



برنامج التميز الأكاديمي
The Honors Program
QATAR UNIVERSITY جامعة قطر

HONORS PROGRAM

News Letter

2013





Dr. Majeda Khraisheh
Director
Qatar University Honor's Program

Dear Honors students:

I cannot believe that the academic year is nearly over! What an exciting year it has been. Since being appointed as a director, I have embarked on a journey of change and discovery. My learning curve was extremely steep and the first thing I have learnt is that I am dealing with a very interesting and vibrant community of students. It has been a great pleasure to see how well you have grown over the past few months. I was very happy with our integration and contribution to university life. You have managed to become a very visible presence though out campus. A large number of you volunteered for various types f activities within and outside campus, winning major awards, attending conferences and organising workshops. From a program point of view, I am also extremely happy that we have managed to restructure the program to ensure the highest possible quality of courses as well as to attract and retain the high caliber students it was designed to attract. I am also very please and excited about taking ten of our best students to the USA in an exchange trip to another Honors University. It will offer a great opportunity for the students to see first hand what other Honors students experience in the USA and exchange experiences. We are hoping that this pilot trip will be an annual event.

I am also particularly proud of industrial sponsorship. Oryx GTL sponsorship to the Honors students is only a testament to their commitment to support the knowledge based economy that will help achieve the Qatar Vision 2030. Finally, I am so prod of our top students whom were arcaded for their excellence in academic, services and Senior Honors Thesis. Well done to all and wish you a great end of this existing academic year.



“About the program”

Designed for highly motivated and academically inquisitive students who are looking for an enriching college experience, the program is now a university-wide community encompassing around 180 students from all colleges at Qatar University. It provides a highly intellectual environment for exceptional students to help them explore and achieve their full potential. It comprises of interdisciplinary courses encompassing science, arts, literature, politics, history and ethics and is structured around small seminars and engaging discussions and debates. These are specifically designed for the Honors Program and are taught by outstanding and acclaimed faculty members. The courses usually emphasize participatory classroom styles, intense and in-depth study of subject matter, the use of primary source material, team or group teaching, an interdisciplinary theme and an element of independent study. Additionally, Honors students have dedicated academic advisors and can take part in a peer mentoring system. The QU Honors Program is an institutional member of the National Collegiate Honors Council in the USA and offers excellent benefits for the students inside and outside the campus.

The program has recently undergone several structural developments aimed at setting greater standards of the program and provide a more efficient and competitive platform for its students. The program recently secured an agreement with Oryx GTL who recognized the program and agreed upon sponsorship provisions and other opportunities for the Qatari nationals and other outstanding students in the program.

For more information, visit
http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program/

“ Honors Students Association ”

The Honors Student Association (HSA) represents the interests of the Honors students and aims at promoting the Honors Program in the university and outside. The association seeks to provide students who are both academically talented and highly motivated an active environment that nurtures and promotes their capacities to think critically and act ethically in this ever dynamic campus. The association executes both academic and extra-curricular activities in collaboration with Honors Program promoting communication and interaction among students from various colleges along with the staff.

The HSA branches into three committees headed by its officers: the Events committee, the Outreach committee and the Media committee with all the committees coordinated by the president of the association. The Events Committee organizes various major events of the Honors Program including the End of Year Event and Honors students gathering. The Outreach committee helps to promote the program and communicate with students within and outside the university at various conferences and events. The Media Committee is responsible for promoting the program and its events on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. It is also responsible for the annual Honors Program newsletter.

