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QA Msheireb students learn to go green during entertaining activity

NEWS IN BRIEF

CMU-Q students honored at QSTP Technovate

Three alumni from Qatar Foundation (QF) partner university Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) were honored at QSTP Technovate, an event that drew an audience of nearly 300 people.

Sabih Bin Wasi, Rukhsar Nayaz, and Jyda Moussa spoke at a fireside chat that was moderated by Maher Hakim, Managing Director, Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), a research and development entity under Qatar Foundation Research and Development.

The event celebrated the team's recent acceptance into the prestigious Alchemist Accelerator program in Silicon Valley.

They will spend six months at Silicon Valley developing their business model Metis - an app that guides university students to the optimal selection of courses by learning about their personalities, likes and interests - as well as networking and pitching to investors.



QA Msheireb students learn to go green during entertaining activity

SUSTAINABILITY Students of Qatar Academy Msheireb (QA Msheireb), a Qatar Foundation member operating under its Pre-University Education umbrella, were given an opportunity to learn more about going green, and conserving the environment during a special event recently. The event, held on 24 November 2016, was organized by the school's Parent Teacher Association in collaboration with Ezdan Mall.

The event brought Ezdan Mall's flagship corporate social responsibility activity Green Dream 2022 to the school, where the Ezdan Mall team demonstrated to students how they can plant using eggshells as fertilizers, and shared information on how to nurture them and grow their saplings at home.

Rajaa Shalabi, Assistant Principal, QA Msheireb, told *QF Telegraph* that the activity was well received by

parents and children. She said: “We wanted to do something that would take children beyond the classroom, something that had various sensory elements including touch, sight, and smell.”

She added: “In the classrooms, our students study plants and trees, and why they are important. This activity completes their learning by giving them hands-on experience. It helps them to understand how much effort and time is needed, and, in turn, teaches them respect, patience, and accountability.”

Commenting on the importance of such activities in the school, Mohamed Essa Al Kaabi, PTA Chairman, QA Msheireb, said: “By educating our children, we can educate our community. These children will go on to teach their families and friends the importance of planting and conserving energy. Slowly but surely we can build

a stronger more aware future generation.”

Yousuf Al Jalahma, Grade 4 student, said: “Trees give us oxygen and shade. They provide food for us, and for animals as well. Without trees, life cannot exist, and that is why we need to protect the environment and save our world.”

“I think recycling can be interesting and fun,” said Aya Hammad, fellow fourth grader. “I enjoy DIY projects. We can use bottles to create piggy banks, and plants can be used to make our house look nice. This was a very nice activity.”

Grade 3 student Fatima Eisa felt the activity helped her understand how every small action is important. She said: “This activity was an example of how we can work together to save our planet. Other examples are switching off the lights when we leave a room, and not wasting water.” Malik Kaiser Awan, Group

General Manager, Ezdan Malls, said: “Children are our future; and hence, it is vital to help them understand the importance of protecting the environment. Through the Green Dream 2022 initiative, we aim to reach out to students across the country, and encourage them to do their part in building a green future – by sharing knowledge on topics such as recycling and sustainability.” Sara Al Qahtani, a parent who volunteered on that day, appreciated the initiative. She said: “Such activities are extremely important to help children build an appreciation for the environment. It also helps them understand what they can do to make a positive difference.”

“The children are also fully involved, as it is something they are doing with their hands. I am sure this activity will help teach key characteristics such as responsibility and patience.”

Students gain valuable negotiation skills during GU-Q role-playing exercise

The role-playing exercise was designed to teach participants how to resolve complex issues



SIMULATION ‘Student diplomats’ tested their skills in conflict resolution and decision-making at a recent negotiation and crisis simulation exercise at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner university.

Set in a hypothetical future, the eight-hour exercise was an introduction to strategic negotiations where participants work as a team to address a challenge facing the international community.

The role-playing exercise was designed to teach participants how to resolve complex issues with multiple stakeholders in a pressured environment. As each delegation received instructions from their ‘government’ on what outcome needed to be achieved, the students were given an intensive crash course on how to negotiate mutually beneficial agreements.

The exercise was led by Professor James Seevers, Director of Studies at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University’s main campus in Washington DC, and Dr Christine Schiwietz, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, GU-Q.

