleum.

This academic year also saw us enter a phase of building an international reputation and seeking to advance our ranking among world universities. We participated in a number of strategic events to boost recognition of QU's academic and research excellence and engender international interest in our ongoing development and progress. This is an exercise of commitment and resolve which, over time, will reap rewards that will drive our ranking among the top institutions in the world.

As our plans continue to fall into place, we can expect another busy and productive year as we settle in new students, develop more programs, advance our research priorities, step up our efficiency, and guide the completion of several expansion works. We are supported in these efforts by a host of partners in government, industry, business, academia, and civil society and are deeply appreciative of their confidence in our plans and progress.

President Professor
Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad



College of Arts & Sciences (CAS)

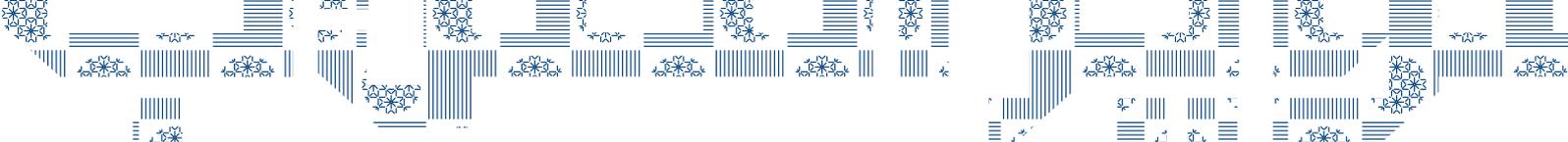
The academic year 2013/14 saw a number of accomplishments at CAS that included the graduation of 394 undergraduate and 22 graduate students, the establishment of three research centers of excellence for Sustainable Development, Humanities and Social Science Research, and Gulf Studies, and the launch of the high-school outreach program SEHHA. An additional accomplishment was the launch of two significant publications - the first encyclopedia on Japan in Arabic, and Alkamel for teaching the Arabic language and literature.

Two male students were among the highest GPA students (3.51 and above) who were honored by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at the men's graduation ceremony, while 19 of their female colleagues who achieved GPA 3.50 and above were honored by HH. Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani.

Additionally, 405 students (365 female, 40 males) were named on the Dean's List for Spring 2013.

CAS' new research centers are the first in Qatar and were designed to harness QU's role as a leader in research in the region, and to expand the College's research capacity by capitalizing on its interdisciplinary strengths. Their establishment is in keeping with the organization's new 5-year research agenda which will see interdisciplinary research projects centered on four areas of excellence -- Energy, Environment and Resource Sustainability; Social Change and Identity; Population, Health and Wellness; and Information, Communication and Technologies (ICT).





In establishing the Center for Sustainable Development, CAS built on the research focus of its MSc and PhD degree programs in Environmental Sciences which include water and food security, environmental preservation, and waste management, and its dedicated Professorial Chair in Sustainable Development.

The Center for Humanities and Social Science Research highlights four key themes – multi-disciplinarity, collaboration, research excellence, and knowledge-sharing. It brings together research conducted in the College's MA in Arabic Language and MA in Gulf Studies, and its planned MA in Mass Communication, focusing in particular on Qatar, the Gulf, and the Arab world. Research areas include culture, heritage and identity; family and gender issues; social security and social justice; politics identity and reform; literature, language, communication, and social media; governance, planning and social policy; migration and labor policy; and international crime.

The Center for Gulf Studies Research undertakes interdisciplinary Gulf-focused research in three main areas – energy and economics; social issues; and politics. It supports the MA Gulf Studies Program, which is currently the only such program in the world. A PhD in Gulf Studies is currently under development.

Since its inception in 2012, the Gulf Studies Program has gained international repute for playing a leading role as a center of excellence in Gulf Studies. It has seen a number of high-level lectures and discussions featuring regional and international experts and observers on current and emerging issues in the Gulf and the Arab world, namely:

- Qatar's role in the gas market (October 2013)
- EU-GCC Regional Security Cooperation – lessons learned and future challenges (October 2013)
- Citizenship and Law in the GCC (December 2013) organized in partnership with Chatham House Middle East & North Africa Programme. The workshop summary on the roundtable was published by Chatham House in April 2014.

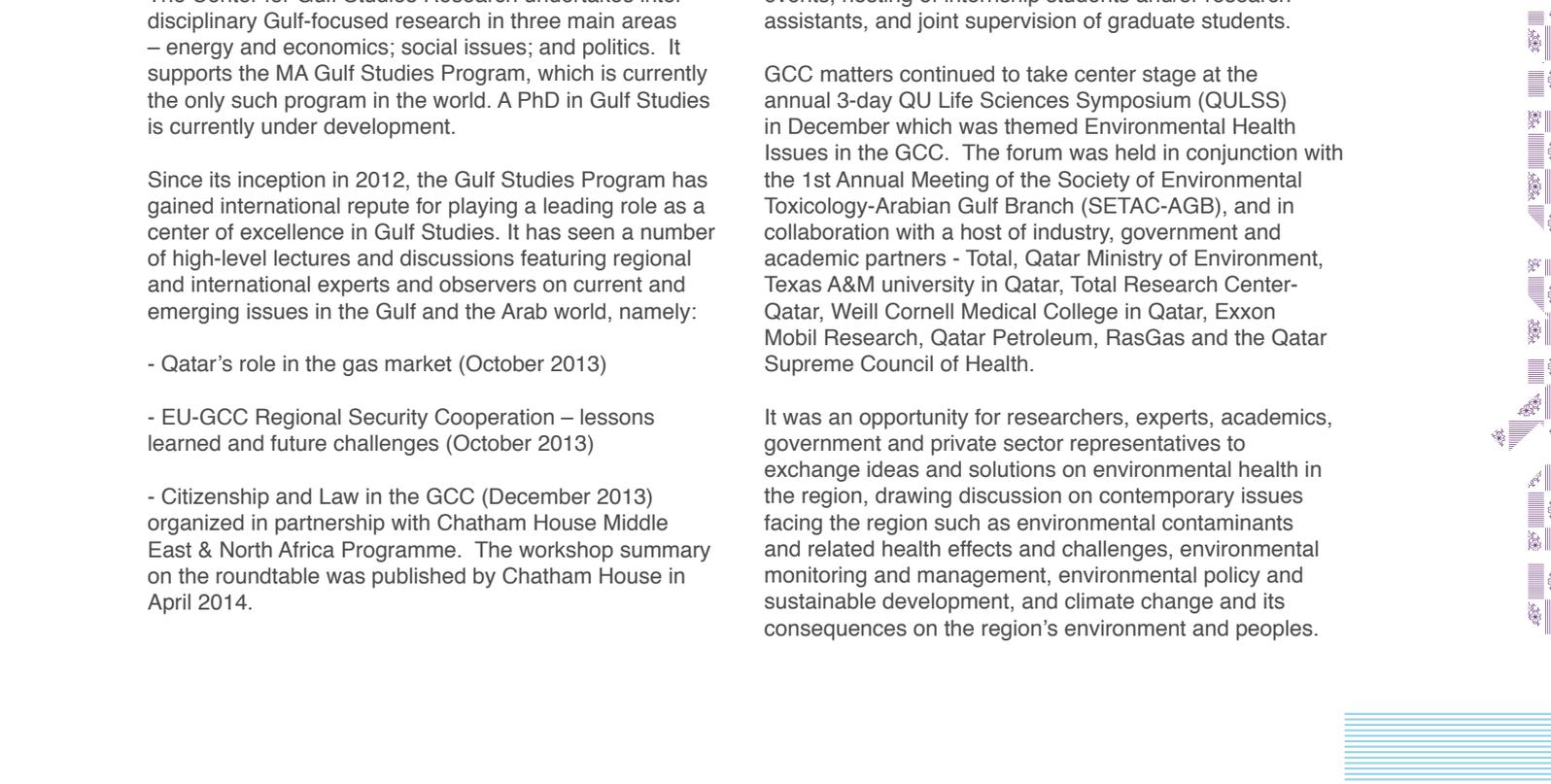
- Cambridge in Qatar: Perspectives on Middle East Studies (March 2014) – this symposium was a follow-up to the Gulf Research Meeting in July 2013 at the University of Cambridge co-organized by the Gulf Studies Program and QU's Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI).

- GCC Labor Markets and Migration (March 2014) co-organized with SESRI and in conjunction with Gulf Labour Markets and Migration Programme.

The Center also established a landmark agreement in November 2013 with the Middle East Institute (MEI) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) to promote research and development activities on a wide range of collaborative projects. Areas of cooperation include organisation of and participation in joint academic activities, facilitation and promotion of joint research projects between faculty members and researchers, establishment of a visiting fellowship scheme, joint publication of output from joint research events, hosting of internship students and/or research assistants, and joint supervision of graduate students.

GCC matters continued to take center stage at the annual 3-day QU Life Sciences Symposium (QULSS) in December which was themed Environmental Health Issues in the GCC. The forum was held in conjunction with the 1st Annual Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology-Arabian Gulf Branch (SETAC-AGB), and in collaboration with a host of industry, government and academic partners - Total, Qatar Ministry of Environment, Texas A&M university in Qatar, Total Research Center-Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Exxon Mobil Research, Qatar Petroleum, RasGas and the Qatar Supreme Council of Health.

It was an opportunity for researchers, experts, academics, government and private sector representatives to exchange ideas and solutions on environmental health in the region, drawing discussion on contemporary issues facing the region such as environmental contaminants and related health effects and challenges, environmental monitoring and management, environmental policy and sustainable development, and climate change and its consequences on the region's environment and peoples.





Building on its scholarship in humanities, the College held an international conference entitled “Interdisciplinarity in History: An Old Method in New World Context” – the first of its kind in Qatar and the region. Historians and scholars from fifteen countries and prestigious academic institutions and civil society organizations presented their work, exchanged ideas and discussed issues on the changing understanding of historiography in modernity and post-modernity, challenges and opportunities for the status of history in modern and contemporary academia, and the relationship between history, social sciences, humanities, and applied sciences. Discussion and ideas were also generated on problems in the periodization of world history, continuity and change in the writing of contemporary Arab history, and pedagogical methodologies in history.

Other achievements during the academic year include the launch of Science Education and Human Health Activity (SEHHA), a high-school outreach program by the Department of Health Sciences in January 2014 to engage students from independent high schools in an in-depth learning experience in the health sciences field and creating awareness of future study and career opportunities. With financial support from SIDRA Medical

Research Center and Ooredoo Qatar, the program's inaugural 4-day activity saw 15 high school students from 5 schools participate in organized activities and hands-on lab experiences in the department's public health, biomedical sciences and human nutrition programs under supervision of faculty and experts. The SEHHA second round held in June 2014 impacted 17 students from international schools in Doha.

The aim of the program was to involve students in scientific inquiry, innovative technology and critical thinking to expand their vision to realize the importance of science in human health and provide them with the opportunity of a real-life campus experience through visits to facilities including the new research building, lecture halls, library, and food court. The students were also introduced to the national health sciences professions through field trips to various medical and research institutions in Qatar, such as the Supreme Council of Health, Al-Amal Hospital at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and the Anti-Doping Laboratory.

In line with its collaboration activities, CAS produced two publications devoted to promoting Arabic language in various contexts - an encyclopedia on Japan in Arabic which is the first such encyclopedia in the Arabic language and Alkamel for teaching the Arabic Language and Literature.

The encyclopedia is a product of the landmark agreement signed with Marubeni Corporation in 2012 in which the Japanese company donated US\$6 million over a 5-year period to the College. The endowment, the largest ever received by QU, funds the establishment of two Faculty Chairs, a teaching position for Japanese language, student internship at Marubeni's Tokyo Office, and a Qatar-Japan student cultural exchange program. As part of the agreement, in April 2014, 5 students from the college's international affairs and mass communication departments had the opportunity to go on a ten-day cultural study trip to Japan in which they visited historical and cultural sites in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima, several UNESCO world heritage sites, as well as Marubeni headquarters in Tokyo.

Alkamel was authored by faculty in the Department of Arabic Language and supervised by an expert from Columbia University. While it is both fun and informative, the book focuses on enhancing students' 4 language skills through carefully selected texts from different genres. It is geared to fill a significant gap in general Arabic curricula at the university level.

During the academic year, several collaborative agreements were signed on behalf of CAS with notable institutions - Qatar Foundation, Katara, Hamad Medical Corporation, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Weil Cornell Medical College Qatar, University of Dalhousie, and University of Tokyo Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Research

The College won 13 of its 113 submitted proposals to the NPRP 7th cycle, a success of 11.5%. These included 8 in Natural Sciences, 3 in Humanities, 1 in Medical and Health Sciences, and 1 in Social Sciences.

The NPRP grants cover topic areas such as the importance of offshore platforms as marine biodiversity hot spots; solar fuels via dissociation of steam and carbon dioxide at elevated temperatures, and tracking the interactions among the key pollutants of air, water and soil; the development of an aphasia test battery for Qatari Arabic; an integrated approach for enhancing food safety in Qatar; and analyzing sentiments in the Arab world using half a trillion tweets.

Chemical sciences and research was the theme of the symposium "Materials and Chemistry for New Energy Technologies" in December 2013 co-organized by the Department of Chemistry and Earth Sciences and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), and which drew international experts and researchers to network and develop partnerships to advance research in chemical sciences and their benefits to society.

The RSC's request for CAS to host the event highlighted the importance of research in chemistry and materials science to Qatar's economy and CAS's capacity to lead in this scientific field.

At the QU Life Sciences Symposium (QULSS) in December 2013, the first-time presentation of findings of a research project on the composition and origins of PAHs in the coastal sediments of Qatar was made by a faculty member of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Students from the department also presented 16 research posters on topics such as environmental pollution environmental health, environmental preservation, and biodiversity, and discussed their work with researchers and experts.

The event also included an exhibition of research projects by senior students of the biomedical sciences and human nutrition programs in the Department of Health Sciences on community-driven issues such as energy drink consumption, food safety in Souq Waqif, infection rates of Hepatitis G Virus (HGV)/GB Virus C (GBV-C), adolescent

obesity, gender and nationality on sedentary behavior and dietary habits, nutrition and pain episodes in sickle cell anemic patients, and the presence of alloantibodies among transfusion-dependent thalassemia patients.

Students

During the academic year, CAS students participated in a number of local, regional and international forums and community service activities, and achieved top honors at the state level.

Two CAS graduates were honored among 8 others from QU at Academic Excellence Day in March 2014 and were presented with awards by HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. The Academic Excellence Award is considered the highest academic honor for individuals and institutions in Qatar.

CAS students took the lead in events such as National Environment Day 2014 in which a recycling campaign on e-waste was launched "Electronic Waste – What is the Big Deal?" to encourage QU members to divest of obsolete electronic equipment and dispose of them safely. An e-waste recycling initiative was also launched in 6 local independent schools in Doha where students and faculty from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences engaged the young school students on the harmful effects of e-waste on the environment and human health. The aim of the initiative was to raise awareness of the environmental challenges of keeping electronics that are no longer in use and the consequences of disposing of them unsafely.

In May 2014, CAS students engaged with counterparts from Boston College US in an inter-cultural dialogue event to share academic experiences and promote cultural exchanges. Plans for collaboration between the two colleges are under development.

Students from the Department of International Affairs continued their annual goodwill community service activities under the "Leadership and Civic Responsibility" course, holding a fun-day event for 100 orphan children (K-12) in association with Qatar Orphan Foundation-Dhreima; distributing care packages to 2000 construction workers at QU; a fun-day for children with special needs; and visits to the elderly and distribution of gifts. The students also developed a project to install clean drinking water coolers for poor neighborhoods in Qatar.

During the academic year, CAS students also had the opportunity to gain insights into the world of international affairs and global politics from a host of international leaders:

- US Embassy in Qatar Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Ian McCary on bilateral relations between USA and Qatar
- Hamas political bureau leader Khaled Mashal on the Dynamics of Palestinian Reconciliation
- The Netherlands Ambassador to Qatar H.E. Yvette Burghgraef-van Eechoud on Qatar - Holland relations
- Ambassador of Singapore to Qatar H.E. Wong Kwok Pun on Singapore-Qatar relations
- Ambassador of Ecuador to Qatar H.E. Kaban B Abisaab on his country's dispute with Chevron-Texaco and its environmental consequences
- Minister Counsellor of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Qatar Mr Felix Alberto Moreno Martinez on honoring the legacy of the late President Hugo Rafael Chavez
- Former Ambassador of the US to Egypt Mr Frank Wisner on USA's policy in Syria, Egypt and Iran

Faculty

During the academic year, CAS strengthened its faculty body to a total of 390. The College celebrated the recognition of one of its members in the 4th State Awards for Sciences, Arts and Literature by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in honoring Qatari scientists, innovators and researchers for their contribution to enriching the cultural and intellectual life of Qatar.

CAS faculty published over 263 papers and presented at 338 international conferences around the world, and continued their provision of expert consultancy in a number of specialized areas.

The talent of CAS's faculty was further demonstrated by the participation of a professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences in an internationally-published research study on the origins of modern lions entitled "Revealing the maternal demographic history of *Panthera Leo* using ancient DNA and a spatially explicit genealogical analysis". The research team included scientists from universities in Australia, Denmark, France, Sweden, UK, and the US.

Additionally, two Associate Professors from the Department of Health Sciences participated in writing a paper on NCDs (non-communicable diseases) in the Arab world, which was published in *The Lancet*, the world's leading general medical journal, and specialty journals in oncology, neurology and infectious diseases.



College of Business & Economics (CBE)





During the academic year, the College of Business & Economics (CBE) celebrated a number of accomplishments which included the launch of its Strategic Plan 2103-2016; establishment of a Center for Entrepreneurship and the development of a Business Incubator; and the organization and hosting of the first-ever regional entrepreneurship conference. Other major highlights included the appointment of a Commercial Bank Chair in Banking; contributing to the CSR Report for Qatar; and student and faculty achievements.

The College also expanded its MBA Program with two new concentrations in business analytics, and entrepreneurship. Planned new graduate programs include MA programs in finance, marketing and innovation, and business entrepreneurship to meet the new and emerging trends in the business environment in Qatar. Under development are two research centers - one in Islamic Finance, the other in Business Excellence – that will support the planned graduate programs as well as enhance existing ones.

Other areas worthy of mention included the building of a community service culture at the college, and ongoing improvement of administrative efficiency.

The new Strategic Plan takes into consideration the importance of engaging CBE students in research and the need for expanding the college's activities and involvement in organizing local, regional and international conferences to provide them with opportunities to interact with business leaders, professionals and experts, and gain guidance from them in all areas of the business industry.

The Center for Entrepreneurship was developed as an affiliated unit to the college and works to link academic life with business realities through training, research and





consultation, and through the activities of the Business Incubator. Its services to CBE and QU students such as training and business awareness programs are further expanded into the wider community to include the public and private sector, business communities, associations, and government agencies as well as international collaborations.

CBE's engagement of students in other QU 2013 colleges was evidenced by a 5-month long (October-February) 2014 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest among its students and those of the College of Engineering which was aimed at promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship, advancing awareness of the importance of business ownership and management, and engaging students on how to develop effective business plans and present a "pitch".