HSA Officers

President - Mohammed Shaheem Purayil

Vice President - Salem Mohamed Al Yafei

Secretary - Muhsin Uftade Karagulle

Treasurer – Shifa Shaikh

Events Coordinator - Fatma Jaber Al-Ahbabi

HSA Committee members

Media Committee

Shifa Shaikh

Asmaa Khairy

Maimoona Rahman

Events Committee

Fatma Jaber Al-Ahbabi

Hayder Ahmed Almazraqchi

Ghada Shehata Abdelaziz

Mohammed Mohammed

Mariam Chamekh

Sarah Ahmed Elnour

Eman Abdulmalik Seman

Outreach Committee

Salem Mohamed Al Yafei

Anab Sundus Khan

Abdelrahim Mohamed

Kaniz Fatima Mohamed Hossain



تعريف طلاب المدارس الثانوية ببرنامج التميز الأكاديمي بجامعة قطر



طلاب المدارس الثانوية يستمعون لشرح عن البرنامج



د. ماجدة خريشة

الفرصة لتقديم المزيد من الاهتمام لطلابهم، وأشارت إلى أنه يتم استقطاب أساتذة مميزين ومتمرسين لتلقيام بمهام التدريس في هذا البرنامج.

وانقلت للدكتورة ماجدة خريشة رئيس برنامج التميز الأكاديمي في إن البرنامج يهدف إلى تطوير مهارات البحث العلمي لدى الطلبة، وتعزيز مهارات الاتصال، وتعزيز مهارات التفكير الناقد، واعداد الطلبة للبراسات العليا بعد البكالوريوس.

والصافح: ماجدة أنه عند الانتهاء من البرنامج يتمكن للطلاب تشكيل وتطبيق وجهات نظر متعددة للتخصصات بشان القضايا المعاصرة والحالية، واليات لاتمكن من المهارات البحثية، وصقل للمهارات لدى للطلاب وإبرازها مثل الاتصال الشفوي والكتابي، وتطبيق مستوى استثنائي من التفكير النقدي ومهارات حل المشاكل وتجاوز الصعوبات.

أكما مدرسي جامعة قطر، وتهدف هذه المخرجات لى زيادة قدرة الطلاب على الاستيعاب وتوسيع مدارك تفكيرهم ولحاق علومهم. وتقول د. ماجدة خريشة مدير برنامج التميز الأكاديمي إن البرنامج يضم حاليا 130 طالبا وطالبة، وكان البرنامج قد بدأ في عام 2009 بقبول عدد 4 طلاب فقط، ويشترط في للطلاب الذي يتقدم للبرنامج أن يكون قد حصل على للقبول في جامعة قطر، وأن يكون معدله في الثانوية العامة 90% فأعلى، وأن يجتاز للطلاب للمقابلة الشخصية، كما يطلب منه أن يكتب مقالة حول سبب رغبته في الالتحاق بالبرنامج.

وأوضحت د. خريشة أن فلسفة برنامج التميز الأكاديمي تقوم على إنشاء مجتمع متميز داخل الجامعة، بتضاهي للجهود بين الأساتذة والطلبة، واستخدام أساليب مبتكرة في التدريس، في فصول دراسية لا يتجاوز عدد للطلاب فيها 15 طالبا، مما يتيح للأستاذ

د. خريشة: البرنامج لإنشاء مجتمع متميز داخل الجامعة باستخدام أساليب مبتكرة في التدريس

الإعدادية الثانوية المستقلة.

وتبلغ عدد ساعات برنامج التميز الأكاديمي 24 ساعة دراسية، موزعة على مدار 4 سنوات، إلا أنها تتميز بأساليب وطرق تفريسيها للطلبة، حيث يدرس هذه لساعات نخبة من

الحوثة - الشرق

نظم برنامج التميز الأكاديمي في جامعة قطر وعلى مدار يومين سلسلة من اللقاءات للتعريف للطلاب وطالبات المدارس الثانوية، وذلك بهدف تعريف طلبة الثانوية ببرنامج التميز الأكاديمي الذي يعد الوحيد من نوعه في قطر والخليج، ويعمل على استقطاب فئات متميزة من الطلبة، وذلك بهدف دعمهم أكاديميا، ورعايتهم علميا.