“International negotiation simulation is one of our flagship experiential learning exercises, where students have the opportunity to apply their theoretical understanding of global politics to a near real world situation in a scenario-driven gaming environment,” explained Schiwietz. “Passions run high, and you can feel the enthusiasm and excitement all around. It truly is a terrific day.”

GU-Q freshman Salma Hassan said: “Even if it was just a simulation, I was under pressure knowing how much depended on my negotia-

tion skills – in our case, the biggest threat was nuclear war. I am glad to have participated in this exercise because it gave me valuable negotiation skills.”

“The simulation offers a glimpse of the complexity of international negotiations that is not found in textbooks,” explained Mohammed Al Jaber, sophomore, GU-Q. “My biggest takeaway was that reaching a solution which satisfies all of the parties is rather impossible. Each party must be willing to compromise and settle for a lesser option than planned in order to reach a middle ground.”

The simulation is an annual event at GU-Q, which uses historical, predicted, or current real world examples focused on issues such as politics, security, and humanitarian crisis to build students’ capacity in negotiation and decision-making.

WCM-Q summer scholarships in US comes to an end for students

EXPERIENCE Qatari high school students who were awarded research experience in some of the world’s top laboratories after winning Qatar Foundation partner university Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar’s (WCM-Q’s) Healing Hands essay competition visited the college to speak about their experiences.

Back in May 2016, four high school students were adjudged to have written the best essays out of a large number of submissions, and were awarded the fully-funded, two-week Doctors of the Future Scholarships to spend time at Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell University,

both in New York.

The 2016 winners were Aljohara Salem Al Marri (Al-Eman Independent School for Girls), Fatima Mohammed Al Naimi (International School of London Qatar), Jassim Ahmed Al Mansoori (The English Modern School), and Imaneh Qaedi (Al-Eman Independent School for Girls).

The scholarship was launched in 2008, and is organized by WCM-Q’s Student Recruitment and Outreach office, part of the Division of Pre-medical Education, with the aim of giving promising Qatari high school students a chance to explore the pos-

sibilities of a career in medicine.

“It was a really great experience,” Qaedi said. “The most interesting thing for me was going on rounds in the clinic, getting to talk to patients, and having the doctors explain the different cases to us. They showed us CT scans and explained the differences between healthy and abnormal physiology, so we got a real insight into what it is like to be a practising doctor.”

“I have always wanted to study medicine and become a doctor, and the scholarship experience has helped to show me the way. I am so glad I had this chance.”

CAMPUS LIFE

Ismaeel Naar

NU-Q shapes successful journalism careers

I STUDIED Journalism at Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), and graduated in 2013. NU-Q was one of the happiest and most exciting experiences I have ever had in my life. We were part of the second batch to enter NU-Q, and it was a lot of experimentation, but I have some really great memories from my time there.

I currently work for the Al Arabiya website, covering a variety of subjects including media, culture, and politics in the GCC region. I was recently awarded ‘Outstanding Young Arab Journalist of the Year’ in Dubai, and NU-Q played a big role in making that happen.

My first editors were my professors at NU-Q. Our classrooms were like a simulated newsroom, and our professors were not just there to impart knowledge, but to be our editors and make our work even stronger. Looking back, a lot of the skills and the topics that we discussed really shaped how I now cover news.

I always wanted to be a war reporter and a lot of people laughed at me. But my professors always supported me and helped me reach my target, and I covered the Saudi-Yemen war from the frontlines few months ago.

A lot of the knowledge and the classes provided by NU-Q helped me in this, not just in

terms of support, but also as far as technicalities were concerned. Some of the journalism professors are practising journalists themselves, doing their own documentaries, writing columns and articles, and they were all part of the newsrooms. NU-Q had a big hand in shaping my career.

Education City is very community based, and students at the housing are from a range of nationalities. I have great memories of Education City because it not only shapes the student of the present, but the student of the future as well.

You can’t compare press freedom in this region with press freedom in other regions. Despite how journalism in the Middle East is perceived by a lot of people, when you look at the statistics, you will see that Arab families still gather at weekends for lunch and a news channel is playing on TV. Journalism in this region is healthy and growing, and we have to be where the audiences are getting their information.

I am very happy with the career that I have now, telling stories that matter, and eventually I hope to be an editor. What I like the most about journalism is listening to people’s stories, good or bad. For me, it is not about getting the byline, or having my name out there, it is about lending an ear and listening to people’s stories, and talking to people.