Student teams competed to develop a unique and innovative business activity located in Qatar to create a product or render a service in various business areas such as technology, bio-technology, green technologies, health, advanced manufacturing, agriculture and agri-products, engineering, and education.

In conjunction with its Business Incubator, the Center supports the development of business ideas and feasibility studies and their transformation into sound business plans towards successful fruition. The Incubator was designed to support the entrepreneurial development process of CBE Bachelor's and Master's level students and faculty members, providing mainly training and coaching on how to develop start-ups. It is also a network facility for CBE and QU students and faculty and other innovative persons in the community keen on becoming entrepreneurs.

In December, along with the ictQATAR Digital Business Incubator, the Center provided expertise from its faculty

and from CBE to a course offered to senior computer science students in the College of Engineering on building business models and plans for their startup ideas.

An important aspect of the Center is its role as a consulting resource for various entities in the national government and those of neighboring countries in the area of entrepreneurship, youth business ownership, and private sector stimulation.

In keeping with the national and regional momentum to promote entrepreneurship, the Center held a network expo in November during the Networking Expo Global Entrepreneurship Week. It was an opportunity for CBE and QU students to be oriented on the entrepreneurial activities of the participating companies and organizations of business, government, and industry, and to explore their options of support in terms of innovation, incubation, and financing.

A highlight event for the Center during the academic year was hosting the launch of the Arabic version of the business model generation book in Qatar, in a first-time collaboration with the Qatar Business Incubator Center (QBIC) and Silatech.

The College's commitment to boosting entrepreneurship in Qatar, especially among youth, led to the organization of the first-ever regional conference "Entrepreneurship in Economic Development Forum" held on February 24-25 in conjunction with Interactive Business Network.

The conference themed "Fostering the new generation of entrepreneurs in Qatar and the Gulf", drew the endorsement and participation of the Qatar Minister of Energy and Industry HE Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada and featured over 14 international experts in business, education, finance and leaders from various sectors in

Qatar and the region who presented young prospective business owners with an insight into the world of business planning, financing, ownership, management, and related matters.

In appointing a chair in banking, The College sought to provide expertise in business, finance and banking matters to CBE students in their graduation projects, and facilitate internship and training opportunities at Commercial Bank. The Chair also advances the research capacity of the College and guides students on research projects that reflect the growing needs of the community.

As the only college of business in Qatar, CBE plays a strong role in contributing to the corporate social responsibility (CSR) monitoring in the country in line with a 3-year cooperation with the Qatar CSR Report.

Research

The College secured two NPRP grants in the 7th cycle among 20 submissions, i.e. 10%. The awarded projects were 'Stock market's reaction to voluntary forward-looking and risk disclosure statements driven by corporate governance' and 'A lifelong learning framework for enhancing graduate attributes and continuous professional development in Qatar (LEARNER)'.

A CBE faculty member was principal investigator (PI) on an NPRP-funded research proposal 'Using half a trillion tweets to analyze sentiments in the Arab World'.

In the UREP 15th cycle, CBE was awarded for one its 7 submissions with a success rate of 14.3%. The awarded research project is entitled 'The impact of closing Islamic windows within the conventional banks on Qatar banking system performance'.

33 CBE faculty applied for internal grants, with 31 being successful in securing funding, as follows: 25 start-up grants, 4 students grants and 2 university grants.



Students

Of note in the academic year was the increase in incoming students during the Fall semester that brought the CBE student body to 3500. The Fall intake totaled 798 students, 90% of whom were Qataris, with the Department of Finance and Economics attracting the highest number of students. Sixty-three (63) students were admitted to the College's graduate programs, of which 40% were Qataris.

In the graduation ceremonies in May, 263 first-degree holders (190 women; 73 men) graduated from CBE along with 26 (12 women; 14 men) who successfully completed their Master's degrees. Seven outstanding students who achieved GPA 3.50 and above were honored by HH The Emir in the men's ceremony, and 39 by Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani in the women's ceremony.

One CBE graduate was awarded the Platinum Medal along with 9 other QU women graduates (and among 20 in the country) by HH The Emir on Academic Excellence Day in his recognition of their excellence in academics, research, volunteerism and social activities.

During the year, students availed of a number of lectures and workshops on topics such as "Discover marketing", "How to protect your business idea", and "Brand talk – evidence from Qatar". They also participated in a training session conducted by Bloomberg, a research seminar on Islamic Banking, and discussion session on "The role of financing in supporting SMEs". An event fielded by

the College's Community Outreach Committee engaged employers from various sectors to provide insights on their expectations and skills requirements to students from the Department of Management and Marketing.

CBE students had the opportunity to be mentored by leading actors and experts from various sectors in Qatar under the College's Executive-in-Residence Program. Students submit a Lessons Learned Report detailing the insights and knowledge gained from the sessions. This is part of the College's model of transformational learning by which its students are equipped with the necessary skills to lead and add value in the business organizations they join, and to meet the challenges of an increasingly global and knowledge-based business environment.

Another example was the competition among 39 CBE women students from the marketing promotion class in a marketing communication challenge organized by a local communication marketing agency, Agency 222, to provide real-life work experience as it relates to the theory gained in the classroom; and to promote the spirit of healthy competition in business. The competition involved teams creating an integrated marketing campaign on two Supreme Council of Health projects – refuting myths on cancer and promoting healthy lifestyles. Two students won the opportunity to intern at the agency and be involved in other projects.





Faculty

To accommodate the student increase, 35 new faculty were recruited to the College in the new academic year, bringing the faculty body total to 77. This included 11 new faculty to the Department of Marketing and Management to teach in both Arabic and English in line with the Arabic-language decree of 2012, increasing its faculty numbers to 25. Faculty at the Department of Finance and Economics rose to 30 while Department of Accounting and Information Systems faculty body rose to 22.

For the academic year, CBE's published material totaled 233: 107 research manuscripts, 83 papers in peer reviewed journals, and 43 papers in conference proceedings.

The quality of the College's faculty was highlighted in the State Award bestowed on one of its faculty of economics by HH The Emir in his annual recognition of the contribution made by top national professionals to Sciences, Arts and Literature.



College of Education (CED)

The College of Education (CED) completed AY 2013-2014 with a host of achievements that included its ongoing momentum to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in Qatar's independent schools; furthering collaboration on education reform; and signing an agreement with Mada Qatar Assistive Technology Center to integrate assistive technology for QU students with special needs.

The College also celebrated the graduation of 45 female students (14 Bachelors, 20 Masters and 11 Diplomas) and 10 male students (6 Masters and 4 Diplomas). This cohort included high-achieving men and women students with GPA 3.50 and over who were honored at the graduation ceremonies on May 20 and 21 by HH The Emir and Supreme Education Council Chair HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani respectively.

Education reform continues as a critical area of focus at CED. In its annual conference on March 22-23, the College highlighted the institutional commitment to contributing to successful education reform and the College's key role in providing the forum for educators, policymakers, teachers from independent schools, and parents to participate in dialogue and proffer solutions and recommendations.

This year's conference highlighted the issue of performance assessment in the education process and its role in supporting quality education, and called for cooperation among educators in general and higher education, both in and outside Qatar.

The success of this year's conference followed that of the last three conferences that looked at: teacher professional development and life-long learning; creating learning communities that support educational reform efforts; and initiatives for best practice in education reform. Its growing popularity was evidenced by the number of participants that exceeded 400, more than 25% from the previous year.

Another highlight event in that month was the 'Teacher and Proud' Open Day to promote the teaching profession, enhance social interaction among CED students and their instructors, independent schools and the College, share experiences and advice, and celebrate pride in the profession. CED students, along with their instructors, were instrumental in organizing the event which was endorsed and attended by Qatar Minister for Education and Higher Education H.E. Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Wahid Al Hammadi.

The Day also drew instructors from other QU colleges, and teachers from 7 preparatory, elementary and secondary independent schools in Doha. The program featured a Career Fair showcasing information booths by the participating schools, the College's Early Childhood Center, National Center for Educational Development (NCED), Education Club, and the community-service organization Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), students' oral presentations of research projects, and "Teacher Memories" presentations.

In January, the College stepped up to its responsibilities as an important resource on special education and inclusive education through a Memorandum of Understanding with MADA Assistive Technology Center Qatar to integrate learning on assistive technology and e-accessibility within its academic units. Under the terms of the MOU, staff will receive appropriate training in order to improve knowledge and awareness of assistive technology and inclusive design, and students will have internship opportunities through MADA's partnership with TumuhaTEC with the objective to engage them on innovative methods and raise their awareness and skills in accessing relevant technology.

During the academic year, CED's Psychological Sciences Department promoted inclusive initiatives in a number of forums:

- Deafness Week. "Successful Experiences", April 2014.
- International Day for Autism Awareness. "Autism and Assistive Technology", April 2014.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities. "Break Barriers, Open Doors: for an inclusive society and development for all", December 2013.
- International Day of Mental Health. "Mental Health and Positive Thinking", October 2013.
- White Cane Week. "Learn about us and learn from us" October 2013.

In organizing these forums, the College collaborated with QU Special Needs Unit, Center for Assistive Technology ICT Qatar, the Social Rehabilitation Center (Al-Aween), Al Noor Institute, Ministry of the Interior, and government and non-governmental organizations for special education in Qatar.

The Department also hosted an International Women's Day Symposium on March 10 on "The Treaty for Women's Rights" featuring Ms. Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, expert at the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Executive Director of Doha International Family Institute.

Research

The College was successful in attracting research funding in the NPRP 7th cycle for a research proposal entitled "A study to evaluate the professional licensing system for teachers and school leaders in the state of Qatar". Additionally, two faculty/student research projects on special education, and health and wellbeing respectively were supported by the Undergraduate Research Experience Projects (UREP).

During the year, CED embarked on developing two proposals to establish specialist research centers in important education-related fields:

National Center for Educational Research which will be “committed to achieving research excellence and building capacity by providing students and faculty with a supportive environment for scholarship and developing effective collaborative partnerships in research nationally and internationally. The Center will work towards



addressing important educational issues and contributes to achieving the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the country's quest to establish a knowledge-based economy of world-class quality".

Center for Measurement and Evaluation to "contribute towards enrichment of the theoretical and applied aspects in the field of psychological sciences through collaborative scientific research, preparation and training of a cadre of Qatari educators able to engage in the process of improving the quality of diagnostic tests and procedures used in the field of educational psychology".

The College's commitment to contributing to education policy research in Qatar and the region was demonstrated in its hosting of a seminar in March, jointly with the UNESCO Doha Office, on "Policy Dialogue, Momentum for Education Beyond 2015: Enhancing the Performance of Education Systems in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries". The event served as a launch for an NPRP grant for a CED/UNESCO Doha research project on "Momentum for Education Beyond 2015: Improving the Quality of Learning Outcomes and Enhancing the Performance of Education Systems in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries".

A following Panel of Experts meeting themed "Maintaining Momentum for Education Beyond 2015" was held in June and was attended by representatives from the Supreme Education Council (SEC), ROTA and UNESCO, delegates

from the GCC and Yemen, and CED faculty. The meeting served to establish a platform for collaboration with the panel, and clarify roles and responsibilities of the members.

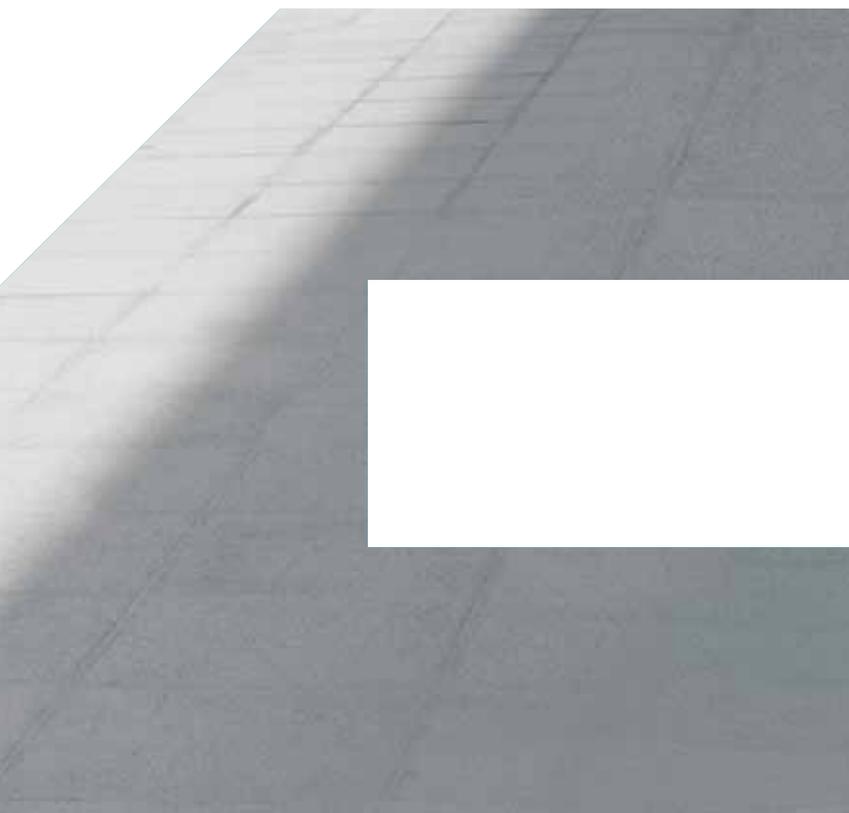
During the academic year, the College held a series of research-related workshops which fielded a number of topics focusing on developing research skills and were delivered by QU faculty and visiting scholars.

Additionally, a Research Steering Group was formed to oversee the College's research and scholarly activities, review its research strategy, and identify future research priorities. This led to developing a new research strategy for the College for 2013-2016. The Group further engaged faculty with common and related research interests to develop a number of specialist and interdisciplinary research groups to work collaboratively on more strategic research projects in order to enhance the quality and volume of their research.

Students

At the beginning of the academic year, the College admitted 650 new students (320 women, 330 men).

CED students participated in a number of College and QU activities throughout the year. They in turn were well-supported in their scholarship by a number of initiatives designed to guide their academic and civic

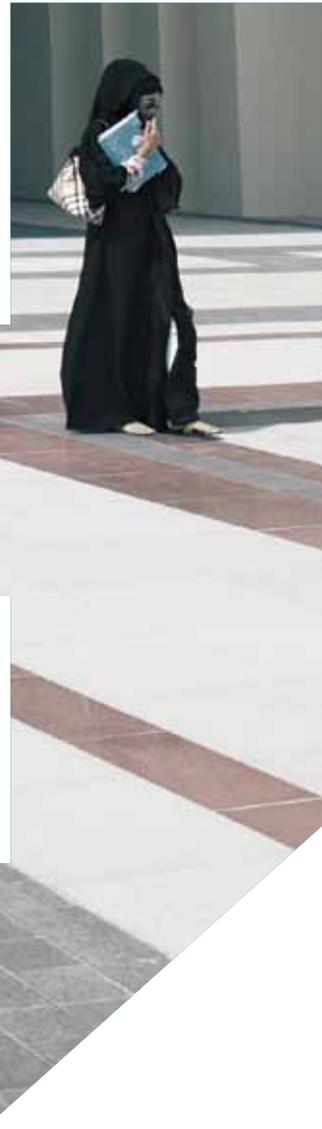


learning. A Student Support Committee and academic advising strategies were put in place to improve student performance and increase their engagement and retention. Students were also supported by the Field Experience and Internship Supervision Unit as part of the “learning by doing” approach adopted by the College to enhance their academic experience and prepare them for the world of work in the education field.

As part of its framework of providing global experiences to enrich the specialized learning of its students, the College facilitated the participation of current students and alumni of its graduate programs in a video-conference on “What is Special Education?” with two leading experts in special education, Dr Dan Hallahan and Dr Paige Pullen from the University of Virginia. Students benefitted from the experts’ insights on the differences between general and special education and the continued need for special education, and discussed the future of special education, especially in Qatar.

Faculty

At the start of the academic year, the College welcomed and provided an orientation program for six new members of faculty, bringing its faculty body to 44. The new faculty specializations include Early Years, Educational Psychology, Special Education, Curriculum and Instruction in Arabic, Curriculum and Instruction in Social Sciences, and Curriculum and Instruction in Mathematics.



During the year, faculty members presented their research and scholarly work at over 23 national, regional and international conferences and published about 27 papers and articles in recognized, peer-reviewed academic journals.

National Center for Educator Development

During the academic year, the Center continued its initiatives and strategies to:

- advance school reform
- empower schools to increase student engagement and achievement
- develop capacity of IS teachers by equipping them with tools and skills to advance their performance in the classroom
- engage IS teachers in lifelong learning
- encourage teachers and students to develop collaboration with others across the globe using the internet and other new technologies, and
- integrate assistive technology into its academic units

Through initiatives such as QU ExxonMobil Teacher Academy (QUEMTA) and extended training programs, the Center advanced its support to teachers in the independent schools in their professional development and continuous learning of new teaching techniques and methods.

A highlight of the year was the successful completion by 45 primary schoolteachers of 27 independent schools of a week-long innovative professional development program aimed at enhancing their math and science teaching skills under the initiative, Qatar University ExxonMobil Teachers Academy (QUEMTA). The intensive program saw the teachers use active learning and inquiry-based teaching techniques designed to engage students in the learning process and deepen their understanding of math and science concepts.

To date, 88 teachers have benefitted from the Academy's programs.

Under its capacity building program, specialists from NCED and SEC were engaged in a number of training sessions on Brain-based Learning; Cognitive Coaching; The Art and Science of Teaching; the Teachers' Evaluation System; Diversity "Qatar in Focus"; Education Leadership; and Standards-based Education System.

The Center also directed efforts to strengthen school reform through its TAMAM project. Two IS schools joined the program based on self-assessed need for institutional





improvement and on increasing student engagement, achievement and success. One developed “The effectiveness of the middle management team in improving student achievement” project while the other initiated the “Increasing Qatari student motivation” project.

Under its School Empowerment Program themed ‘Bridging the Gap’, High School to Higher Education, the Center continued to support schools’ ability to prepare their students for transition into the higher education environment.

In April, supported by ExxonMobil Qatar, the Center successfully engaged 60 young primary school students (30 boys, 30 girls) in a pilot project to orient them on science, technology and mathematics (STEM) and encourage them to pursue careers in those fields. The students engaged in parallel activities such as using forensic science to solve a “murder”; creating a computer animation; firing rockets; and solving mathematical puzzles and challenges. They also had the opportunity to hear presentations from professionals in science fields and participate in activities mentored by NCED faculty, and visited ExxonMobil Research Qatar (EMRQ) to learn about its work and programs.

Involving students in their learning process is another way in which the Center promotes student engagement and motivation. Through the iEARN project, the Center supported the ROTA Knowledge Network initiative of face-to-face workshops, teacher professional development opportunities, conferences, exhibitions, community events, and other activities.

Further, NCED offered more than 27 training programs that included 91 workshops and were attended by more than 3600 school teachers and leaders.

Under the terms of its MOU with MADA Qatar Assistive Technology, the Center introduced an assistive technology course aimed at introducing educators to assistive technology, to provide definitions of common terms, and explain to students the benefits of using technology. The course also describes common ICT-based technologies that students with a disability can implement in the classroom. This includes guidelines on general accessibility of both platforms (PC and iPad) and resources such as documents and websites.