واستقبل للبرنامج للتعريف في اليوم الأول طالبات مدرسة لخور الثانوية للبنات، حيث اطلعن عن كآب على أساليب للتعيز الأكاديمي، واستمعن لشرح واف وشامل حول للبرنامج، قدمته د. ماجدة خريشة مدير برنامج التميز الأكاديمي في جامعة قطر، كما استضافت جامعة قطر صباح أمس وفود مدارس للبنين، وكان من بينها أكاديمية إعداد القادة، وطلاب مدرسة عبدالله بن علي المستد



مجلس من اللقاء

«24 ساعة دراسية على «4 سنوات بجامعة قطر

«التميز الأكاديمي» يستقبل طلاب الثانوية

خريشة، لا بد للطلاب على الحصول على «90% في الثانوية واجتياز المقابلة الشخصية

نظم برنامج التميز الأكاديمي في جامعة قطر وعلى مدار يومين سلسلة من اللقاءات التعريفية للطلاب وطالبات المدارس الثانوية، وذلك بهدف تعريف طلبة الثانوية ببرنامج التميز الأكاديمي والذي يعد الوحيد من نوعه في قطر والخليج، ويعمل على استقطاب فئات متميزة من الطلبة، وذلك بهدف دعمهم أكاديميا، ورعايتهم علميا.

مجلس الجعبري

وتعزيز مهارات الاتصال، وتعزيز مهارات التفكير الناقد، واعداد الطلبة للبراسات العليا بعد البكالوريوس، وتشجيع المخرجات لتطبيق هذه الإتجاه من البرنامج بشان تشكيل وتطبيق وجهات نظر متعددة للتخصصات بشان القضايا المعاصرة والحالية، واشتات الشبان من المهارات البحثية، وصقل للمهارات لدى للطلاب وإبرازها مثل الاتصال الشفوي والكتابي، وتطبيق مستوى استثنائي من التفكير النقدي ومهارات حل المشاكل وتجاوز الصعوبات.

الجامعة، بتضاهي للجهود بين الأساتذة والطلبة، واستخدام أساليب مبتكرة في التدريس، في فصول دراسية لا يتجاوز عدد الطالب فيها 15 طالبا، مما يتيح للأساتذة الفرصة لتقديم المزيد من الاهتمام لطلبتهم، وأشارت إلى أنه يتم استقطاب أساتذة مميزين ومتمرسين لتلقيام بمهام التدريس في هذا البرنامج. وسوق أهداف البرنامج تلكه الدكتوراه ماجدة خريشة رئيس برنامج التميز الأكاديمي أن البرنامج يهدف إلى تطوير مهارات البحث العلمي لدى الطلبة،

الأكاديمي أن البرنامج يضم حاليا 130 طالبا وطالبة، وكان البرنامج قد بدأ في العام 2009 بقبول 4 طلاب فقط، ويشترط في الطالب الذي يتقدم للبرنامج أن يكون حصل على القبول في جامعة قطر، وأن يكون معدله في الثانوية العامة 90% فأعلى، وأن يجتاز الطلاب للمقابلة الشخصية، كما يطلب منه أن يكتب مقالة حول سبب رغبته في الالتحاق بالبرنامج. وتقول د. خريشة إن فلسفة برنامج التميز الأكاديمي تقوم على إنشاء مجتمع متميز داخل

مدرسة عبدالله بن علي المستقلة الثانوية لهذا ويمثل هذه ساعات برنامج التميز الأكاديمي 24 ساعة دراسية، موزعة على مدار 4 سنوات، إلا أنها تتميز بأساليب وطرق تفريسيها للطلبة، حيث يدرس هذه لساعات نخبة من أكأ مدرسي جامعة قطر، وتهدف هذه للقررات إلى زيادة قدرة الطلاب على الاستيعاب وتوسيع مدارك تفكيرهم ولحاق علومهم. وتقول د. ماجدة خريشة مدير برنامج التميز

جامعة قطر تطور برنامج التميز الأكاديمي

متابعات



«130» طالباً يدرسون في البرنامج وازدياد تسجيل الطلاب القطريين

كاتب: محمد العجزي

تحت إشراف جامعة قطر، تم تطوير برنامج التميز الأكاديمي الذي يهدف إلى تعزيز جودة التعليم والبحث العلمي في الجامعات القطرية. وقد تم تسجيل 130 طالباً في البرنامج، مما يعكس ازدياد التسجيلات الطلابية القطرية. البرنامج يركز على تطوير المهارات البحثية والأكاديمية للطلاب، مما يساهم في إعداد كوادر علمية متميزة قادرة على المنافسة العالمية.

طلاب البرنامج يشهدون بتجربتهم العلمية ويؤكدون أنهم في الطريق الصحيح

تعد تجربة الطلاب في البرنامج من أهم جوانب نجاحه. يشهدون بتجربتهم العلمية الثرية، مؤكدين أنهم في الطريق الصحيح لتحقيق أهدافهم الأكاديمية. البرنامج يوفر لهم بيئة داعمة تشجعهم على الابتكار والتفكير النقدي، مما يساهم في تطوير مهاراتهم البحثية والعملية.

أكد الطلاب أن البرنامج قد ساهم في تعزيز قدراتهم البحثية وتحسين فهمهم للمفاهيم العلمية. كما أنهم يشعرون بالحماس والالتزام تجاه دراستهم، مما يعكس جودة التعليم والبيئة الأكاديمية التي توفرها جامعة قطر.

تتضمن أهداف البرنامج تعزيز جودة التعليم والبحث العلمي، وتطوير المهارات البحثية والأكاديمية للطلاب. من خلال توفير بيئة داعمة تشجعهم على الابتكار والتفكير النقدي، يساهم البرنامج في إعداد كوادر علمية متميزة قادرة على المنافسة العالمية.

د. ماجدة خريشة، مديرة البرامج على غرار الجامعات الأميركية ومديرة من إدارة الجامعة



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د. مازن حسنة، مديرة البرامج متميزة ونخبية من أكفأ مدرسي الجامعة



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“Oryx GTL sponsorships to Honors program students”



Qatar University and Oryx GTL signed an Agreement of Cooperation on 12 May 2013 to provide sponsorship and internship opportunities to outstanding students enrolled in the Honors Program of the university. The two-year agreement, which builds on existing strong relations between the two organizations, was signed by the university's Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Dr Mazen Hasna, and Oryx GTL's chief commercial officer, Mohamed al-Mushiri.

As outlined in the agreement, Oryx GTL will fund Qatari students to attend local and international conferences and workshops, support the top-scoring students of the program awarded in the End of Year event held on 16 May 2013, support the work of four students undertaking engineering research or design projects, in particular those related to GTL, and contribute to the costs of preparing a thesis for a senior QU honors student. Oryx GTL will also give first priority to Qatari Honors Engineering students for summer training

Dr Hasna said the agreement adds to the many opportunities available to those in the Honors Program, which helps them achieve their full potential and compete with

the best of their peers domestically and internationally. Al-Mushiri added that the Oryx GTL is committed to supporting key education initiatives at QU, and the agreement seeks to support Honors Program students by enhancing the teaching and learning portfolio and quest for excellence. It also aims to support qualified Qatari graduates.

“End of Year Event”

Ibn Khaldun, Thursday, May 16, 2013. The Honors Program organised its biggest annual End of Year event for Honors faculty, students, and prospective students to introduce a few new changes and honour top achievers.

The Director of the Honors Program, Dr Majeda Khraisheh, introduced the audience to some of the latest changes and developments in the program, including the new study plan. She also talked about student achievements and the Agreement of Cooperation recently signed between ORYX GTL and Qatar University Honors Program. The Agreement of Cooperation is a huge achievement for the Honors Program in terms of sponsorship and related opportunities and will support Qatari nationals and other top achievers in the program.

Mr Majid Al-Hajri, Human Resource Manager of Oryx GTL and an alumna of Qatar University, said in his speech that it is not enough to honour students in the Honors Program; it is now time to recognise and support them. In his motivational speech, he mentioned how ORYX GTL would support Honors students in the future.