As part of the MOU, the Center offered a second intensive course (this time in Arabic) aimed at introducing educators to assistive technology. Twenty-five trainees were oriented on a range of technologies and gained foundational knowledge and skills to inform their everyday practice. The course included investigation of a range of technology platforms, including mobile and tablet technologies, as well as the accessible design of learning materials for individual needs.

MADA also continued to support the M.Ed. in Special Education program through a presentation to the Masters students on assistive technology assessment in the module SPED 604 Assessment of Students with Disabilities. It was the second of three class sessions





College of Engineering (CENG)

The College of Engineering celebrated a host of achievements during the academic year that heightened its position as a leading partner with industry, government, academia, and civil society in Qatar and the region. This included student success; the launch of the first-ever book on urbanism in Qatar; the incorporation of entrepreneurship into student learning; developing a space engineering culture; and agreements with top industrial partners.

The College also continued to advance its high-school initiatives – Life is Engineering Project (LIEP), Annual Computing Contest, and Wooden Bridge Contest.

The College's impressive year ended with the championship win by a student team 'I Copy You' in the Citizenship Category of the Microsoft Imagine Cup Pan Arab 2014 competition with their project "Humanoid Robotic Platform for Autistic Children". The team represented the Arab world in the international competition in Seattle USA in July among 35 countries.

This achievement followed their win and that of another CENG Team Techno Commando Squad (Innovation Category) in the national round of the competition in Doha which sent them to the pan-Arab competition as representatives of the State of Qatar.

Yearend also saw the graduation of 244 students (99 men, 145 women) of a total of 1296 from all QU colleges. Two male students were honored by HH The Emir while one woman was honored by Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani for achieving GPA 3.50 and over.

In November 2013, the College launched "Demystifying Doha: On Architecture and Urbanism in an Emerging City", the first ever book on urbanism and architecture in



Doha authored by faculty of the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning (DAUP) and published by Ashgate Publishing, UK. It is a three-year effort (2010-2013) and was partially funded by a grant from the National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) under the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF).

During the academic year, entrepreneurship became an important area of focus within the College. A Business Plans course was developed for senior computer science students in which, throughout the semester, they were oriented on building business models and plans for their start-up ideas. The course was run in collaboration with the Digital Incubation Centre at ictQATAR and received support from CBE Center of Entrepreneurship, and expert input from industry mentors and external guest lecturers. At the end of each semester, students presented business plans that were evaluated by an industry panel. Those whose plans were selected were encouraged to apply for incubation at ictQATAR's Digital Incubation Center.

In October, the College joined with College of Business & Economics (CBE) in an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest to engage the spirit of entrepreneurship among their students and promote awareness of the importance of business ownership and management, and effective business plan development.

Additionally, for the first time, CENG organized an Open Day in November as part of the activities throughout Qatar to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week. Students heard from speakers from top organizations such as Ooredoo and Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) who oriented them on business plan development, goal setting, preparing budgets, taking advantage of business opportunities, and identifying the best partners.

Another area on which CENG oriented its students during the year was space engineering. The College's expressed goal is to engage students from different engineering programs in an integrated multi-disciplinary mega long-term project related to space engineering in collaboration with institutions and national entities, in particular E'shail Sat, Qatar's first high-capacity satellite under ictQATAR.

In this regard, CENG faculty and students participated in an exploration of the CubeSat program and embarked on a design project to launch a QubeSat version. The multi-disciplinary design project engages undergraduate students across different CENG disciplines in a research experience to design, implement, test, and launch a miniaturized satellite system according to the CubeSat standardized project. Its overarching objective is the joint design of a highly reliable and energy efficient satellite communication system and on-board solar-powered power supply system. A dedicated website for Phase 1 was developed <http://www.qubesat1.com/>.

In December, the College's Computer Science and Engineering department engaged CENG students and those from various Doha high schools in a seminar on Space Projects in which top NASA and ESA astronauts and Es'hailSat's chief strategy officer presented on Human Space Flights, the Robotic Arm Mission, Qatar's own successful Es'hail 1 satellite mission, its parent agency Es'hailSat (Qatar Satellite), and its internship program. The event was held in collaboration with ictQATAR, the French Embassy in Qatar and Es'hailSat Qatar.

CENG Engineering Week was another opportunity for the college to introduce students to space culture and reinforce its role as a leader of innovative programs to develop engineers in new and emerging fields of engineering in Qatar. On the program was a presentation



by a former NASA astronaut who served on three space shuttle missions and made seven spacewalks in which he encouraged current and prospective students to consider a career in space science and engineering.

In April, CENG student teams – Karak, Cool It Seniors, and Q-Team -- swept the NASA Space Apps Challenge awards, winning first, second and third place in the local event which drew enthusiasts with skills in ICT, app development, engineering and design to create new tools to make life in space and on Earth, better for humanity. The students' winning space app concepts named respectively Binary Edu Robot, Astronaut Health Monitoring, and Virtual Ground Station, moved into the NASA global challenge against teams from over 50 countries.

During the academic year, the College continued to advance its relationship with partners and collaborators. In December, an agreement between QU and Maersk Oil Research and Technology Centre (MORTC) established a two-year research project "Advanced Produced Water Treatment for Reinjection" to be conducted by CENG to identify improved solutions for the treatment of water produced during oil and gas extraction in Qatar.

Its objective is to support an operational business need by Maersk Oil Qatar to identify alternative solutions for

produced water management in the Al Shaheen Field, while addressing the environmental element of its social investment program through the creation of new research into the offshore environment. It also supports QU in creating a unique wastewater treatment test facility based at the university, and forms a key component in meeting its stated ambition to become a center of excellence in this area.

This latest agreement further strengthens the long-standing partnership between the College and Maersk Oil Qatar and their commitment to greater collaboration on technology, innovation, research and development.

The College also cemented its partnership with petrochemical giant QAPCO in a new agreement that detailed all existing and new initiatives for 2014 – Quality Celebration Day, Engineering Week and GCC Students Design Contest, Life is Engineering Program, Senior Students Design Projects, Annual Computing Contest, and Wooden Bridge Competition.

Within the scope of this agreement, the projects will be funded by the company through provision of additional financial and technical support to benefit not only CENG students but also local high school students.



Furthering its collaboration within the region, the College hosted deans from GCC universities in Bahrain, KSA, Kuwait, and Oman at the 21st Meeting of GCC Deans of Engineering, Architecture, Planning, and IT in April. The annual forum is an opportunity for the deans to discuss developments and updates in their various colleges and to explore ways to enhance coordination among GCC universities at all levels, including initiating joint and collaborative projects.

The College will participate in the conference on “Advances in Materials and Processing Technologies” (AMPT 2014) which will be held in Abu Dhabi on November 16-20 to promote collaboration among research academics, postgraduate students and industry representatives.

During the year, CENG held a number of forums to promote its undergraduate programs to high school students, to promote its graduate programs, and to introduce students to career opportunities in engineering. These included Engineering Week, Graduate Programs Open Day, and Ashghal Day.

In June, at the 3rd World Engineering, Science and Technology Congress 2014 (ESTCON 2014), held in Kuala Lumpur, the CENG booth drew numbers of visitors



keen to know about its Masters and PhD programs, and prospective faculty research collaborations.

CENG's outreach programs also served to enhance high school students' interest in the science and engineering field and encourage them to pursue their studies at the college.

The programs saw a continued increase in popularity by schools, teachers, students, parents and industrial partners. LIEP, in its 5th year, has engaged over 700 high school students to date. This year's winning team received a trip to Japan to visit the Nissan and Toyota vehicle assembly factories, and be acquainted with the Japanese model of working.

In May, CENG facilitated the 2013 winning team's trip to visit the BAE Systems in the UK, Bristol University, Williams F1, Jaguar Land Rover and the University of the West of England. The students were given the opportunity to see how the Eurofighter Typhoon combat aircraft is built at the Warton Aerodrome, and witnessed the aircraft itself fly above Warton on one of its routine flights. They later visited the Flight Test Telemetry Facility where they were given a demonstration of how engineers can analyze data from a Typhoon mission, in real-time, from the ground.

The Annual Computing Contest 5th year drew a record number of students from schools across Doha, while the 2nd Wooden Bridge Contest saw participation of 81 students from 27 high schools in Doha.

Research

During the academic year, the College celebrated success in the NPRP and UREP cycles under the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The College gained 33 awarded proposals of its 180 submissions (18.3%) in the NPRP 7th cycle, and 14 of its 43 submissions (32.5%) in the UREP 15th cycle.

In the QNRF's first cycle of its Graduate Student Research Awards (GSRA) program, 4 CENG postgraduate students were awarded grants totaling \$1,629,600 for their projects to carry out extensive research in the areas of urban planning, electrical engineering and computer science.

In May 2014, ongoing NPRP projects conducted within the Chemical Engineering Department were presented in a symposium on "Advances in Chemical Engineering and Sciences" organized in conjunction with the Gas Processing Center. The forum brought together the department's researchers and external collaborators to showcase latest developments in chemical engineering and related sciences.

During the year, the College continued to advance collaboration with academia, government and industry sectors in research areas in line with the needs of the society.

In November 2013, the college and partners ConocoPhillips, Kahramaa, and Qatar Electricity and Water Company (GEWC) celebrated the successful completion

of the second phase of a joint research project designed to demonstrate a novel technology for seawater desalination. Hosted in the Chemical Engineering department, the Membrane Distillation Field Demonstration joint project made significant progress towards proving that quality freshwater can be produced from brines discharged from thermal desalination plants using low grade waste heat from industry and/or renewable sources.

Students

During the academic year, CENG students demonstrated their quality and excellence in achieving academic success and winning awards in local, regional and international competitions.

Four women graduates were honored in the Emir's Excellence Day Awards among 10 QU students from other colleges and among 20 Qatari women throughout the country for their distinguished academic excellence and innovation.

In Honors Day, CENG students in the Honors Program were celebrated for achieving GPA3.8 and above (1 Mechanical Eng, 1 Electrical Eng and 1 Architecture); Best Academic Awards (1 Mechanical & Industrial Eng, 1 Chemical Eng); Best Service Awards (1 Chemical Eng); and Best Thesis Awards (1 Computer Sci, 1 Electrical Eng, 1 Chemical Eng, 1 Architecture & Urban Planning).

In January CENG women's team Gernas 114 won the championship award in the race category of the TAQA



GCC Hybrid – Electric Car Grand Prix held in Abu Dhabi among 100 students from GCC institutions. Men’s team Gernas 214 earned second place in the competition.

Gernas 114 continued its success, winning second place in the GTL category of the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2014 in Manila, while another CENG team placed 9th with a battery-operated vehicle. The teams competed among over 100 students comprising 38 teams from 15 countries in Asia and the Middle East.

Two CENG teams won 2nd place awards in the 2nd Arab Innovation Network Annual Conference 2013 held in Jordan. The teams won in the Environment Category (Carbon Management: Regional solutions based on carbon dioxide utilization and process integration), and Engineering Category (Design and development of smart gas leakage detector: Samam) out of 20 accepted submissions.

In the GCC Students Design Contest 2014, CENG students competed among colleagues from the College and other institutions in Qatar and counterparts from universities in Bahrain, KSA, UAE and Oman.

Among 200 students and 47 submissions, CENG placed 1st and 2nd in the Engineering category for projects “Test bench: a track simulator to measure power consumption of an electric car” and “Graduation Project Report - Gulf Tower Office Building” respectively, and 1st in the Computing category for “A Fast and Accurate Hardware-based System for Quantification of IHC Stains in Breast Cancer Tissue Specimens”.





CENG students also gave a good showing in events held in August before the beginning of the academic year, taking home the Best International Academic Exchange Award 2013 at the International Aerial Robotics Competition in Beijing on August 1-4; and two awards in the Khalifa Avenue Residential Refurbishment Competition's among 20 projects (8 Qatar, 12 Spain). The competition challenge to develop design ideas for the renovation and refurbishment of residential neighborhoods along Khalifa Avenue was judged by experts from the Emiri Diwan and professional architects from Spain and UK.

CENG students took the lead in organizing events such as the Qatar Collegiate Programming Contest by the Computing Club; and the panel discussion on the important role women can play in shaping Qatar's future energy sector by CENG Alumni Chapter and Qatar Shell Women's Network. They also participated in and presented at a host of forums including Quality Celebration Day, Mechanical Design Day, CSE Project Exhibition Day, Senior Design Contest, and CENG Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter meetings.

During the year, the SPE Student Chapter continued its efforts to attract members to join its 100-strong membership. Its first meeting held in the Fall semester drew over 100 students from the engineering disciplines as well as from the College of Arts & Sciences.

In October, 13 SPE Chapter members participated in the 4-day Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition 2013 (ATCE) held in New Orleans, USA, the parent body's largest annual conference. It was a first time participation for the SPE's newest chapter.

The students had the opportunity to network with members of other SPE student chapters from universities from around the world at the 'Student Meet and Greet' and at the Student General Session and Award Luncheon where they got insights on the oil and gas industry from an exploration and production expert from Petrobras. The luncheon included the distribution of scholarships to students from different geographical regions, with a CENG chemical engineering student receiving the Middle East SPE Star Scholarship.

The Chapter's Board officers joined other SPE Chapter section leaders at the 'Student Chapter Officer Workshop' where they discussed how to improve leadership quality of the SPE section/Student Chapter and how to motivate members to volunteer for activities. The other QU SPE



members attended an Engineering Ethics workshop that outlined the importance of ethics in engineering life.

The entire group attended the SPE Student Petrobowl 2013 competition and observed students from around the world compete in a quiz on the oil and gas industry. They later attended an exhibition in which over 400 global companies presented their latest technology and ideas and recruited for future employees. During the last two days of the conference, the group attended a workshop 'How to write a technical paper' presented by a Shell principal reservoir engineer on how to write a good proposal and an effective paper, including tips on making a good presentation and how to prepare a paper for the peer-review process.

The students attended the final event -- the Annual Banquet and Reception -- where they met SPE President Mr. Egbert Imomoh.

During the year, CENG students were provided with opportunities by the College as well as its partners to further their knowledge and experience in the field. In March, CENG mechanical, chemical and electrical engineering students joined colleagues from Texas A&M University Qatar (TAMUQ) in a special visit to witness first-hand the General Shut Down (GSD) at QAPCO. The GSD is a scheduled event that occurs every five to seven years in which production is suspended to give technical experts in QAPCO the opportunity to clean process equipment and perform necessary maintenance, and carry out various tests and checks.

Faculty

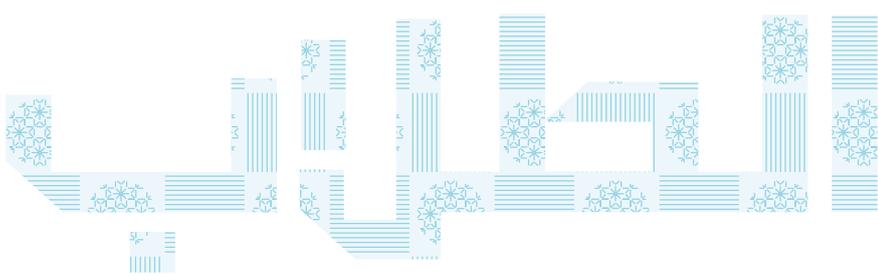
CENG faculty continued to excel in their various disciplines and were awarded for their achievements. They served as mentors to award-winning student projects and provided expert consultancy to academia, government and industrial partners on a wide range of domestic issues related to the energy sector.

A senior CENG faculty was honored by HH The Emir in the 4th State Awards among 4 QU members for their outstanding efforts and achievements on sciences, arts, and literature. CSE department faculty won the Platinum Award for Qatari PhD recipients, while 3 CENG women faculty were honored by the Qatar Leadership Centre on their completion of the Centre's first two customized leadership programs -- the Current & Future Leaders Program and the Current & Future Executive Leaders Program.

In October, a faculty team won the Best Paper Award for their study "Performance Analysis of Relay Selection Schemes in Underlay Cognitive Networks with Imperfect Channel State Information" at the International Conference on ICT Convergence (ICICTC) 2013 in Korea.



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College of Law (LAWC)

The College of Law celebrated a number of achievements during the academic year and continued to expand its academic and research profile in line with its goals and plans to be a key partner in the growth and progress of the legal profession in Qatar, and to uplifting the Qatari society through community-driven initiatives on legal rights and protections.

The College celebrated 28 men and 69 women students who received their Bachelor's certificates during the graduation ceremonies on May 20 and 21 respectively. Four men were honored by HH The Emir for achieving GPA 3.51 and above, while 15 women were honored by H.E. Sheikha Hind Al-Thani for GPA 3.50 and above.

The year's highlights included the appointment in November 2013 of a high-level Advisory Board at the College; co-hosting of the 4th Annual Willem C. Vis Middle East International Commercial Arbitration Pre-Moot competition; and establishment of the Qatar Branch of the International Law Association (ILA) in December.

In appointing the advisory board, the College sought to raise its image as the leading law college in Qatar, as well as increase its involvement and efforts in the development of the country's economy and society.

The Board's activities will serve to align the College's academic and research strategies with the market needs for the fulfillment of Qatar National Vision 2030; establish community-related projects that will lead to the awareness and appreciation of the rule of law in Qatar; and explore the development of laws and promote efficient and integrated legal projects in the country.

The Pre-Moot competition, held on March 2-6 in conjunction with Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution, US Department of Commerce Commercial Law Development Program, and Center for International Legal Education (University of Pittsburgh), was the lead-up to the

final competition held in Vienna in April 2014. Participating teams included QU LAWC, Kabul University, Dar Al Hekma College, Alexandria University, Kuwait International Law School, Al Ibrajiya University, and University of Legal, Political, and Social Sciences, Tunis.

The College also hosted the Arabic Moot Court several days later with teams from Sultan Qaboos University, University of Jordan, Kuwait University, Saint Joseph University, Tunis University, Birzeit University, and Ain Shams University.

The Qatar ILA branch, the first in the Gulf, was the result of committed work by LAWC faculty to gain membership in the prestigious body. Its aim is to bring together academics, practitioners, governmental agencies, the private sector and members of Qatari society with focus on raising awareness in Qatar of the relevance and importance of international law in international society.

In February, the branch co-organized with the College to hold a conference on the Syrian crisis and international law which was attended by Qatar Attorney-General and leading academics, experts and observers. Its objective was to discuss the means and tools of international law involved in the crisis, and in particular, international humanitarian law and international criminal law.

As part of its growing role in the legal landscape in Qatar, LAWC stepped up its position in the energy debate through its Center for Energy and Sustainability Law (CESL) which included a high-level conference in October 2013 on "Qatari-German Renewable Energy Symposium: Scaling up capacity". The lecture was co-hosted by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Qatar, and was led by a leading expert from the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy.



Research

In expanding its research capacity, the College has consistently participated in the NPRP and UREP competitions under the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), submitting 5 research proposals in the UREP 15th cycle and 3 in the NPRP 7th cycle.

Its research activities resulted in a winning proposal in the amount of US\$900,000 in the NPRP 7th cycle for a research project that will engage both Qatari lawyers and national businesses on the issue of accessing trade and investment agreements provided under international institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).



The project entitled “Legal Innovation to Empower Development: Designing and Building an Online “TradeLab” in Qatar (“Trade and Investment Legal Advisory Broker”), will be conducted by LAWC faculty and external collaborators from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Georgetown University; University of Arizona; and Qatar policy research institute, FIKHRA.