The nail-biting moment of the event came when it was time for Dr Khraisheh to announce the names of the winners of the academic, service, and senior thesis report awards. This year there were more awards that before to recognise the differences between different colleges. Shaima Ali from the College of Pharmacy and Maimoona Rahman from the College of Arts and Sciences won the academic awards-female, and Mohamed Osama Mahgoub from the College of Engineering and Mohamed Shaheem Purayil from the College of Arts and Sciences won the academic awards-male. Omayma Al-Saei from the College of Arts and Sciences and Saad Elasad from the College of Engineering won the service awards. The certificates were handcrafted and made from recycled materials by ORYX GTL, and the winners were also given iPads. Students who volunteered for the Honors Program were awarded certificates of appreciation. The volunteers were Noura Abdulkrim Dawass, Musab N A Almozien, Anab Amanullah Sundus, Asmaa Khaled Ahmed Khairy, Maimoona Rahman, Abdelrahim Mohamed Mohamed, Kaniz Fatima Mohamed Hossain, Ghada Shehata Abdeaziz, Fatma Jaber Elahbaby, Mohamed Mostafa Mohamed, Sarah Ahmed Abdelrahman ElNour, Randa Issam Sheik, Suad Bolanle Ashimi, Tahniyath Fatima, Fareed Unissa Begum, Mahveesh Masood Malgi, Sehide Ruken Birinci, Shifa Mohammed Razzaq Shaikh, and Mohamed Shaheem. The Honors Program frequently recruits volunteers to promote the program

on campus, especially during orientations, and to organise various events all year round.

The Honors Students Association (HSA), which represents the interests of the Honors students and aims at promoting the Honors Program in the university and outside, helped organise the event. The association executes both academic and extra-curricular activities in collaboration with the Honors Program, promoting communication and interaction among students and faculty from different colleges. The HSA has grown from a group of six to more than 15 members in the past year, consisting of the Events committee, the Outreach committee and the Media committee coordinated by the president of the association.



“ Conferences attended by Honors Students ”

The Honors students received various opportunities to attend eminent conferences and events held in and out of Doha through the program this year. Some of the Honors students were chosen to attend conferences sponsored by ORYX GTL. The conferences attended by students from the College of Engineering include the Natural Gas Conversion Symposium NGCS 10 held during 2-7 March 2013 at The Ritz-Carlton Doha. Two honors students also attended the 21st Technical Conference of the GCC Chapter of the Gas Processors Association (GPA-GCC) held on 7 May 2013. Further, students in the program were chosen for attending the the three-day Gulf Youth Forum held from 6-8 May 2013 at the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) in Oman. Finally, several Honors students participated in the 13th cycle of EEG Environmental Public Speaking Competition organized by Dubai-based Emirates Environmental Group held during 17 -18 April 2013 at the Knowledge Village in Dubai. The competition promoted education for environment and sustainable development.

The Honors Program aims at arranging more and more events and conferences for its students to provide them with greater exposure and foster their educational experience keeping them updated and involved.

“First Honors Program Graduates”

In 2012, Saman Aref Iqbal, a Management & Marketing student, and Esmail Alizadeh, an Electrical Engineering student, became the first honors students to graduate from Qatar University. Iqbal graduated with a GPA of 3.98 and was awarded the Medal of Excellence, and Alizadeh graduated with a GPA of 3.92. They were honored by Professor Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad in the graduation ceremony and were given special mention in the Vice President's newsletter.

The Honors Program got an opportunity to interview Esmail Alizadeh and talk about his experiences in the program.



“Interview with Esmail”

1) Why did you join the Honors Program?

E.A.: I joined the Honors Program because of a couple of reasons. First, it offered some Honors Courses in which all students are Honors, and there would be some competitions among classmates that resulted in better performance. Some offered courses aimed to improve students' ability in different fields. An example of that was the Freshman Seminar that focused on improving how students do a good presentation and surveys.

2) How do you think it has helped you?

E.A.: It helped me in different ways especially in increasing my knowledge in my major courses that were taken as Honors Contracts. It helped to get a better understanding of the courses than other students.

3) What would you say are the differences between regular students and honours students?

E.A.: A better understanding of the course for Honors students. In the case of Honors Courses, the difference would be more obvious since almost every work that an Honors student does would need a deeper understanding as well as better critical thinking which is one of the main policies of the honors program.

4) Your favourite Honors moments?

E.A.: Receiving a statue from the Honors Program stating that I was the first male student (in the first batch with another girl) to graduate from the Honors Program at Qatar University.

5) What are you doing/looking forward to doing now?