It will benefit on the one hand -- businesses, especially SMEs and NGOs, to be provided with legal assistance by the lawyers to access the rules, regulations and procedures of these agreements -- and on the other, Qatari lawyers who will be trained in this area of world trade law.

The 3-year project combines academic research with innovations in internet technologies and legal education. It comprises three components – research, ICT, and education – which will include analysis of trade access barriers, building an online platform, and establishing a law school clinic.

The College continues to further its research goals to include new and emerging areas of law relevant to Qatar such as maritime law and laws related to energy. In October 2013, the College hosted a lecture on “Maritime Law - National and International Aspects” to engage students and faculty on key aspects of maritime law, including insurance, environmental safety, contracts, piracy, private international law and dispute resolution. The lecture also focused on various forms of maritime transport and on liner trade, and looked at some of the contemporary challenges facing maritime business -- primarily environmental pollution, unlawful activities including piracy and maritime security.

Students

LAWC students had a stellar year of achievements that ended with their successful participation in the 21st Annual Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria in April, among teams from over 280 universities and 66 countries. This was the third time QU has participated in the annual written and oral advocacy competition.

In the competition’s pre-moot held at QU on March 2-6, LAWC students won writing awards for “Best Memorial – Claimant” and “Best Memorial – Respondent” over 20 students from 7 law schools from the Gulf and Middle East region on a fictitious legal dispute involving a breach of contract for a medical treatment facility.

In the Arabic Moot Court Competition held several days later (March 10-12), the LAWC team won over 8 teams from 8 universities from the Gulf and Middle East, beating Sultan Qaboos University in the finals. Other participating teams were University of Jordan, Kuwait University, Saint Joseph University, Tunis University, Birzeit University, and Ain Shams University.

LAWC students also had the opportunity to demonstrate their advocacy skills in competition rounds as part of the Advocacy Skills course in the college’s Legal Writing and Advocacy Skills Program. They also were engaged in strengthening their leadership skills through forums such as “Lead the ship of your Life”, a motivation session that uses edutainment to help participants master their personal skills to become self-motivated and efficient decision makers.

During the academic year, students’ participation in various forums at QU and externally included a roundtable with Kuwait University students on January 20-21 to follow-up on drafting a law to protect domestic workers.

The roundtable brought together the two student groups to discuss their involvement in legal clinics in their respective universities on issues such as the protection of domestic workers and that of trafficked persons. The legal clinics at each university are run by the students with supervision from law faculty and in consultation with organizations involved in social and legal issues facing vulnerable members of the society. The students work together to provide legal advice as part of their contribution to their respective communities.

In June 2013, the two groups met at Kuwait University to draft the law, and on return to Qatar, the LAWC team supplemented the project with visits and interviews with several NGO agencies, human rights and humanitarian organizations to collect further information to facilitate drafting the law.

The January roundtable also saw the participation of law professors, employers, NGOs, social affairs experts and religious scholars from QU, Kuwait University, the Protection Project, Qatar Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics, Qatar Ministry of Endowment, Qatar Charity, National Committee for Human Rights, and Qatar Foundation for Protection and Social Rehabilitation; Altawqeeet for Commerce and Services, Doha, Eyas for Higher and Technical Education Company, Kuwait, and a member of the Indian diaspora in Doha.

The final session presented recommendations on the model law, incorporating insights on fatwas, and how Islam determines the treatment of domestic workers (religious scholars); the type of services provided to domestic workers; number and nationality of domestic workers who were rendered assistance, and difficulties NGOs face in their work (NGOs); type of services that domestic workers provide; labor regulations for employees vs those for domestic workers; and rights and responsibilities of domestic workers vs those of corporations (employers).

LAWC students also participated in the College's annual Externship Career Fair in May in which law firms, government bodies, and companies with legal departments provide necessary information to students on career options and employer requirements. This year's event included a ceremony to celebrate students who completed their externship placements and the employers who provided their placements.

During the academic year, the level of quality and excellence of the education at LAWC was underlined by the success of its students pursuing graduate programs at leading law schools such as Michigan University, Berkley, Duke, Georgetown, George Washington and Tulane, its graduates interning at top world organizations such as the World Bank, and its alumni entering leading organizations in Qatar that formerly had no Qatari lawyers -- RasGas, Qatar Investment Authority, and QFC International Court.

Faculty

Owing to their wide range of expertise, LAWC faculty were called on as invited speakers, distinguished visitors, consultants and mentors, named to high-level committees, and published widely in top legal journals.

They also participated in international forums such as the Global Legal Education workshop held in February by Harvard University Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) among academics from Harvard University, Jindal University, McGill University, Northeastern University, and Sciences Po.

A faculty team also took part in the World Bank conference on Law, Justice and Development held in Washington DC on November 17-22, presenting a paper on "Extractive Industries and Revenue Streams in Africa".



College of Pharmacy (CPH)



The College of Pharmacy celebrated a number of milestones and highlights during the academic year on student and faculty achievements, stepped-up research, new agreements, and accreditation successes.

The year ended on a high note with the inauguration in June of the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Qatar in which the college partnered with Supreme Council of Health (SCH) Qatar Council for Health Practitioners, Hamad Medical Corporation and Primary Health Care Corporation. It is the first provision of the exam in the Middle East and the 4th in the world. This success came following a 9-month pilot project to implement the exam in Qatar which was conducted in May with 47 candidates comprising CPH students, community, clinic and hospital pharmacists.

While it is voluntary in the pharmacy profession in Qatar, the exam is a requirement for all CPH final-year students.





It assesses the clinical skills of prospective and practicing pharmacists and is currently the 'exit from degree' assessment used in pharmacy programs in Australia, Canada, UK and the US, and which all students take simultaneously. It gauges minimal standards in-depth by how exam participants interact with mock patients and entails moving from station to station and being assessed at each for various skillsets.

With emphasis on patient care, examinees are assessed on interaction with patients; communicating clearly with ESL patients; communicating across cultural barriers and ethical issues; critical thinking; building a patient care plan; and application of knowledge. Also assessed is knowledge and process of developing a care plan for the common diseases prevalent in Qatar.

Another of the milestones celebrated was the 4-year accreditation status awarded the college's Doctor of

Pharmacy (PharmD) program by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP), coming just 3 years after the Program's establishment. The achievement highlights the College's goals towards excellence, international standards and best practice in keeping with QU's Strategic Plan, and serves to position it among other leading pharmacy schools and colleges around the world.

Further accreditation success came in the form of the college's Continuing Professional Pharmacy Development Program (CPPD) being awarded by the American Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE), making the Program the second in the Gulf to achieve this status from the Council. It follows accreditation achievement in June last year from the Qatar Council for Health Practitioners of the Supreme Council for Health.



The College graduated its largest cohort with 30 students receiving their certificates at the graduation ceremony held on May 21 in the presence of Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al-Thani. This number comprised the first graduating students of the MSc Pharm program, 22 students receiving BSc Pharm degrees, and 8 receiving PharmD degrees.

During the academic year, the college strengthened partnerships and signed new agreements to build momentum for a research culture throughout its teaching/ learning environment.

A unique Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) in September 2013 established a system of cross-appointments in the form of Corporate Academic Clinicians. In complement with their teaching and research responsibilities at CPH, cross-appointed faculty will work closely with HMC clinicians, contributing to patient care; reciprocally, cross-appointed clinicians from HMC will engage in teaching and academic activities at the college. The MoU contributes to the development of a skilled national healthcare workforce and the delivery of safe, high-quality care, in line with Qatar's National Health Strategy.

In March, a collaborative agreement signed with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) will explore opportunities to develop, support and enrich academic and research activities and professional development at the college. In partnering with USM, CPH is enhancing its academic and research capacity and advancing its professional development program with expertise and experience from USM that mirror those at the college.

In May, the college added another specialization - Clinical Pharmacy and Practice - to its fast-growing academic and research portfolio. The addition in this MSc area of study will allow CPH students to conduct research on key priorities outlined in the National Health Strategy and other healthcare initiatives such as those defined in QU's new 5-year research roadmap. Students' expertise in this area will be a future invaluable contribution to the health and welfare of the wider community.

During the academic year, apart from its annual events such as Diabetes Week and its Career Fair, CPH embarked on a series of campaigns expressly designed to attract Qatari students to the pharmacy profession. Thirty high school students were engaged in a communications campaign in which Qatari CPH students oriented them on the profession and the need for nationals to lead in the country's healthcare initiatives.

The College also participated in the International College Fair organized by the Higher Education Institute and at HMC Career Fair in November, both events presenting an invaluable opportunity for CPH students, faculty and alumni to meet and discuss with students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare, to dispel misconceptions

about the profession and orient them on its options and opportunities.

The College was also supported by QU's External Relations Department in a web banner ad campaign to encourage Qatari women to join the profession.

In the Pharmacy Career Fair held in March, the college welcomed over 200 students from several high schools in Doha for a tour to learn about its courses, entry requirements, programs, learning resources, academic advising and facilities. It was a further example of CPH's commitment to building the image of the pharmacy profession in Qatar, and to attract national students in particular to their future role as pharmacy professionals in contributing to the country's development and progress towards fulfillment of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy.

Also participating in the Fair were Hamad Medical Corporation, Ebn Sina Medical, Qatar Petroleum Health & Wellness Centre, Qatar Anti-Doping Commission, Olympic Committee, Kulud Chain of Pharmacies, Sidra Medical & Research Center, and Wellcare Group. It was an opportunity for the organizations to promote awareness of the diversity of healthcare options to prospective students as well as to conduct recruitment activities with senior year BSc Pharm, MSc Pharm, and PharmD students.

During the year, in keeping with its professional development activities to benefit pharmacists and health professionals in Qatar, the college held a series of activities under its Continuing Pharmacy Professional Development (CPPD) program which attracted over 390 participants:

- Clinical Pharmacokinetics: Theory and Practice Application. (April)
- Pharmacotherapy Issues in the Pediatric Population, with facilitator assistance from PharmD students. (March)
- Diabetes: Who is at Risk? (December)
- Women's Health: Drugs in pregnancy and lactation, video-captured live from Surrey Memorial Hospital, Canada. (November)
- Essentials in Asthma Management. This activity also featured the launch of the CPPD 2014-2014 cycle, and celebrated its accreditation success. (October)

Notably, the College records its events for access through its website for those unable to attend.

Throughout the academic year, the College continued to expand its mission as a leading partner within the healthcare community in Qatar in contributing to the National Health Strategy and towards the Qatarization initiatives.



Research

The College achieved 4 grants (50%) in the UREP 15th cycle and one grant (7.69%) in the NPRP 7th cycle.

During the academic year, faculty participated in over 80 research studies on wide-ranging topics with external collaborators from around the world.

One such study advanced a novel strategy to develop pictograms to match common labeling instructions on medicines to facilitate migrant workers with low literacy skills who make up the majority of the manual labor workforce in Qatar.

The UREP-funded study entitled “Development and evaluation of pictograms on medication labels for patients with limited literacy skills in a culturally-diverse multiethnic population” included a CPH faculty member and 2 graduates, and collaborators from Qatar Petroleum (QP) Medical Services, and Rhodes University, South Africa. The study is considered extremely vital for Qatar and, by extension, the Gulf region where migrant workers are a huge and growing population who need to avail of healthcare services that recognize the workers’ limitations - due to their low language and literacy skills - in being responsible for taking the medication.

CPH faculty were also involved in several research forums such as the 3-day research capacity building workshop “Introduction to Research Methodology for Pharmacists” for over 80 pharmacists in Oman in September 2013; and workshops on survey research focusing on questionnaire development, testing and use which drew participants of multiple professional backgrounds (healthcare, management, business, human resources, academic advising, and others).

CPH students also demonstrated winning research skills in achieving top places at forums such as 20th Annual Dubai International Pharmaceuticals & Technology (DUPHAT) Conference on March 10-12, the 6th International



Qatar University

Conference on Drug Discovery & Therapy (ICDDT) on February 10-12, and the 5th Annual Materials Science and Engineering Symposium held on February 18, 2014.

In the DUPHAT conference, three 4th-year CPH students won 2nd Best Oral Presentation on blood glucose control in patients with acute coronary syndromes at Heart Hospital in Qatar from over 56 presentations from pharmacy colleges in Qatar, Ukraine, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, India and Pakistan. It was the 5th time for CPH participation in the student conference and the 5th time its students won top places. The UREP-funded one-year research project looked at 283 retrospective patients charts at Heart Hospital Coronary Care Unit to characterize how blood glucose levels were controlled.

Two 3rd-year students won 1st place for their research poster presentation at the ICDDT in Dubai that drew 4 Nobel laureates and scientists from more than 50 countries. Among 135 competing presentations, the students won for their paper entitled "Preparation and characterization of 3D electrospun biodegradable nanofibers for wound dressing and other tissue engineering applications". They also participated and won 1st place for their poster a few days later in the 5th Annual Materials Science and Engineering Symposium organized jointly by QU and Texas A&M University in Qatar.

In participating in such forums, CPH students are building self-confidence and experience and are excelling in opportunities to interact with their peers from around the world and gaining more insight into the profession from pharmacy and medical professionals and members of the pharmacy community.

The College remains focused on building a culture of research in line with the institutional commitment to be a leader in research. With Health and Wellness listed among priority research areas in QU's 5-year roadmap, CPH is ensuring that its students take advantage of every opportunity to be involved in research to seek solutions to health concerns in the community.

Students

In November, the College welcomed 25 first-year students in the annual symbolic White Coat Ceremony -- the 7th such in the College's history.

Student highlights during the year included the first MScPharm graduate student presenting her thesis in the College's first Masters' thesis defense oral presentation



and examination. The thesis “The Cellular Interplay between Na⁺/H⁺ Exchanger Isoform 1 and Osteopontin in Cardiac Hypertrophy” was presented in front of an international panel led by a distinguished professor from University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine along with faculty from CPH, American University of Beirut, and QU Office of Graduate Studies.

In keeping with the College’s commitment to expanding its student graduate study experience, one MScPharm student had the opportunity to work under the supervision of senior faculty at University of Bristol’s School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine as part of her thesis project on tissue cultures and cell viability.

During the year, CPH students along with alumni and faculty organized and participated in community outreach events such as activities to mark National Diabetes Month.

In collaboration with Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), the CPH team launched a public health diabetes prevention and awareness campaign at the Al Gharaffa and Madinat Khalifa PHCC centers. Its aim was to disseminate information and guidance to community members on the issue of diabetes and related health problems such as obesity and heart disease. It highlighted the College’s ongoing efforts to engage its students in community service activities that serve to help people live healthier lives, which is an integral part of being a pharmacist and which impacts future generations.

Faculty

During the year, faculty presented at forums in Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Canada, USA, Australia, Kuwait, and Ireland and participated in a series of discussion and training forums for pharmacists in Qatar. Over 80 faculty studies were also published widely in international peer-reviewed journals.



College of Sharia and Islamic Studies (CSIS)

The College's achievements during the academic year included an MOU to establish initiatives on Islamic Banking, the graduation of 117 students in the Class of 2014 graduation ceremonies, and the organization of specialized forums for intellectual discourse on Islam.

The MOU signed in December with the Company of Research Studies & Consulting in Islamic Banking, established a cooperative relationship to enhance scientific research and personnel training in Islamic banking.

The College will benefit from the agreement with the establishment of a professorial position in Islamic Banking; training of undergraduate and graduate students; annual seminars on Islamic banking; and support for the establishment of a scientific journal on Islamic financial transactions. The College is also considering the establishment of a new minor in the field of Islamic banking and insurance.

The agreement also highlighted CSIS' continued efforts to collaborate with institutions seasoned in their field of expertise with the aim to increasing its academic and research capacity and advancing its goal to be a leading partner in the realization of Qatar's national vision and development strategies.

During the year, the College organized a number of seminars and lectures with the view to promoting dialogue on a range of issues relating to Islam and the Islamic world.

In the 2-day international conference held in May on "Islamic Studies Universities in the Islamic World: Challenges and Prospects", the College brought together a host of national, regional and international experts to discuss Islamic studies and academic accreditation, and modern curriculum and Islamic studies in addition to issues of scientific research and the requirements of the labor market.

Advancing the importance of global interaction in the face of globalization, CSIS held a seminar on "Islamic discourse towards the West in the light of the challenges of globalization" in which participants discussed the need to renew Islamic discourse as a tool to engage with others

– the West in particular – and to refute traditional negative perceptions of the West and its civilizations. The seminar also discussed the human values shared by Islam and the West and the need for a positive relationship between the Islamic world and Western societies.

On religious and cultural matters, the College engaged students and faculty in a seminar on "Differentiation between Quranic verses and chapters" and a lecture entitled "Read the name of the Lord" organized by the Sharia Club.

Research

Two student research projects won UREP awards: "The Role of the Friday Sermon in the Qatari Society in Dealing with World Events"; and "Islam letters call for the deaf".

Students

The College celebrated the graduation of 21 male and 96 female students at the graduation ceremonies on May 20 and 21 in the presence of HH The Emir and Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani respectively. Fourteen students were honored for achieving GPA 3.50 and over. In June, the College celebrated 133 students on the Dean's List.

Student events included an Omrah trip accompanied by CSIS faculty, as well as participation in training workshops, discussion forums and competitions.

CSIS students and several from other QU colleges (108 women, 42 men) participated in a series of competitions held by the College during the year and supervised by CSIS faculty:

- 1- "Quranic Memorizing" Competition (Spring 2014)
- 2- "Hadith Shareef" Competition (Spring 2014)
- 3- "Free Reading" Competition (Spring 2014)
- 4- "Scientific Researches" Competition (Spring 2014)
- 5- "Oratory and the Art of Speech" Competition (male) (Spring 2014)



Faculty

CSIS faculty increased by eleven (11) during the academic year. Faculty members participated in a number of forums at home and abroad and lent their expertise as invited speakers, mentors, presenters and trainers. They published and contributed articles in various journals and were named to academic bodies, boards and committees. Fifteen (15) research papers were presented by CSIS faculty at various conferences in Canada, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Qatar, Turkey, Tunisia, UK, and US.



Library

During the academic year, the Library stepped up its efforts to advance its services to QU members and to the wider society. To this end, the Library employed several initiatives such as a user survey to measure library service quality and identify best practices, trials of plagiarism detection and prevention technologies, and the implementation of several new databases.

The user survey was conducted between May 20 and June 15 through the Association of Research Libraries' LibQUAL+® program, a set of resources used by libraries to "solicit, track, understand and act upon users' opinions of service quality".

In July, the Library began trialing iThenticate and Turnitin, both plagiarism detection technologies used by scholarly publishers and research institutions worldwide to ensure the originality of written work before publication. The software will allow faculty and researchers to compare content they are submitting, marking, editing or publishing against content previously published in the iThenticate and Turnitin databases of over 45 billion web pages and 130 million content items.



This facility is in support of QU's commitment to ensuring academic and research integrity throughout its teaching and learning environment.

The Library also added 12 new specialized databases to its electronic resources collection. These include Al Manhal Heritage and Theses Collection; American Society of Civil Engineering Online journals; American Society of Civil Engineering E-Books Collection; Brill's International Law and Human Rights Online Journals; LWW Health Library; International Law Reports; Kluwer Arbitration Law Online; Lynda Online Library; Royal Society of Chemistry Online Journals; Royal Society of Chemistry Online Books; Up-To-Date (Evidence-based Medicine); and Westlaw Gulf.