E.A.: I am currently working as a Research Assistant (immediately after I graduated) in an NPRP project at Qatar University and am going to continue in higher education from this fall in North America.



“Honors students win national debate championship”



Qatar University representatives and Honors Program students Mohamed Shaheem and Hayder Ahmed emerged champions in the 6th Qatar Universities Debating League (QUDL) held on March 29 and 30.

The event, organized annually by Qatar Debates, was hosted by Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q). The motion of the final debate was “This house believes that developing countries should prioritize economic development over civil-political rights”. The final round saw Shaheem and Ahmed up against Emad Alam and Zara Naqvi of WCMC-Q, Tarek Hariri and Narcis Jafaria of Carnegie Mellon University-Qatar (CMUQ), and Arwa Elsanosi and Elin Francis of Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

Mohamed Shaheem is currently a student of International Affairs, a student employee on the production team of the External Relations (ER) Department and the President of the Honors Students Association, while Hayder is a Marketing student, also a student employee in ER’s Alumni Section and a member of the Honors Students Association Events Committee. On achieving the championship title, the proud winners spoke about the intense competition and

the importance of debating. “I am extremely proud that we brought this win home to QU,” Shaheem said. “It was an intense competition and we were up against very strong debaters but we were prepared and ready to put forward our best. I could not have been more pleased with the outcome. Debating is an important skill to have and taking part in these competitions is a great way to build self-confidence and communication and interpersonal skills; it is also an opportunity to meet colleagues from other universities to share ideas and opinions.” Haydar added, “Winning the national debating championships is a very proud moment for me, the team and the Debate Club. We are looking forward to next year’s and hope that meanwhile other students will join us at the Club. Special thanks to the Student Activities Department for their unwavering support”.

“Honors Gathering”



Saturday, May 11, 2013. The Honors Student Association organised its first activity-filled gathering in Spring 2013 to help students take a break from exams and deadlines. The event kick-started with a speech from HSA president Mohammed Shaheem, and Suad Ashimi hosted the event.

The first activity was an exquisite-corpse-style icebreaker game hosted by Randa Sheikh to get honors students introducing themselves to one another. Each person would first have to introduce themselves and then continue a story from where the previous student left off using the seemingly unrelated words Sheikh asked them to include in their story. The first two words were Obama and cake, and long story short, it was Obama’s birthday. After the brief impromptu story-telling, Dr Afyare Elmi, an assistant professor in the International Affairs Program, gave a short talk on public speaking, addressing some of the key difficulties students face during classroom presentations. He mentioned that of our total fears, 41% is that of addressing a group, whereas only 19% is of death. He told students that the key to better presentations is adequate prior rehearsals. His talk was followed by a Q & A session.

The event concluded with a quiz competition where students were divided in teams. The members of the winning team won gift vouchers worth QR 100 from Virgin Megastore. Overall, it was a wonderful socializing experience for all the students belonging to different colleges and a fun break from their hectic schedules.



“Interview with Dr. Peter Polak-Springer”

Why did you join the honors program as an instructor?

I like working with bright, highly-motivated, and articulate students. I also like the seminar-style classroom setting, which goes really well with what history is in essence, an informed discussion about the past. This scenario allows students of various majors and backgrounds to bring their skills and experiences to the content we discuss, and therefore we all teach each other something.

How is your honor's course different than normal courses?

It's not a lecture course, but a colloquium. We form a think-tank of sorts rather than an instructor-centered classroom. At home, we read excerpts from scholarly works and also primary sources (documents, testimonies, ideological statements, etc.), and in class, analyze, discuss, and debate them. As the instructor, I just help ask the right questions, make sure all the ideas that these evoke are analyzed and discussed sufficiently. But it's the students who do the real thinking. And we all learn from one another, and not just from one person.

What skills do you think your course developed for honors students?

I hope they took a giant leap in developing the most valuable skill that any university education offers: learning how to learn independently and on one's own, and along the way, learning to love to learn. To have mastered this skill you need several supporting skills, which we worked on sharpening. Foremost, engaged, critical, and evaluative thinking. And secondly, the application of knowledge from all disciplines--in other words, interdisciplinary thinking--to the study of politics, society, and human behavior.