The Library is currently trialing 3 databases:

- Arabian Monitor, a source of in-depth geopolitical and economic analysis of Middle Eastern markets;
- Business Monitor International, a business database containing comprehensive analyses of political risk, finance, outlook and forecasting, and various industry sectors; and
- OnArchitecture videos, an audiovisual database featuring the main trends in the field of architecture.

A highlight event in the Library's activities during the year was the hosting of the 20th Annual Conference & Exhibition of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) in March in its capacity as sponsor of the SLA Arabian Gulf Chapter (SLA-AGC). The event drew the presence of Qatar Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari, QU leaders and library staff, and local and regional representatives of libraries and information centers.

The three-day conference entitled "Promoting Digital Knowledge Community with Information" discussed several issues related to libraries, and shared information on ways to take advantage of digital content. It included a number of sessions devoted to topics such as Arabic content enrichment on the internet, the role of librarians in building knowledge-based societies, and open access publishing.

The conference also featured a state-of-the-art exhibition which included 57 exhibitors representing international major publishers, e-content developers, information-solution providers for libraries, and information centers.

A 3-day workshop program prior to the conference was also hosted by the Library and organized by Dubai-based value-added operator in the knowledge industry KnowledgeE. The workshops addressed different themes related to working in library and information centers and were presented by well-known specialists in the field. They served to promote and develop the capacities of QU library staff and other participants from Qatar and abroad.

In March, the Library was the recipient of a generous donation of 300 books from the British Council, the British Embassy Doha, and Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing, in a ceremony to celebrate British Book Day as part of the events of the British Festival 2014. The books add to the Library's collection of English publications and to its growing range of books and resources in English and Arabic, numbering 350,000 print and 110,000 e-books, as well as dozens of online databases on a variety of topics.

In keeping with its mission to promote staff development and strengthen their capacity, the Library held many training sessions on databases such as ScienceDirect, EBSCO, and E-Marefa, citation management software, and emerging trends and technologies in the field of libraries. In addition, staff members took part in domestic and international workshops and conferences including MENA-IUG, and Information Literacy Network-Gulf Chapter, to name a few.

During the academic year, Library facilities were engaged in various events such as National Environment Day, and the Third International Conference of the Arabic Department on "Linguistics and Development of Arabic Language Teaching." Its American Corner was the venue of a "Poems and Stories" event in conjunction with QU English Department to commemorate the International Day of the Girl; celebration of Teachers' Day with a lecture on "What Makes a Good Teacher" delivered by a College of Education faculty member; and a virtual webchat by a NASA engineer on space-related activities.

Library Awareness Day was held in May and featured training sessions and exhibits by Arabic database vendors and a book fair in cooperation with the QU Students Book Club. Library staff participated in a series of brief presentations outlining the library's services, policies and general code of conduct, followed by a Q&A session. As part of the interactive nature of the event, students were given the chance to win prizes by answering questions about the Library and participating in a raffle draw.

Institutional Planning and Development

Led by the Office of Institutional Planning and Development (OIPD), QU launched its second Strategic Plan (2013-2016), and strengthened plans and strategies to implement institutional effectiveness, support institutional research, and advance its ambitions towards attaining international institutional accreditation.

The University also aimed to develop a culture of institutional efficiency with the view to enriching students' experience, harmonizing resources and priorities towards academic and research excellence, and building global recognition.

The new 3-year strategic planning cycle was launched following deliberations by four working groups with representation across campus that developed the plan based on higher educational achievements, better research accomplishments, dynamic societal aspirations and clear performance measures. Strategies by all QU sectors, colleges, departments and research centers will derive from the overarching institutional level plan.

In placing institutional efficiency at the forefront of its plans and strategies, QU recognizes that its development can be achieved through strategic planning, assessing academic programs, budget planning, reviewing non-academic units, and assisting students' development. Guided by an Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) with representatives from across the University and two external partners, the organization aims to successfully execute plans holistically, identify major challenges and obstacles, and effectively align services, resources, and programs, including those in the non-academic area.

The IEC released its 2012-2013 Institutional Effectiveness Report in October 2013, addressing three major areas related to the University's mission, functions, and resources: external environmental factors; QU student and faculty profiles; and results from the institutional effectiveness framework processes.

During the academic year, the organization drew focus on academic ranking as a critical area of its development and an important line item in its strategic planning and institutional efficiency activities.

The importance of ranking was highlighted in a 2-day workshop program on February 16-17 for senior administration members and faculty conducted by Knowledge Enterprise and Analysis, City University of Hong Kong. They were oriented on strategic and budget

planning, performance indicators, benchmarking and rankings and engaged on ways to maximize performance management and outcomes monitoring in order to ensure successful strategic plan implementation.

The workshop highlighted the various ranking indicators in use by the big three ranking bodies: QS World University Ranking, Times Higher Education World University Ranking (THE), and Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). Data from around the world allowed participants to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of QU's performance against these indicators and to discuss with their colleagues ways to improve it. Participants also learned about the various types and uses of benchmarking in higher education around the world ranging from ensuring value for money to aspirational benchmarking for performance improvement.

During the academic year, OIPD through its Survey Section, conducted a series of surveys related to students, alumni, faculty, staff, high school students, parents and employers to gauge satisfaction rates on academic expectations, housing, engagement, orientation, graduation, and university perception. Results and findings continue to constitute a vital source of input to processes and planning. This is clearly evident in areas such as food service, housing, customer care, continuing education, and faculty performance review.

The Institutional Research and Data Warehouse section endeavored to develop an enrollment projection model, which was presented to the University leadership and recommended to be used as a planning guideline for the next couple of years. OIPD continued to lead efforts towards the development of a University Strategic Enrollment Plan. A detailed action plan with performance indicators is on the agenda of this comprehensive project.

OIPD also led the initiative to acquire Activity Insight, a software application designed to capture faculty résumé information as well as faculty activities, in terms of teaching, research, professional development and community service. This will replace the home-grown "Faculty Performance, Review and Development System".

In parallel, the Institutional Research and Data Warehouse section has continued producing standard OIPD publications to support and encourage data-driven decision making such as the Faculty Characteristics Dashboard, several Grades Distribution reports and Grades Distribution Analysis Report, Semester Analysis Report,

Book of Trends, Graduation and Retention reports, Faculty to Student ratios reports, Faculty Profile, and Faculty Load Analysis, University Sail (Institutional KPIs), 2012-2013 Fast Facts, and 2012-2013 Fact Book.

A major study undertaken by OIPD was focused on tracking and analyzing the academic performance of cohorts who have joined the Arabic Study Plan since Fall 2012 by way of conducting an in-depth analysis of the retention, academic standing and grades of those cohorts, as well as a comparative analysis of the grades of same cohorts versus other QU students. The aim of the study is to monitor and improve student performance and retention of those student cohorts.

QU data integrity and confidentiality continued to be high on OIPD focus and was further strengthened in response to the organization's ever-evolving technology infrastructure and business landscape. While upgrading its technology to enhance student learning and administrative efficiency, QU remained cognizant of its commitment to protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information of all its members.

During the year, OIPD recorded 26 MOUs for academic and research exchanges on a wide range of fields with domestic institutions and industrial companies and international universities. In September 2013, QU signed a vital agreement with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to establish a unified national information system that will provide much-needed information and data on the national labor market. The agreement addresses the lack of information, statistics and research on the labor

market, noting that there is no certified database or unified information source that gives integrated information about Qatar's labor market. It builds on the strategy for the Qatari labor sector launched in 2011 by the then-Heir Apparent to promote Qatarization policies, provide more job opportunities for citizens in related sectors, and focus on absorbing the largest number of nationals in employment.

The labor information system will improve the way labor market policies are planned and developed based on precise statistics and targeted research, and so help in structuring effective policies and procedures.

The organization's Qatarization efforts have kept pace during the academic year, with a dedicated unit established to increase the number of national students, faculty and staff members in its colleges and administrative departments. These efforts were recognized with the Partnership Award for Qatarization from Qatar Petroleum in May 2014.

QU celebrated a number of accreditation successes, and led by OIPD, advanced its plans towards institutional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The Itimad project is in its 3rd phase towards membership in the accrediting body which will require the organization to meet another set of standards. Advancing the project is pending some changes in academic programs which are being planned for and expected to be implemented during the next two academic years.



Scientific Research



With a boom in research and the highest growth rate in research in the region, QU is well-placed as a leading partner in contributing to Qatar's ambitions towards a knowledge-based economy, and poised to become a regional leader of thought. In this regard, over the academic year, the organization continued to step up its research activities that are grounded in addressing the needs of the community and issues relevant to the region.

Achievements included the launch of the research roadmap, success in UREP and NPRP research grants and the QNRF award for Best Research Office, establishment of a multi-million state-of-the-art research complex, and addition of 5 new research centers. QU research also received an increased budget of US\$56 million that will provide optimum resources, facilities and equipment for the wide-range of research activities.

In a move to demonstrate its growing role as the nation's research engine, QU launched its research roadmap for 2014-2019, identifying priority areas and outlining its goals for the coming 5 years.

Entitled 'Advancing Research for Qatar's Future', the roadmap listed QU's four priority research areas -- Energy, Environment & Resource Sustainability; Social Change &

Identity; Population, Health & Wellness; and Information, Communication & Technologies (ICT).

Each has a set of sub-themes respectively -- Liquefied Natural Gas and Alternative Energy, Materials and Nanotechnology, Marine Resources and Water, Air & Food Security; Modernization, National Identity and Society, Islam & Contemporary Issues, and Education and Capacity Building; Prevention & Treatment of Chronic Non Communicable Diseases, and Traffic Safety; and Intelligent and Secure Information Processing, Distributed Systems and E-Services, and Enabling Technologies.

Plans for implementation of the roadmap include the establishment of 12 interdisciplinary groups to address the sub-themes. The key impact is expected to be felt in the number and quality of PhD programs and post-doctoral training as well as stimulation of undergraduate programs.

In the NPRP 7th cycle, QU received the highest number of research grants -- 62 (38.3%) of the total 162 awarded projects from organizations and institutions in Qatar. The grant funding in the amount of US\$48.8 million will support more than two-thirds in applied research and a third in basic research.

Research areas included humanities, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering and technology, with the majority of grants going to engineering and technology, followed by natural sciences and social sciences. 439 proposals were submitted -- a 25.5% increase in submissions from the last cycle. 374 faculty members/researchers participated in this cycle which also saw 414 collaborations with institutions from 49 countries.

In the 15th UREP cycle, QU won 25 out of its 92 submitted proposals, a success percentage of 27.17%, engaging 93 students.

The Office of Academic Research (OAR) was awarded the Best Research Office for 2014 among 40 institutions by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) at its 6th Annual Forum. The award recognized the Office's compliance with policies and procedures and timely response to deadlines.

As the organization's central management and administration for research, the OAR continued during the academic year to spare no effort to ensure optimum resources to facilitate sound, innovative faculty and student research and support collaboration with institutions around the world. It currently oversees about 480 projects of varying content and size and manages grants ranging from \$3000 to \$5 million.

QU's various initiatives, programs and forums highlight the importance of research and support the university's stated challenge to promote a culture of research in terms of student and faculty output, and within society via school outreach programs such as Al BairaQ, Gasna, Life is Engineering, Computing Contest and others.

Additionally, QU committed to working closely with its partners and major stakeholders to address the research grand challenges as part of its involvement in advancing the Qatar National Research Strategy. The organization identified the importance of making the shift from concept to execution to bring into focus the work of Qatar scientists and its commitment, along with partners, to help them to compete on the global stage. It further identified the importance of not only addressing the financial resources and scientific tools, but the entire research ecosystem which includes national priorities, institutional research culture, graduate research, and international collaborations.

During the academic year, QU placed focus on energy security -- one of Qatar's research grand challenges -- bringing to bear its academic and research expertise to various institutional and national projects on three priority challenges -- solar energy, energy storage and smart grid integration. Other ongoing research activities include a wide range of projects such as biofuel from organic waste, solar energy to fuel, carbon dioxide sequestration, energy efficient systems and smart buildings, and Qatar solar map, to name a few.

The innovative biofuels project is one of the most important projects being undertaken by Qatar University that will serve the country significantly in various fields, including food security. To date, the research has succeeded in identifying and isolating local microalgae strains from Qatar's environment. This was facilitated by QU facilities that are among the very best in the world for this type of research.

The new multi-million research complex is positioned as the center of QU's research plans and strategies, providing a world-class facility to house its research centers as well as to host conference forums of international standard. These include the high-level Gulf Intelligence Qatar Energy R&D Forum held on March 18, several forums as part of the Aluminium Week organized in May by QU Center for Advanced Materials (CAM), and the first-ever workshop on the Use of Laboratory Animals for Biomedical Research on April 8-9.

The two-day workshop was organized by QU Laboratory Animal Research Center (LARC), the first and only such establishment in the country, and sponsored by QU and Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). Participants gained insights from experts in the field from LARC, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore SingHealth Experimental Medicine Centre and Mouse Repository, Genetic Resource Centre, The Jackson Laboratory, USA.

Topics included animal research ethics, biosafety in animal facilities, laboratory bio-risk assessment and management in animal facilities, laboratory animal bio-security management, husbandry and housing of laboratory animals, and genetically-altered (transgenic) animals.

LARC joins the Entrepreneurship Center, Center for Gulf Studies, Center for Science and Humanities, and Center for Sustainable Development as one of the organization's newest research centers.

The centers are the first in Qatar and were designed to capitalize on QU's interdisciplinary strengths, and reflect several important themes contained in the human and social development pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the objectives and values outlined in the national development strategies.

QU's many and wide-ranging collaborative research activities have strengthened its partnership with leading organizations in Qatar, in the region and beyond. In this regard, the organization signed a number of agreements for research, training and sponsorship support, the most recent of which was the cooperative agreement with Qatar Foundation Research & Development (QF R&D) in July to establish an interdisciplinary PhD program in all fields of research. With its research portfolio supported by several professorial Chairs, QU continues to advance research and provide opportunities to benefit national students to prepare them for future placement in the professional sectors in Qatar.





Student Affairs

During the academic year, Student Affairs continued to entrench its commitment towards student success. In light of the recent growth in student numbers, this commitment was reflected in stepped-up efforts to provide students with the optimum learning experience to succeed and excel as well-qualified graduates to contribute to Qatar's progress and development.

Highlights of the year included the graduation of 1269 students, comprising 989 women and 280 men, with 60 achieving 3.50 GPA and above, underlining the increase in the level of scholarship and academic excellence of QU students. The men's graduation ceremony was graced by His Highness The Emir, while Supreme Education Council Chair H.E. Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani honored the women's ceremony.

The organization also celebrated the excellence award accorded its academic advising programs, and 5-year accreditation of the Foundation Program Department of English. During the year, the First Year Experience (FYE) self-study was launched.

During the academic year, strengthened focus was directed at student retention, guidance and success through academic advising, learning support, the First Year Experience, scholarships, and technology-enabled learning. This focus serves to contribute to the institution's goals of a student community of academic and research excellence, its Qatarization efforts, the objectives outlined in the Human Development pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030, as well as to the country's ambitions towards a knowledge-based society.

Ongoing efforts to provide academic advising programs and strategies to enhance students' academic journey earned the organization the International Excellence Award from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) for its distinctive academic advising programs, making it the only university in the Gulf and the Middle East to receive the prestigious award.

The award was a reflection of the university's commitment to strengthening resources and services to open up students to their individual talents and potential.

In establishing a dedicated Center for Academic Advising and Retention, QU responded to a need to develop and nurture a close relationship with its students, to identify and attend to their academic and non-academic needs, and mentor their progress.

Academic advising is also provided in each college through an established academic advising office that includes academic advisors enlisted to meet the needs of their respective student populations. Through consultation with their academic advisors, students are oriented on available majors and academic paths and guided to select the courses that best match their interests and goals. They are also assisted with preparation of study plans, and made aware of available resources, services and facilities, and academic policies and regulations.

In addition, advisors and faculty members keep each other informed of student needs for support and guidance through the Student Referral System. In this way, students are referred to the appropriate center to avail of the necessary services to facilitate their continued engagement and motivation academically and in line with their personal needs.

Other ways in which students are engaged to empower themselves and maximize their chances of success are through a refocused Student Learning Support Center; peer tutoring and teacher-student mentoring; counseling services; career services; and the Academic Excellence Program – all aimed at enabling students to explore and reach their full potential. In addition, amended policies instituted in 2013 on student academic probation and retention served to motivate struggling students to reach out for guidance and mentoring to overcome barriers to their learning.

These are a key part of QU's growth strategy which puts each student's interests at the heart of its efforts to provide a supportive environment by actively facilitating the improvement of their learning skills and so advancing their competitiveness as students, and later as graduates, in the labor market.

Support for students on acquisition of English language skills is key to these efforts -- as some students enter the university with an insufficient level of preparedness

in that area -- to enable them to achieve good outcomes throughout their tenure of study towards graduation.

With the labor market in Qatar responding to a globalized environment in which the lingua franca is English, QU commits itself to readying its students to successfully enter the marketplace at home, in the region and internationally, and at the same time, strengthening their Arabic language proficiency, both objectives being in line with the values expressed in Qatar National Vision 2030.

An innovative project implemented within the academic year is the Second Language Acquisition (SLA) Counseling in the Foundation Program by which an experienced bi-lingual educator will reach out to students who are low-performing and at risk in English Language proficiency, and assess and identify each student's specific difficulty and provide tools to overcome it.

It is a pioneering project in the region aimed at helping students reflect on their second language learning process, identify their strengths and weaknesses and accordingly develop an individualized language learning plan and strategies. Activities such as group workshops, one-to-one sessions and in-class interventions target not only an improvement of their language learning strategies but also implicitly build fundamental study skills such as reflecting, critical thinking and goal setting.

Notably, the Foundation Program Department of English achieved a 5-year accreditation in December 2013 by the Commission on English Language Teaching Accreditation (CEA), the official US government body for accrediting intensive English language programs. A further ten years will be granted if the program continues to meet the 44 exacting standards of the Commission.

With regard to its First Year Experience initiative, the university entered its final phase of a self-study to identify opportunities for improvement which would lead to higher levels of student learning, student achievement, retention and success. The organization recognized that the first year of university is a time of great opportunity and a significant challenge for students, and that a successful first year sets the foundation for success throughout students' tenure at university. The aim is to produce an institutional plan to engender improvements in approaches to providing an environment for first year students' successful transition into university life and their persistence in college.



Considerable resources were also committed to upgrading QU's classroom and campus infrastructure with modern technology-enabled resources such as Lecture Capture, Blackboard, CiscoWebEx, and special needs assistive technology; advanced research labs, new and environmentally-friendly buildings, and well-equipped library facilities. These have made a positive impact on both teaching approaches and students' enjoyment of learning.

Technology-enabled learning (TEL) is an important area of focus at QU with the goal to increasing student performance and enhancing their academic experience in line with international trends. To this end, QU established a TEL Chair to bring considerable value to its academic and research environment in its mission to produce well-educated technology-savvy graduates prepared to contribute to Qatar's knowledge-based economy and who can hold their own internationally among their peers.

Assistive technology (AT) was also implemented through an MOU signed with MADA Qatar Assistive Technology Center in January designed to support QU students with disabilities with appropriate technology and devices, advice identifying in appropriate technologies for personal use, as well as suitable training in the use of personal technology to enhance their access to education. Additionally, QU faculty and team members of the Special Needs Section will receive training in order to improve their knowledge and awareness of assistive technology and inclusive design to enable them to better support students with special needs.

This forms part of the organization's continued commitment to inclusion and the provision of opportunities for students with special needs to develop and upgrade their skills and competencies in keeping with the changing needs of the labor market.

In April, 40 students benefitted from a series of training workshops conducted in Braille that were organized by the Career Qualifying Program of the Career Services Center (CSC) in collaboration with the International Center for Leadership Development.

Students were also supported in their further study and career plans through forums such as the Study Abroad Fair, Scholarship and Internship Fair, and Open Days

and career fairs at their various colleges. They also had the opportunity to learn about business ownership and management in the first-ever regional conference "Entrepreneurship in Economic Development Forum" organized by College of Business & Economics on February 24-25.

The organization facilitated students in attaining internship and externship opportunities with leading organizations in government, industry, business and civil society as part of the "learning by doing" strategy to enhance students' classroom learning with practical engagement in the world of work. MOUs signed with national, regional and international academic institutions during the year also served to advance student exchanges and opportunities for them to participate in enriching academic and cultural experiences.



QU's relationship with parents is another channel through which the organization seeks to build an holistic network of support at the university. Through orientation events and other forums during the year, the Parents' Program continued to strengthen its relationship with parents to include them in plans and developments and engage them in the efforts to encourage, support and motivate their children throughout their tenure of study.

Other planned student-focused initiatives include a new Student Center, and the evolution of QU into a residential campus. The objective of the former is to provide students' access to a one-stop shop of all areas of student affairs; the latter is geared towards creating a collegial and active living environment whereby students can participate in social, educational, cultural and recreational opportunities and so enhance the spirit of the campus.

The residential campus project will support QU's mission and vision by providing housing facilities where students are empowered to learn, flourish, be innovative, and succeed. The new residence halls will be managed by the newly established Student Housing and Residence Life Department. The project is evolving and efforts towards its completion will continue throughout the next academic year.

Another student-centered initiative -- the Nutrition Clinic -- was launched during the year by the Food Service and Catering Section. Students are provided with the opportunity to consult with nutritionists on healthy lifestyles and appropriate dietary habits.

In community service and social activities during the academic year, students participated in a number of campaigns such as health awareness on obesity, diabetes and cancer, blood donation, and charitable projects that impacted various groups in Qatar. Under the Student Activities Department, students organized

the 8th instalment of the organization's annual Cultural Village event. Thirty-three booths representing 21 countries showcased the myriad of nationalities at QU and highlighted the spirit of mutual respect and goodwill enjoyed among them. The event drew the presence of Qatar Minister for Youth and Sport H E Mr Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser Al Ali, diplomatic representatives from Bahrain, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syria, The Philippines, and Yemen, QU leaders, staff, faculty, and members of the wider community.

Students also celebrated a number of achievements, winning top awards for academic, research and non-academic excellence, as well as taking the lead in various campaigns and initiatives to support the needs of the community. QU alumni advanced their role as ambassadors of QU, facilitating outreach events such as the QU Alumni Reunion, and "Coffee with an Alumnus", with chapters organizing events and forums to keep abreast of developments in their fields of interest.

In a series of surveys conducted during the year, it was recorded that 85% of graduating students were satisfied with the skills and knowledge they acquired for the job market during their studies at QU, and that 92% of the graduates would recommend QU to their friends and relatives who want to pursue their university education. This reflects the confidence the graduates have in the leadership, academic and research programs, and faculty, and their recognition of the many and varied services and facilities the university provides.

As a new (and larger) batch of incoming students are expected in the next academic year, QU is moving to ensure that the foundation for their learning (and that of its current students) is continuously strengthened and the teaching/learning environment developed to international standard and quality to produce exceptional learners and graduates of the highest academic caliber.





Center for Advanced Materials (CAM)

The Center for Advanced Materials enjoyed a number of highlights during the academic year which included the appointment of a Qatalum-Hydro Chair, an MOU with the Center for Intelligent Nano-Bio Materials at EWHA Woman's University, South Korea, and the achievement of Gold Sponsorship for the Center's Al Biraq World high school program by Maersk Oil Qatar (MOQ).

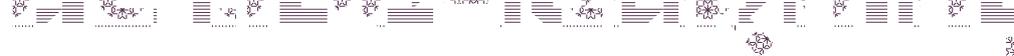
At the start of the academic year, two professors from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) were appointed to the Qatalum/Hydro Chair in the field of aluminium over a 3-year period. The professors' expertise and experience will serve to increase the material science and technology competence at QU, boost the level of excellence in research, teaching and training which will be of considerable benefit to current and prospective students, and position the Center as a leader in materials science and technology in Qatar and the region.

In its MOU with EWHA Woman's University, the Center is advancing its commitment to engage student and faculty exchanges with educational institutions in different countries toward the progress of learning as well as the promotion of international understanding.

The Gold Sponsorship achievement for Al Biraq program under a unique 3-year agreement underlined the special relationship CAM, MOQ and Qatar University share in their commitment to ensuring that young students are provided with the tools and resources to be engaged in science and research with the view to pursuing a university career in these areas, and emerge as the next leaders of the country's development. It will serve to ensure sustainable growth and success of Al Biraq, and contribute to Qatar's national development and Qatarization strategies.

Al Biraq's I am Discovering Materials series completed its 7th cycle in May 2014, its I am a Researcher 7th cycle in March, and Science in Sport 2nd cycle in February, benefitting 946 high school students from schools across Qatar. To date, 2534 students have been impacted by the program and its activities.

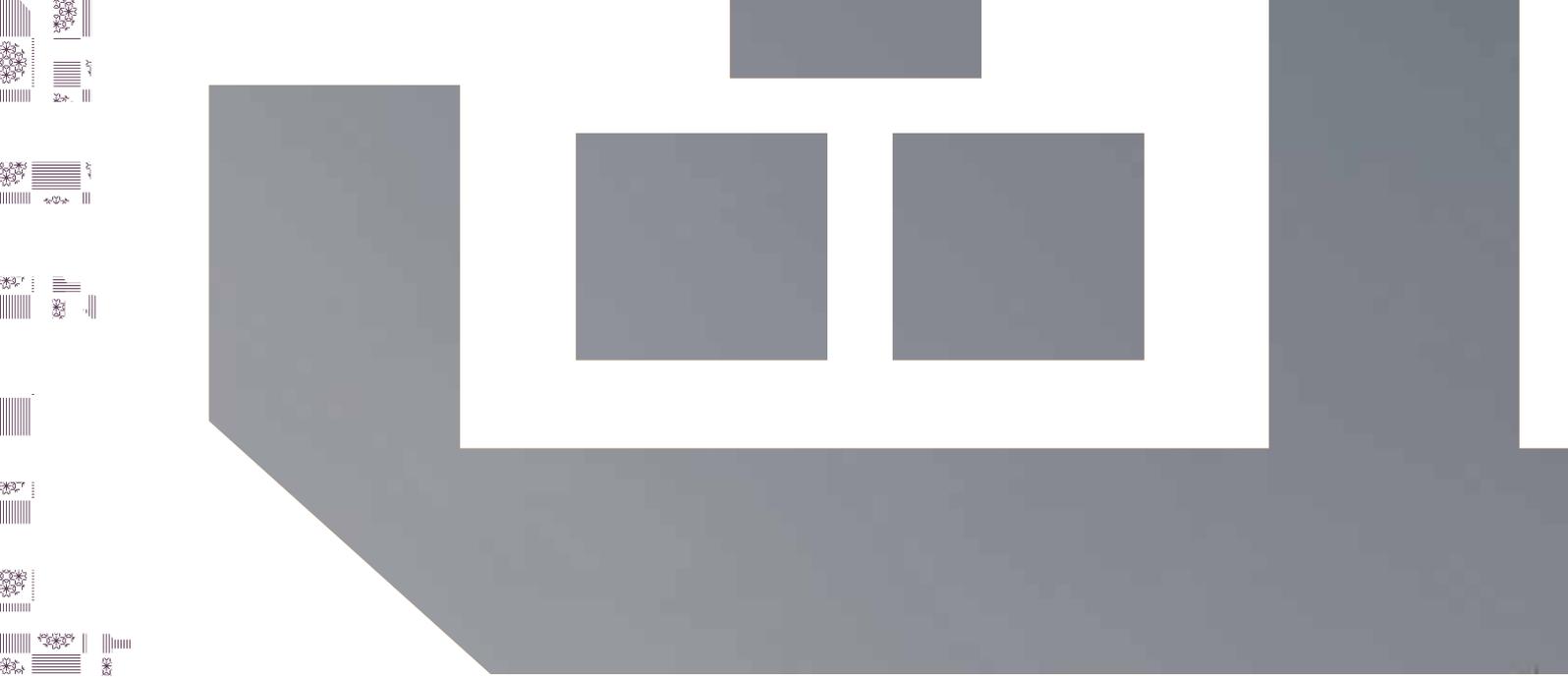
In September/October, CAM presented details of the Al Biraq initiative at the Equinox Summit Learning 2030 at the University of Waterloo. Senior faculty of the program participated in the event with a presentation on "Education outside the classroom in Qatar" highlighting the high school science initiative as a model for an innovative educational outreach. The presentation included a film about Al Biraq, its role in contributing to the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, and the support it enjoys from QU, leading partners in Qatar, schools, principals, teachers, parents and students.



The faculty's participation was at the invitation of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Waterloo that hosts the Waterloo Global Science Initiative (WGSi).

They joined educators and innovators in education-related fields and next-generation leaders from around the world at the prestigious event aimed at exploring "best practices and promising initiatives in education aimed at empowering high school students in their creativity and potential; and to contribute to an Equinox Blueprint that provides clear recommendations on building a school for the 21st century that fosters skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation".





In a series of forums during the year, the Center stepped up its efforts to expand its research objectives to be a leading partner in contributing to the research culture at QU and in Qatar.

The Center held the 5th annual Materials Science and Engineering Symposium 2014 in conjunction with Texas A&M University at Qatar in February on the theme "Materials for the future for Qatar". Speakers and presenters from QU, Texas A&M at Qatar, Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, University of Ferrara, Italy, Qatar Shell and QAPCO addressed advances in materials research and their important role in providing needed support to the industry sector and the research "grand challenges" in Qatar. The event drew around 160 experts in academia, research, government, and industry to discuss and present on the theme and was an opportunity to promote further collaboration in cross-disciplinary areas.

Another highlight was the Center's successful hosting of the 3rd Aluminium Week in May, organized with Hydro Technology Center Qatar to highlight new environments and applications for aluminium, green solutions, processes and technology, and research collaboration.

CAM students and researchers presented at the seminars and workshops alongside key experts and high-level managers from the Center, Hydro, Qatalum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Material Science Centre Qatar, GE, and Qatar Solar, as well as end users of Hydro/Qatalum products from Turkey, South Africa and the GCC. A poster competition was part of the event's program, a majority of the submissions being supported by Qatar National Research Fund and industry partners.

The Center's success in research in the academic year included one award in UREP 15th cycle and 3 in NPRP 7th cycle, and establishment of research collaborations with a number of partners. The NPRP-funded projects will be conducted with collaborators at QU, Alexandria University, and National University of Singapore respectively.

Research collaboration with industry and national, regional and international institutions continue to be a central focus for the Center, and it is ably assisted in these efforts by its high-level advisory board that was appointed during the last academic year.

A unique research project with Qatar Steel started in November, investigates the corrosion behavior of epoxy-coated rebar in the lab and in the field. The project involves experts in metallurgy and construction materials, scientists, and students from different disciplines.

Building on its partnership with Hydro, Qatalum and NTNU to expand research collaboration on the uses and importance of aluminium in Qatar, the Center hosted a lecture on "Collaborative Aluminium Research at CAM-QU and NTNU-Norway" as part of the activities of Aluminium Week. The Center also held a seminar on "Aluminium Research in Qatar" on Day 4 which included a keynote address from QU VP for Research as well as presentations by students and researchers.

Additionally, the Center and Hydro Aluminum QSTP branch signed an agreement to conduct research on promoting "Learning by Doing" and "Hands-On" mentorship activities on projects related to aluminum production.

During the year, CAM faculty published 41 peer-reviewed papers, the majority over two and three book chapters in journals with impact factor. Additionally, CAM members submitted application for Intellectual Property (IP) recognition of 3 innovations. The level of expertise of CAM members was highlighted by the achievement of its Director in receiving the Gulf Petrochemicals & Chemicals Association (GPCA) Plastic Excellence Award 2014 over researchers shortlisted from academic and research institutions, research centers and industrial companies in the Gulf and Middle East region.

A further plus for the Center was the enhancement of its ISO 17025 accreditation achieved in 2009/2010 to 5 methods -- ASTM D1238, ASTM D638, ASTM E 415, ASTM E 18, and ASTM E8/E8M.

CAM currently has 28 running projects and during the year, continued to provide services and professional development training opportunities to industry, academic and government organizations in the field of materials science and engineering. These included 3019 analyses, 18 industrial/community training workshops, and 409 services to clients.



Exponential growth in research productivity making QU the fastest-growing university in research in the Middle East.

إن النمو الهائل في إنتاج الأبحاث قد جعل جامعة قطر الجامعة الأكثر نمواً في مجال البحث على مستوى الشرق الأوسط.

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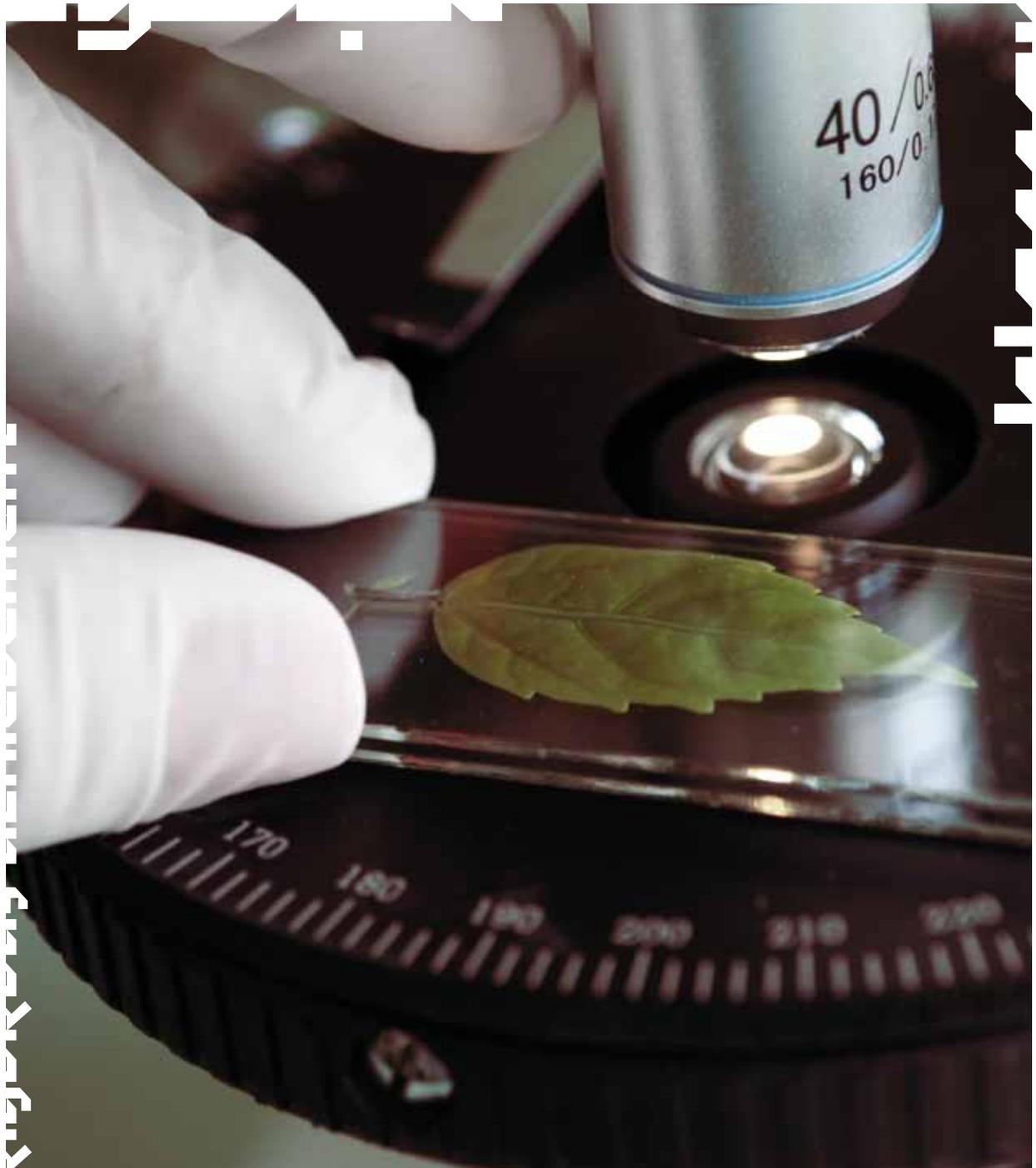
نتائج
أبحاث
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العلم
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Environmental Studies Center (ESC)



The Center enjoyed a number of achievements during the academic year which underlined its growing position as a leader in academic and research excellence on the marine ecology and environment of Qatar and the surrounding waters and seabed. Activities throughout the year yielded a number of highlights such as the Marine Station development, digital archiving of the Center's vast data holdings, launch of the new phase in the turtle monitoring project at Ras Laffan Industrial City (RLIC), unique findings, and new collaborations.

Construction of the Marine Station at Ras Al-Matbakh continued at pace during the year towards completion. The station comprises a main Qatar University section of administrative buildings and lab facilities and a second section housing a fish farming facility of the Fisheries Management Directorate of the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The QU section is expected for handover in the next eighteen months followed closely by the MoE section.

The Station is one of many projects that highlight the longstanding relationship ESC enjoys with the Ministry. This was evident by the honor award received from the Ministry in February in recognition of their collaboration in protecting Qatar's environment and natural resources.

In its digital archiving exercise, the Center's Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Unit embarked on the process of scientific cataloguing of the ESC's entire historic collection of satellite imagery, aerial photography, bathymetric data and GIS data. The process,

conducted by ESC researchers, will catalogue and archive the Center's vast amount of data holdings on Qatar (and the Gulf) marine communities, coastal waters, marine physical parameters, and digital maps.

The archive will provide a substantive resource collection for staff at ESC, its local, regional and international research partners, and students whose work depends on the digital geospatial data. It will be hosted on a dedicated server with regulated access and regular backup so enhancing the security of the data holdings which are seen as a valuable resource for Qatar in its efforts to build an historical environment culture and heritage as stated in the national vision and development strategies.

In keeping with its archiving and documentation objectives, the Center established a Reference and Voucher collection of Qatar's marine biodiversity. Additionally, its MultiMedia Unit continued to develop a photographic collection of samples of organisms, along with a large reference collection of photocopies and illustrations from various websites which will aid in identification of unfamiliar species retrieved from marine sediment samples, fishing nets or those observed in undersea still photography and video films.