Do you advise other students to join honors and why?

Of course, but they have to first earn the privilege by demonstrating that they truly care about their studies, are truly serious about learning, and are willing and capable of working harder than their peers to master the content of their courses. I strongly encourage any student who does so to join the program, since it is here that she/he will receive the motivation, challenge, and support that is meant for students of her/his intellectual caliber.



Do you advise other instructors to join honors, and why?

Certainly. Foremost, because she/he will teach in an intellectually-stimulating environment of highly motivated and intelligent students. What is more ideal for any instructor than to share her/his life's passion with students who seriously and honestly want to learn and to work? Moreover, particularly in a limited-size seminar setting the instructor will benefit intellectually from these bright and open-minded students, just as I have a great deal.

“Honors students’ trip to Dubai”

By Randa Sheik

The trip to Dubai was truly both an amazing and phenomenal experience. Firstly, we had the opportunity of being a part of the 12th Intercollege Dubai Public Speaking Competition, which was a complete honor. We got to see countless extraordinary presentations from different universities from diverse countries. Most of all, in reference to all the countless presentations we witnessed, we undoubtedly increased our knowledge and understanding regarding issues such as the importance of the environment. Being a part of this competition has taught us to look at so many different aspects of the environment that we never really considered before. Apart from the competition, we also had an amazing time with all the amazing QU students that were with us. We made many new friends, had many laughs, took countless pictures, and visited several places. Overall, this trip was an absolute success and could not have possibly went any more perfect than the way it went.

I thank QU for giving me this opportunity, and am looking forward to and would be honored to travel again with Qatar University.



“Honors students Trip to USA”

Students in the Honors Program have received a golden opportunity to visit and explore the Honors program of the University of Michigan, Michigan. Six students have been chosen from the program for this 7-10 days long exchange trip. The students will be accompanied by Dr. Majeda Khraisheh and Dr. Alaa Hawari who will embark upon the trip on 14 June 2013. This is the first exchange trip to US for the program where our honors students will be conducting presentations describing Qatar University's Honors Program and promote it among the students there. They will also be establishing comparisons with the program of Michigan University.

The trip marks the initiation of many other exciting exchange trips for the honor's students to follow. It will provide an enlightening educational-cultural experience where the students discover the effervescent culture of USA, gain experience from the program that carries a proud tradition of experiential learning and discover a diverse campus community of the Michigan University.



“Interview with Omnia”



Introduce yourself

My name is Omnia Khairy Mohammed Gad Alla. It is my second year in the College of Pharmacy and third in the Honors Program

How did you come to know about the program?

I had accompanied one of my friends joining the university on her orientation day when I saw the Honors Program booth and inquired about the program.

What was it about the program that attracted you?

Apart from graduating with an honors degree, I liked the idea of small classes that provide a more interactive and competitive environment in which you feel the immense motivation to work.

How do you find the honors classes different from the non-honors courses?

I have taken two contract courses and the freshman seminar course. In my major contract courses, I did not feel the same increase in motivation since I was the only one who showed some enthusiasm in discussions. I could only feel the pressure of extra assignments, which were becoming burdensome due to the passiveness of the class.

Contrastingly, the freshman seminar course was not just about receiving new information but it was a comprehensive course including both academia and a touch of extra activities. For example, the trip to the Italian embassy during the course was very enlightening. It changed my opinion about life and people. I did not know much about Italy, its people, Italian art, etc. Another important feature of these classes is that they facilitate a more one-to-one discussion with the students and the professor.

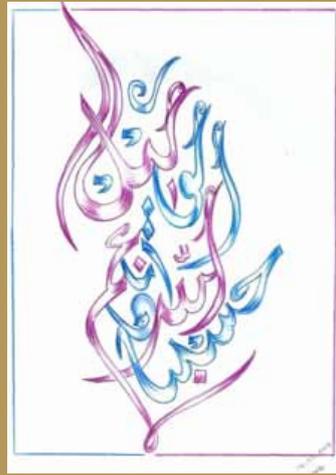
What are your future plans post graduation?