The RLIC Hawksbill turtle project entered a new phase of conservation activities in April following talks among Center representatives, a Ras Laffan delegation and an MoE member on preparations and technical details of the project in time for the turtles' early nesting season.





The new phase got underway with the construction of a fence at Fuwairit beach to prevent vehicles' access and to allow the Center research team to undertake the annual Hawksbill nesting research and protection process. Based full time at the beach, the team monitored the female turtles that came on to the beach to lay their eggs and relocated the nests to a protected area, as well as monitored the hatchlings' journey from the nests to the sea.

The Center's turtle conservation program has been in process since 2002. Its Hawksbill project is in its 17th year.

Among its many findings on Qatar's natural resources and environment, the Center hailed a unique finding that revealed Jurassic rocks in the country that contain the most economic accumulations of oil. A study entitled "Stratigraphic and facies analysis of the Upper Jurassic Arab 'C'" found accumulations that amount to 98% of all Qatar's oil production and that lie deep underground at 13000 to 17000 feet, with the most important inshore fields in Dukhan and offshore in Idd El Shargi and Bul Hanin. It included research on the classification of the different layers and faunal content of the Arab 'C' which is considered to be one of the most important layers of petroleum reservoirs in Qatar.

The findings were presented at the 9th International Conference of the Jurassic Period" on January 6-9, 2014 in Jaipur, India attended by over 100 researchers from around the world in which various topics were discussed relating to the Jurassic period that dated back 144 million years and lasted for 60 million years, and also highlighted the economic aspects of Jurassic rocks in various countries such as oil, fossils and minerals.

The study highlighted the level of the research being conducted by the ESC to identify, document and preserve Qatar's natural resources, and can serve to present important answers for archaeology and geology students, scientists, and researchers in Qatar and beyond.

During the academic year, the ESC established and advanced a number of collaborations with institutions such as Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) of the Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey; Qatar Fisheries Department; Bangor University UK; Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research; Sultan Qaboos University; University Paris VI; ETH Zurich-Switzerland; and Environmental Monitoring Management (MoE).

The Center also embarked on a variety of community-driven studies such as Barwa City Project, Barwa Village, Barwa Barsaha, Al Wakhrah Hospital Project, Ras Abu Abood Project, and Basheryia Island.

ESC may participate by providing relevant data in the East Crossing Project, one of the major strategic projects in Qatar that is expected to generate a significant improvement to the traffic flow of the city by way of a set of bridges and tunnels to connect the West Lagoon area with the New Hamad International Airport. In a meeting in April with a team from Tunnel Engineering Consultants (TEC), ESC members were presented a visualization of the Project and the two sides discussed possible collaboration opportunities.

In establishing academic and research collaboration with IMS (Turkey), the Center hosted a lecture on "Simulations of Physical Phenomena in Turkish Waters and the Black Sea" by an invited IMS professor and a visit to its labs and the RV Janan with the view to future use of the marine vessel's facilities to study the marine phenomena in Qatar's waters.

During the year, the joint collaborative project "Identification of essential fish habitat to achieve an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management" between ESC, the Fisheries Department and Bangor University entered its third and final year. The aim of the project was to achieve sustainable fisheries through understanding of the wider ecological effects of fishing activities beyond those of target species; enable the implementation of management



plans to protect sensitive habitats; and reduce the effects of fishing on the ecosystem through spatial management and technical measures. This required knowledge of the distribution and extent of seabed biotypes, species of conservation concern, and habitat boundaries. The project made use of Janan's facilities and findings, and will serve to contribute to Qatar's momentum in the forefront of applications of new approaches to fisheries management at the regional level.

Collaboration between ESC and Bangor University also saw a research cruise in April involving a team of marine scientists from both parties to study the ecology of marine habitats in Qatar's offshore waters. The joint team collected images of seabed habitat, as well as samples of marine organisms and oceanographic data, with the aim of developing a better understanding of the links between the Gulf waters and the seabed.

Using specially-designed camera gear, the team focused on oyster reefs about 20 -30 miles offshore from Doha, which are shallow and highly productive areas that support diverse marine life and that are also fishing grounds of traditional and cultural importance.

The cruise was part of an ongoing partnership in the marine sciences and research between the parties and highlighted RV Janan's capacity to carry out critical investigations that will uncover data that will assist in the formulation of national environmental policies in line with objectives detailed in the National Vision 2030 and the development strategies.

The Center's research successes this year included the award of 2 grants under the NPRP cycle and an award in the QF Annual Research Conference 2013 (QF ARC '13).

The NPRP awarded projects were "Geobiological processes in the sabkhas of Qatar: Evaluating the role of microbes for the formation of dolomite and other authigenic minerals in evaporitic environments" which will be conducted in collaboration with ETH Zurich-Switzerland; and "Study of Essential Ecological Processes and Ecosystem Functions in the Arid Mangrove Plants" with Bangor University which is an extension of a previous research funded in the NPRP 3rd cycle.

In the QF ARC'13 in November 2013, an ESC researcher won 1st place over 500 fellow scientists from various disciplines in the Energy and Environment category for her poster "Measurement and modeling of traffic-related NO₂ air pollution in Doha, Qatar".

Other research activities included:

- Completion of an 8-year study of physical changes on seawater temperature, salinity and density. Its scope is to shed light on the trends of the physical characteristics of the Qatar seawater during the past 8 years, and compare the results with international data with a view to understanding physical changes that affect marine life and its inhabitants.



of Arts & Sciences; MoE training program on “Methods of isolation and identification of nematode in the soil and plant roots”; and fire safety and security sessions conducted by QU Business Operations Department on response techniques for laboratory accidents. Staff was also oriented on topics such as the main applications of cytogenetics, and ocean observation in Oman, through lectures led by experts from University Paris VI and Lighthouse R&D Enterprise Inc respectively.

During the year, ESC provided training and services to government, industry and private sector organizations

- Biota analysis and documentation by the Center's Marine Sciences Group. Its biology laboratory is undertaking the retrieval, preservation and identification to the species level of meiofauna taxa from marine sediments, and macrofauna, zooplanktons, phytoplanktons, macro algae and sea grasses from the Arabian Gulf and Qatar Marine Zone (QMZ) in addition to fish and fish parasites.
- Collaboration between the Remote Sensing and GIS Unit with Sultan Qaboos University, Oman to study the physical, chemical and biological analysis of Qatari and Omani waters. The Unit also conducted bathymetric mapping of the Arabian Gulf, Al Khor area, seawater and ground water pollutants at Ras Abu Abood and Barwa Doha; and marine mammal observation.
- A series of air quality assessment and impact studies conducted by the Air Quality research group during the year for the BARWA City Project, Al Wakrah Hospital Project, a major road development project and for several small-scale industries.
- Barwa City, Barwa Village, Barwa Baraha and Ras Abo Abood Project comprise the list of projects carried out by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Group to analyze and document the legal and socioeconomic issues associated with proposed projects and to monitor and mitigate their impact.
- Projects conducted by the Geotechnical Research Group during the year included resistivity tomography of Barwa City Project, Dhahiya, Doha, and analysis of sediment quality and types at Basheryia Island, offshore Qatar.

Staff training continued to be an important focus of the Center in its aim to increase its capacity as a leading marine research center in the region and a beacon of marine research excellence for researchers, scientists and collaborators from around the world.

Center staff participated in a number of training forums in Qatar and externally such as the course to learn new analysis techniques at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research; workshop on operating the ICP-MS-QQQ instrument delivered by Agilent Technologies Company; training sessions on SPSS for ESC analytical staff delivered by the Department of Statistics in the College





-- for example, an air dispersion model course for various environmental experts in oil & gas industries, and lab analyses for water, soil, and marine sediment.

Outreach to engage the Qatari community on environmental awareness is another area of ESC focus. In April, the Center participated in the annual Qatar Petroleum Environment Fair along with QU research centers Center for Advanced Materials and Gas Processing Center in collaboration with the External Relations Department. It was an opportunity for the Center to promote its environment conservation activities.

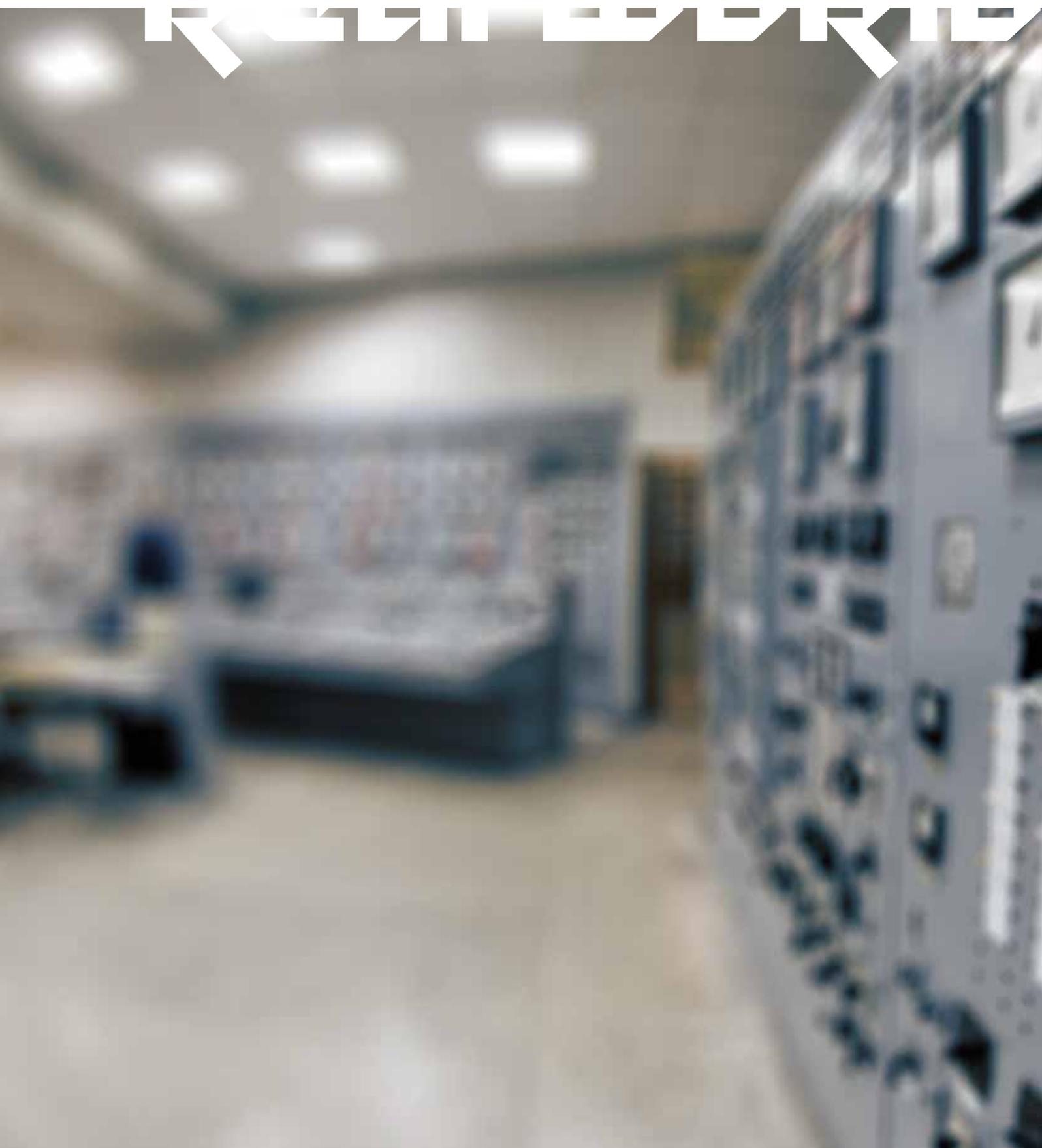
The Center also had the unique opportunity in March to present its work and highlight research conducted on RV Janan in the presence of HRH Prince Charles at a meeting held by the British Embassy in Doha which was attended by researchers and scientists interested in preservation of Qatar's environment.

In its high school outreach activities, the Center mentored students from Omama School for Girls on a campaign "No Swimming at Unsafe Beaches" in their preparation of a scientific paper on "Oceanic currents as a main cause for drowning in the State of Qatar between 2012 -2013". The students were oriented on sea currents and inflated spring tides (Al-Shayah) as the main causes of drowning in Qatari waters and were provided with satellite images of Qatar's coastal waters to aid in their research.

During the year, the Center's engagement with the community continued through its quarterly magazine Al Rakiat and weekly e-newsletter Rawasi.



Gas Processing Center (GPC)





During the academic year, the Center continued to strengthen its position as a focal point for information, technology and research related to Qatar's gas processing industrial base.

Additionally, continuing its activities to promote research collaboration in Qatar, the Center strengthened collaboration with its industrial partners such as the MOU signed with SASOL in November 2013.

The collaborative research project "Characterization of Degraded Amine Solvents to Identify Oxidation Products" will identify degradation products in the absorption of CO₂. It is seen as an important step towards advancing the application of CO₂ capture technology.

The agreement covers funding and expertise from SASOL in conjunction with provision of laboratory space, equipment, and manpower from the GPC for 3 years. It also includes exchange of information and joint monitoring as well as joint activities in the way of conducting workshops and conferences and supporting students' projects.

In partnering with SASOL on this project, the GPC highlighted its commitment to developing the next generation of engineers in the oil and gas industry and to contributing to the sector in Qatar and beyond.

Starting in November 2013, the Center began preparations for its 4th Bi-Annual International Gas Processing Symposium to be held on October 26-27, 2014. Under the theme Natural Gas and the World's Energy Mix, the symposium will be held under the patronage of Qatar Minister of Energy and Industry H.E. Dr Mohammed Saleh Al-Sada, bringing together top academicians and industrial experts to address the wide-ranging challenges related to accessing, utilizing and processing natural gas.

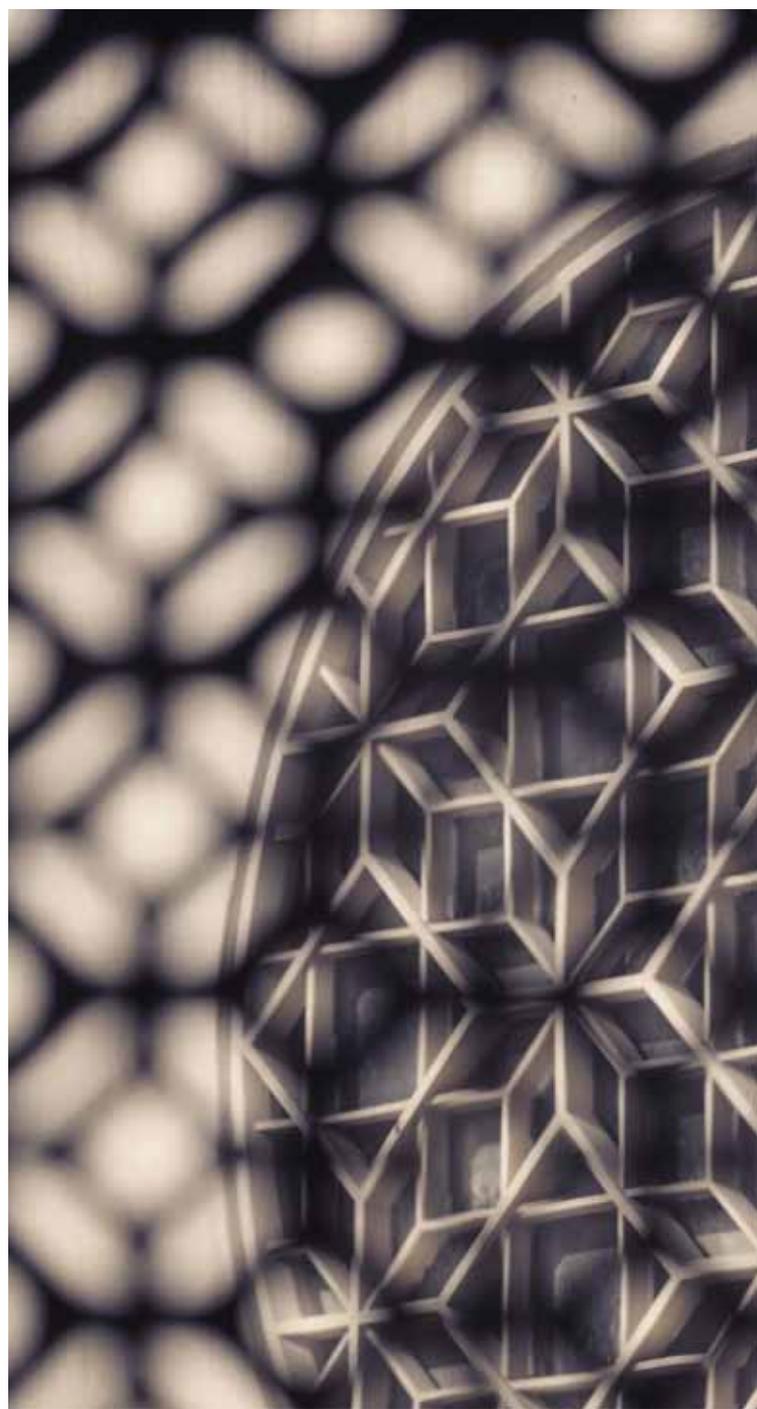
As with previous years, the symposium will be conducted in collaboration with sponsors Dolphin Energy, ExxonMobil, QAFAC, and RasGas and with professional partners European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE), AIChE, and Gas Processing Association (GPA) GCC Chapter. Symposium proceedings will be published by Elsevier and a Special Issue by I&EC Research.