I am planning to pursue Pharm.D at Qatar University. It is the first professional degree in analytical pharmacy which deals with work at hospitals, patient care, more like a one-to-one interaction with patients.

What tips can you give to the students to succeed in the program from your personal experience?

The program offers the perfect platform for the students to show their talents and versatility. Fortunately, the instructors, especially in honors core courses, allow the students to make use of various methods for their researches and not just stick to one discipline and apply the conventional methods of research. The Honors students must exploit this opportunity and make their university experience more fun and memorable apart from enriching.





“ Newsletter contest ”

The Media Committee of the Honors Program organized a contest during the month of May 2013 for writing articles, short stories and digital artworks for publishing in the annual Honors Program newsletter. Many honors students utilized this excellent platform to display their talents. The decision makers faced a difficult time choosing the winning entries from the brilliant works provided by the students but finally decided on Sharifa A Al Kindi and Nazar Salim N Salim as the winners of the contest. The winners of the contest received gift vouchers worth QR 100 from Jarir Bookstore. (collage for the entries below!!!)

“Winning Entry 1”

“The Sky is The Limit”

Sharifa Al-Kindi



The picture is one snapshot of my life in university. The car resembles me, and the route is my university life, the life I am living right now. I have set many goals to achieve during these four years in university, and the buildings of Doha's city resemble these goals. As is clear in the picture, they are already well defined and even visualized. The path I should take to achieve my goals is so very clear, just like the straight road that you can see in the photo with lights, which are not lit yet. They will be lit once I start driving in that path.

The slippery road resembles a lack of confidence, doubt, fear and learned hopelessness. This is the reason I missed the right path. During rainy days, a car can slip really badly and go into the wrong direction, sometimes even a deadly one. Just like in life, bad circumstances, mixed with unawareness and a basket of bad choices, can lead to taking the wrong direction in life, away from what you really want. But I still did not give in to that wrong path; the voice within is my alarm; I know that I just need to get to that right path, and I will surely achieve all that I want to achieve. The roundabout resembles “being alive”. A roundabout has no end; it goes on and on very smoothly. Just like life, you can take different paths and make so many mistakes, but choosing the right one is always a possibility as long as you are alive.

Instead of continuing towards the wrong path that I had almost taken in life, the car can make a full turn and take that straight, long, but “worth-it” path.

All I have to do is make the right start, because I already have the end in mind. The straight road is blocked because of three small cement-blocks. This is how life is in general. Sometimes the road is very clear, but little things can stop us from moving towards what we want. These blocks resemble the challenges I must face in order to reach my goals. But when I start looking at the big picture, I can see that those challenges are tiny compared to my achievements; if I look even closer, they are nearly invisible compared to the abundance of the universe. Then again, I remember that even my achievements i.e. the buildings, are small in comparison to what the universe hides for me. Just like the endless sky, I believe the universe hides a lot for me. It has an infinite of wonders for all of us. All I need to do is believe in it, and have the will power to turn around the car, and become a resilient human being that can get passed anything to get to everything that I wish to accomplish. Right now, I am still roaming around the roundabout; I haven't fully turned around the car, yet. Regardless, I am fully sure that I will get there one day... the sun's rays say it loud and clear: hope is eternal; it never dies.





“Winning Entry2”
By Nazar Salim N Salim

Done By Nazar Salim N Salim

“Newsletter contributions”

The newsletter is published by the Honors Student Association and the Honors Program. I would like to thank the members of the HSA Media Committee Asmaa Khairy and Maimoona Rahman who provided their immense support and contributions in spite of their extremely tight schedules and without which this newsletter was not possible. I would like to thank Randa Issam Sheik for providing us information about the Dubai trip. I would also take this opportunity to thank all the contestants of the newsletter contest who provided their exemplary contributions in spite of their hectic schedules. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Majeda Khraisheh for her invaluable suggestions for the newsletter along with Ms. Sara Salah Alorfali and Ms. Takwa Jaber Zweiri at the honors program office for helping the committee in providing the necessary information for the articles.

Best regards,

Shifa Shaikh

Head of Media Committee



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