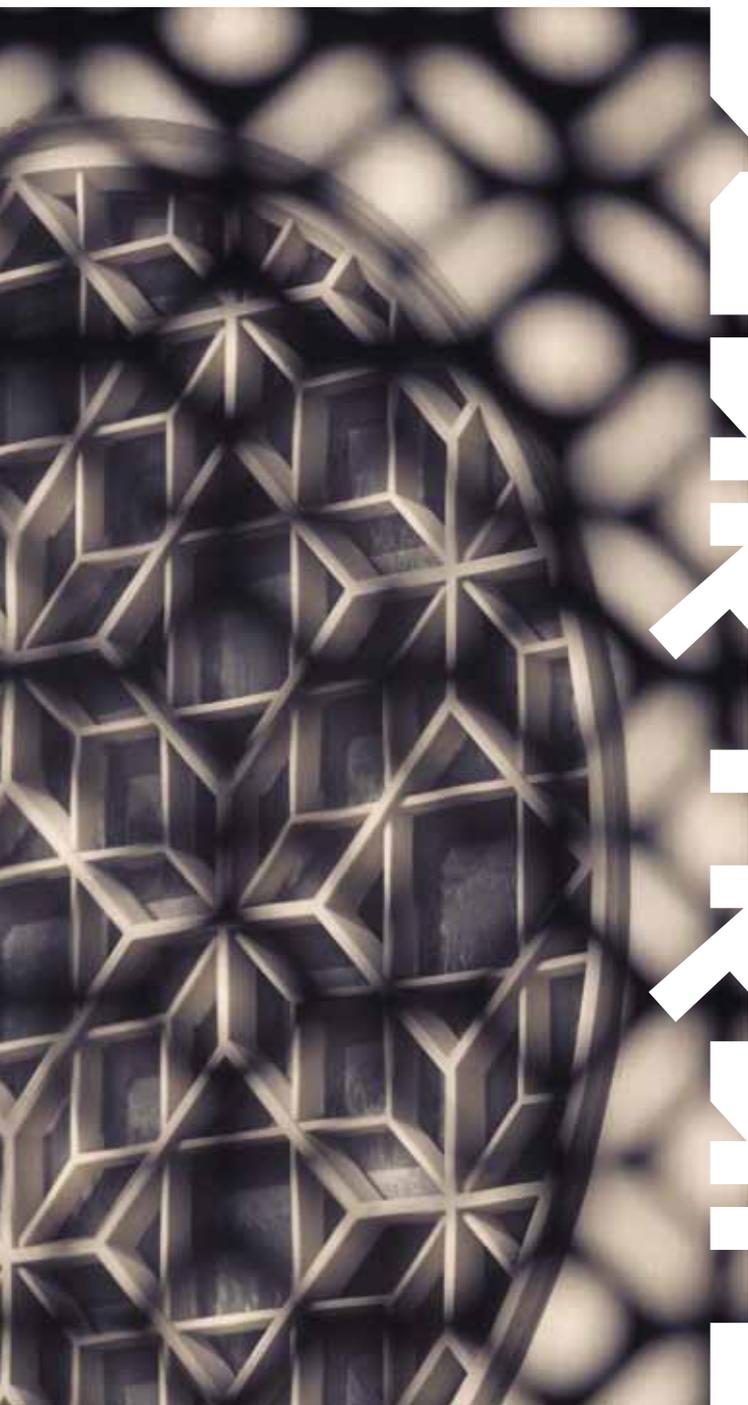
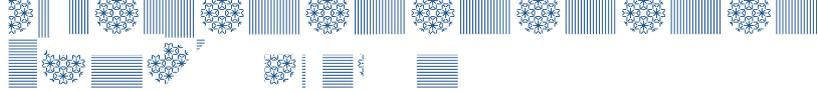
The Center's symposium theme, along with its ongoing academic and research activities, is in line with its two main areas of focus: Asset Management/Process Optimization, and Sustainable Development.

During the academic year, the Center continued to provide services designed to address the needs of the academic and research environment at QU and those of the Qatari industry and the wider community. These included consulting, training and outreach and community-driven projects.



Knowledge
Intelligence
Networked Data and
Interdisciplinary
Research (KINDI)





In its second year, KINDI has continued to position itself as a leader in research in the area of computer and information sciences and engineering in Qatar, and a committed partner in the national goals towards a knowledge-based economy. Its work is developed in line with QU research priorities outlined in its 5-year research roadmap (2013-2016) and the objectives detailed in Qatar National Vision and the development strategies.

During the academic year, 9 KINDI research projects were in process, covering wide-ranging topics under KINDI's research themes -- information intelligence, network and distributed systems, and computing in support of interdisciplinary research. The themes are headlined by two current areas of focus – Cancer Informatics, and Cyber Security.

KINDI faculty were active and engaged in participating in research forums around the world and publishing research papers and findings -- 17 articles were published in international peer-reviewed journals and 29 papers published in technical conferences. A research paper entitled "Using safety constraint for transactional dataset anonymization" was awarded Best Paper in the Proceedings of the 27th Annual IFIP Conference on Data and Applications Security and Privacy.

Faculty research was also awarded under the 7th NPRP cycle, addressing timely issues such as tracking individuals in dense crowds in and around sporting events, and novel approaches in the development and application of autonomous robotic approaches in structural health monitoring of civil and mechanical infrastructure systems.

Collaboration activities among KINDI and its partners in government, academic and industry yielded a series of seminars and workshops during the academic year. Twelve such forums were held, featuring experts from QU and other national, regional and international institutions such as Qatar Foundation, Al-Jazeera, MADA Qatar Assistive Technology Center, Cairo University, Simon Fraser University, University of Bielefeld, University of Maryland, Cambridge University, and Sanger University.

KINDI's research and collaborative activities continues to be supported by a number of research groups and a set of services that include physical infrastructure, administrative and technical support, and a cloud computing infrastructure.



Qatar Mobility Innovations Center (QMIC)

During the academic year, the Qatar Mobility Innovations Center (QMIC) advanced its vision in becoming the recognized regional leader for the development and market delivery of innovative solutions and services in the areas of transport and environment.

The Center celebrated a number of achievements during the year, culminating in June with a key milestone in receiving ISO 9001:2008 certification for its Quality Management System from the British Standards Institution (BSI). Other highlights included partnership agreements with Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) and Qatar Rail, field demo of the first connected vehicles in the MENA region, winning top awards, and NPRP research success.

The prestigious ISO 9001:2008 certification covers QMIC's activities in the design, development and deployment of intelligent platforms and services for transport and environment sectors. It underlines the Center's endeavors to consistently ensure that its products and services meet the requirements of its customers through timely development and deployment of intelligent platforms, innovative applications and services which serve the ambitions of Qatar to be a knowledge-based economy.

As such, as part of its policy of quality governing its innovations development and delivery processes, QMIC adopted a "quality-in-all-we-do" approach that recognizes the responsibility of each employee for quality and best practice.

The agreement with QIC signed in March introduced integrated applications and services that will enhance road safety through innovative insurance offers and incentives. As a first step in the partnership – another first in the region -- a pilot will be launched in the form of a Road Safety competition in which a group of staff volunteers from QIC will have the opportunity to learn about their driving behavior and how it compares with others.

More than 25% of QIC employees will participate in piloting the use of QMIC's Masarak Intelligent Telematics Platform designed to assess driver behavior. Results of the pilot will eventually be used to optimize a driving ranking/assessment system and identify a set of performance indicators that can enable the delivery of new Pay-How-You-Drive insurance plans which can ultimately serve as a key motivator, keep driving habits in check and build an eco-system that supports Qatar's road safety goals.

It is expected that the partnership will be the start of a coordinated effort to enhance a culture of safe driving in Qatar and the region.

The multi-year contract with Qatar Rail will allow the railway company usage of QMIC's Masarak Platform





and Services in support of the extensive rail construction operations being conducted throughout Doha. The agreement allows for Qatar Rail's deployment and full utilization of the Masarak platform and its integrated set of transport and logistics services and applications. It also enables the recruitment of traffic expert professionals to monitor traffic conditions, coordination and management of contractors' fleets' movement in order to reduce traffic congestion, and promote road safety practices among all fleet drivers and stakeholders.

QMIC will design, build, operate, and maintain a Logistics Transport Coordination Center (LTCC) at Qatar Rail's premises to monitor operations around the clock with the aim of minimizing their impact on traffic flow in Doha. The Center is expected to be operational later in 2014 and represents a clear recognition of QMIC's strategy to develop and deploy differentiated intelligent systems and services that can best meet the unique requirements of national partners and the community.

Another key milestone in QMIC's effort to establish regional leadership in the area of next generation road safety was its first field demo of the first Connected Vehicles in the MENA region, held at the Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP). The demo used the Center's own implementation of the ETSI-connected vehicle standard together with its suite of applications. Connected Vehicles was presented as a critical part of Qatar's Road Safety Strategy, with detailed information about the technology and global standard activities.

The demo was a culmination of a 3-year effort by QMIC's Connected Vehicles Program which was partially funded under the NPRP 3rd cycle, and represented the first stage of the Center's strategy to create a Connected Vehicles industry in Qatar. Further plans are to work closely with key stakeholders in Qatar to implement a large-scale pilot system which can lead to early national deployment well before the 2022 World Cup.

The Center's Connected Vehicles platform supports an end-to-end architecture including the Onboard Unit (installed in vehicles), a Road Side Unit (installed on the Roads) and a Mobility Services Center enabling relevant and customized services and applications.

QMIC is the only R&D Center in the MENA region, which is globally involved in the Connected Vehicles standards and has successfully participated in the three Plugtests™ for interoperability testing and compliance. Its R&D efforts are in line with Qatar University's research priorities and its commitment to contributing to the values and objectives detailed in the National Vision 2030 and the development strategies.

These efforts also netted the Center success in the NPRP 7th cycle, achieving 3 grant awards; and 2 top awards for its Masarak™ iTraffic system -- the Innovation in Traffic Management Award and the Road Transport Technology Award -- at the Gulf Traffic Exhibition & Conference in December. Center experts gave presentations at the December conference and previously at the Trans4 Exhibition in November, giving details on QMIC's ITS and logistics services.

In May, the Center also won ictQatar's prestigious Mobile Application Development of the Year award during the QITCOM Conference & Exhibition. Additionally, members of its Applied Research team won two best paper awards at the IEEE international conferences in Istanbul and Berlin.

During the academic year, QMIC continued to strengthen collaboration with its partners and to provide a range of services to organizations to assess their business needs and work environments, design strategies and solutions, and provide training services. The Center also conducted information-related studies to gather traffic data and advisory services for traffic modeling.



Qatar Road Safety Studies Center (QRSSC)

During the academic year, the Center continued to strengthen its mandate to conduct extensive studies and analyses of accidents data and information in order to significantly reduce road accidents in Qatar, and utilize its findings to amass an intellectual reservoir that will establish a strong knowledge base that will inform policies and strategies on road safety and driver and pedestrian welfare.

The Center's efforts are in line with the research priorities outlined in QU's 5-year research roadmap (2013-2016) as well as the National Strategy for Road Traffic Safety and national vision and development strategies.

With its focus on 3 main areas -- Road User Behavioral Change, Vehicle Safety and Biomechanics, and Road Engineering and Environment -- the Center established collaboration activities with a number of partners such as QU College of Engineering, Ministry of Interior, Traffic Department, Qatar Rail, National Committee for Traffic Safety, Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning, Hamad Medical Corporation, Ashghal, ExxonMobil Qatar, Maersk Oil, and bus and taxi provider Karwa. The Center is also embarking on cooperation activities with QU sister research center Qatar Mobility Innovations Center (QMIC) to develop special studies on the use of technology to understand the causes of accidents and seek effective ways to reduce them.

Additionally, a partnership agreement with the Malaysian Road Safety Research Centre, considered the largest and most important center in Southeast Asia, will allow QRSSC to observe the Malaysian center's strategies which have led to changes in the country's systems and procedures on traffic safety.

In May, QRSSC's growing partnership with ExxonMobil Qatar advanced further in the way of a contribution of QR 1 million from the energy company to support the Center's efforts to raise awareness of road safety and accident prevention.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior's Traffic Department, ExxonMobil Qatar's support will help the Center conduct research on road safety and provide a long-term vision for road safety in Qatar, in line with the National Road Safety Strategy 2013-2022 which is overseen by the National Traffic Safety Committee.

Under the terms of the 2-year partnership, QRSSC will conduct research including in-depth analysis of vehicle accidents, traffic management, and safety of Doha's highways; assessment of school bus safety; and pedestrian traffic studies. Extensive research will also focus on predicting potentially hazardous road conditions through to 2022. From the research findings, the Center will run road safety awareness campaigns throughout the country to share information with the community. Additionally, Center researchers will be supported by senior students at QU to present research findings to the community.

One of the Center's campaigns -- a traffic safety awareness competition launched in May 2013 -- ended in October in a ceremony to celebrate the winners. With sponsorship from Maersk Oil, the competition was part of an awareness campaign on pedestrian safety in line with the UN Week for Safety on Roads commemorated on May 6-12 2013. Under the categories Best Video (universities), Best Article (secondary and preparatory schools) and Best Poster (primary schools), the competition was aimed at raising awareness throughout the community, especially



among young drivers. A total of 90 students participated and 76 entries were submitted which included 16 from universities, 20 from secondary, 30 from primary and 10 from preparatory schools.

An essay contest on pedestrian safety was also launched to engage schools in Qatar to raise awareness of young students to road safety principles.

During the year, the Center embarked on a number of studies and research projects for development and execution which include a study on the impact of traffic accidents on Qatar's society and economy, another entitled "Towards the best practices and sustainability of traffic safety on Qatar University's campus" (concluded in June), "Analysis and development of speed bumps in Qatar", and "Analysis and simulation of traffic jams and safety on Doha Expressway 2013".

Other studies include "Prediction of traffic accidents in Qatar in the year 2022" based on a study on the increase in population and the associated increase of cars in Qatar", and "Analysis of the cost caused by traffic jams".

An important research on "Black Spots in Qatar" studies the areas with high rates of accidents -- for example, the Messaimeer section leading to Barwa City which is an

identified black spot. Another study in process is the safety of the roads leading to Ras Laffan which has a spate of black spots identified and updated over the past few years. By identifying these areas, the Center can analyze the common causes of accidents such as road infrastructure and road entry and exit points, and recommend strategies to address them.

In addition to existing and planned research projects, the Center is developing plans to establish a traffic accidents laboratory, and is collaborating with the National Committee for Traffic Safety to establish a database collection of studies on traffic safety conducted in Qatar and the GCC.

A seminar on "Traffic congestion in Qatar: causes and solutions" is planned among the Center and partners to discuss the issue of traffic jams, the ineffectiveness of roundabouts and their role in traffic jams and congestion and attendant impact on residential areas.

In its membership on the National Committee for Traffic Safety, and collaboration with partners locally, regionally and internationally, QRSSC is well positioned as the center committed to scientific research on an issue that is critical to the country's progress and development.



Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI)

During the academic year, SESRI continued to build on its position as a leading partner in contributing to national efforts to address the needs of the Qatari society and seek solutions in the face of the country's rapid development and progress. Through new initiatives and collaboration activities, the Institute highlighted its capacity and expertise in survey research and the importance of mapping changing opinions and perceptions within society for the benefit of its citizens and policymakers.

Its achievements included the launch of the Qatar Quarterly Survey (QQS), findings on surveys relevant to Qatari society; and strengthened collaboration with the World Values Survey Association.

The QQS, SESRI's innovative monitoring tool launched in December, is designed to provide unbiased opinion polling on questions of national interest to Qatar with a view to informing social, economic, cultural policy and Qatarization strategies. The survey employs Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing – a technique that facilitates timely and accurate data collection and customizes the flow of the questionnaire based on the answers provided.

Conducted by a team of qualified researchers through the Institute's state-of-the-art call centers, the 15-minute telephone survey solicits feedback from nationals, high-income and low-income expatriates to gauge attitudes and views on matters of public importance. It also includes a demographic component as well as an evaluation of the perceptions of respondents on issues that relate to quality of life, consumer confidence, traffic, health insurance, and other matters of importance to Qatar society.

In the first round of the survey, a representative sample of 1,582 respondents comprising Qatari nationals and high- and low-income expatriates participated by answering questions about their personal financial situation, quality of life and the overall economy in Qatar.

Quarterly findings published in March and May revealed high social and economic optimism among the three groups. They serve as an index of critical information that benefit policy- and decision makers in Qatar, and ultimately the wider community, in line with the values and objectives detailed in the National Vision 2030 and development strategies.

Another community-driven survey conducted during the year was the Health and Expenditure Utilization Survey in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Health – a second-time study on the health utilisation, expenditure and services in Qatar, which highlights areas of excellence and improvement.

The month-long (May-June 2014) study comprised a questionnaire that included demographic, socio-economic and behavioural components. Approximately 4,000 households and individuals were randomly selected from various segments of Qatari society for face-to-face interviews on topics relating to the expanding utilisation of health services, health insurance coverage, expenditures on health for individuals and families, and services provided by the Qatari healthcare sector to residents.

During the academic year, SESRI continued to advance its survey research portfolio with a number of studies that address Qatar and regional concerns such as the



GCC single currency, life in Qatar, social capital in Qatar, education, gender, and migrant workers. Its collaborations with the Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum, World Values Survey (WVS) and the Arab Barometer Project have helped to advance research in Qatar and the wider region, providing key statistics to help formulate policy and set national priorities.

In its growing partnership with the WVS, the Institute hosted the 2014 World Values Survey Global Conference and Annual General Assembly Meeting on April 28-29, drawing 45 researchers from 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, and from Australia and New Zealand. The event marked the official release of data sets for the WVS sixth wave of surveys (2010-2014) in which the Institute contributed data for Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain among 60 countries in the biggest wave in WVS history.



The WVS offers a first-ever window into the attitudes and orientations of Qatari citizens. It places the findings in an international context, comparing them with those from the GCC, other Arab countries and the west.

SESRI's collaboration with the WVS began in 2010 when the Institute entered in the sixth wave of surveys. It was also the host of the WVS Association's annual general assembly meeting in 2013.

Collaboration with other organizations included the two-day roundtable discussion entitled Labour Migration in the Arab Gulf Countries: Issues, Data, Documents and Research on March 9-10 co-organized with QU Gulf Studies Center, Gulf Labour Markets and Migration Programme (GLMM), a joint venture of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) at the European University Institute (EUI).

The event brought together a large number of representatives from SESRI, the Gulf Studies Center and GLMM, Qatari officials from the Ministry of Labor, Qatar Statistics Authority, Qatar Foundation, and Qatar General Secretariat for Development Planning, officials from the ministries of labor, statistical bureaus and planning institutes of the GCC countries, representatives from

international organizations, and academics from/based in Qatar, the GCC, and elsewhere.

Topics covered included strategies for the nationalization of the workforce in Qatar and other GCC countries, as well as the need for evidence-based migration policy-making. Participants sought to define a strategy to reinforce the Arab Gulf labour markets and migration studies community and identify a plan to increase policy dialogues between Arab Gulf and international academics, governmental and non-governmental institutions as a means to advance evidence-based labour markets and migration policies.

The roundtable underlined SESRI's lead position in fielding timely issues relevant to Qatari society and the wider Gulf region, and in engaging international discourse to develop innovative ideas and policies to persisting challenges.

In research, SESRI's activities continued apace during the academic year with the Institute achieving 2 awards of its 5 submissions (40.0%) under the NPRP 7th cycle.

Along with research, training is an integral part of SESRI's scope of work. Its services in this area are designed to engage professionals in the Qatari community and the region in survey research. Since its inception in 2008, the

RESEARCH



Institute has made capacity building in the area of survey research methodology a consistent focus of its work. From survey design to data analysis, it has been involved in the training and development of hundreds of researchers, faculty members, and graduate and undergraduate students.

In March, SESRI hosted two four-day training workshops in March on research methodology and sampling to build the capacity of personnel working in the area of research and survey design. Eighty trainees in statistics and other diverse fields from various Doha-based and regional organizations had the opportunity of training and guidance from researchers from SESRI and the University of Michigan (UM) Institute of Social Research (ISR) on the use of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences in research design, hypotheses formulation, and testing and cross tabulation, and explored sampling principles with more in-depth treatment of the practical application of the concepts. A third 4-day workshop was conducted in May by UM/ISR experts and introduced participants to methods of quantitative and qualitative project evaluation.

During the academic year, the Institute debuted a new set of services -- data archiving, access to questionnaire databases, and proposal support -- to its growing list of survey-related services provided to organizations and interested persons.

Supported by a Policy Advisory Board comprising prominent professionals with significant experience and expertise in the sectors relevant to its mission, SESRI's continued collaboration with government, business, industry, academia and civil society sectors has served to advance its commitment to provide sound and reliable data to guide policy formulation, priority setting and evidence-based planning in Qatar and the wider region.



