

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

GULF UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISSUE 02 | FEBRUARY 2022



Photo taken by our Alumna, Omaima Hussain

NEWSLETTER OVERVIEW

As graduates of our university, you are the most potent symbol of our success and effectiveness as an institution, and it is only appropriate that we continue to support and nurture you along your journey.

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MEET THE TEAM

ALUMNI CENTER

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Alumni Center supports maintaining strong relations among an exceedingly engaged, vibrant community of more than 7,000 alumni. Graduates of GUST are the most potent symbol of success and effectiveness as an institution, and it is only appropriate that the Center continues to support and nurture alumni along their professional journey. As part of the mission and accomplishing our objectives, alumni are offered outstanding services and continuous support throughout their careers.

MISSION

To cultivate GUST loyalty by creating a sustainable community of alumni and encouraging them to participate actively and passionately in the community through offering a dynamic alumni program that would foster lifelong bonds between GUST and its graduates who are forever the genuine asset of GUST.



HEBA AL-ROUMI
ALUMNI CENTER
MANAGER



LINA ABDULAZIZ
SENIOR
ALUMNI OFFICER



MARYAM ZAREI
ALUMNI OFFICER



ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

BEYOND GUST



MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
GRADUATED 2010

**MARIAM
AL DOUB**

NAME OF BUSINESS

VTERRA AND TRES BEIGE

After five years of working in the governmental sector, Mariam resigned and started her journey as an entrepreneur. Currently she co-owns several companies, one of her ownerships is a well-known healthy vegan restaurant called Vterra established with her sister. Additionally, Mariam has built a fashion platform for multinational luxury brands called Tres Beige, import & export company, a central kitchen company which supplies products to cafes, and a general trading company. She holds diverse roles within these companies, ranging from HR duties to quality assurance. Mariam's story is an inspiration, not only, to future students but to future entrepreneurs as well.

Vterra

TRES
— BEIGE

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

BEYOND GUST



MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
GRADUATED 2010

**SALEH
AL MUSALAM**

NAME OF BUSINESS

GHASEEL

Saleh Al Musalam graduated from GUST with a degree in MIS in 2010. Through his career post GUST, he established a company called Pro-design, which sculpted his career and sparked his passion as an entrepreneur. Unfortunately, the company shut down after four years but that did not stop his ambition to strive in the industry and establish another new company. He built several applications and after many trial and errors he finally created Ghaseel, which differentiated him in the market and was an outstanding achievement. In 2015, Saleh co-founded a Ghaseel as a company with his partner Omar Al-Othman. Ghaseel is an application where users can get their cars washed and detailed anytime and anywhere by using the Ghaseel application available on both iPhone and Android. The company currently has more than a hundred vendors ready to serve their clients with a wide range of car wash and detailing services. Fortunately, with their enormous success Ghaseel expanded last year to Saudi Arabia and looks forward to new opportunities ahead.



Ghaseel

FARAH HUSSAIN AL SHAIKH

MASTERS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | GRADUATED 2011

CURRENT POSITION

HEAD OF PROCUREMENT, SIEMENS ENERGY, UAE



GET TO KNOW YOUR ALUMNI

STUDENT STORIES

WHAT WERE THE OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

Leading a team early in my career and finding my way into what type of leader I wanted to be. and coming to my own way without copying anyone else.

HOW DID GUST HELP PREPARE YOU FOR SUCCESS?

Real life examples and experiences tied to the curriculum in addition to the Network of Students which I am still friends with today.

WHO INFLUENCED AND INSPIRED YOU THE MOST AT GUST?

Heba Al-Roumi, hardworking and great mother, wife, sister and friend. How she manages it all is something to look up-to.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

First Women & Youngest CEO!

WHAT ARE SOME WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT YOU'D SHARE WITH OUR CURRENT STUDENTS?

Never take no for an answer.

MARWA MARAFIE

ENGLISH LITERATURE | GRADUATED 2016

CURRENT POSITION

SENIOR MARKETING & CUSTOMER PROPOSITION
OFFICER AT KIB (KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL BANK)



GET TO KNOW YOUR ALUMNI

STUDENT STORIES

WHAT WERE THE OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

To be honest, I didn't have any obstacles as GUST gave me more than an education, it properly prepared me for the work challenges to come.

HOW DID GUST HELP PREPARE YOU FOR SUCCESS?

My GUST experience was all encompassing, real world skills, education, mentorship, opportunities to lead and a vast network of connections and relationships that are still driving my development and work progression. A big Shoutout to the Media Club and the Office of Student Life, as they were the ignition into my preparation to the real world and I contribute my success to them.

WHO FROM GUST INFLUENCED AND INSPIRED YOU THE MOST?

Dr. Fahad Al Sumait , Ms. Anwar Al-Sabah
Most of my colleagues in the Media Club and the other student clubs.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

I can't get enough of 'Marketing', I want to broaden my experience and exposure in that field, be part of a hit regional TVC, open my own production house and the ultimate mission is to give something back to the community through Media and Marketing.

WHAT ARE SOME WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT YOU'D SHARE WITH OUR CURRENT STUDENTS?

All the challenges of your student life are experiences that will come in play after graduation, where you will find yourself in a much easier road and you will be fully prepared to face whatever comes your way.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DR. MOHAMAD NAJEM AL NAJEM

DEPARTMENT

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

JOINED GUST

2016

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 1- Mapping the first decade of circular economy research: a bibliometric network analysis.
- 2- Learning by doing: an undergraduate lean A3 project in a Kuwaiti bank.
- 3- Lean readiness within emergency departments: a conceptual framework.

CONTACT INFO

Email: alnajem.m@gust.edu.kw

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR ROLE AT GUST?

Simply put, everything! The vibrant environment, the diversity, the grand campus, the students, the faculty, the staff- everything. I particularly enjoy the process of mentoring and guiding students, inspiring them and vice versa. The work environment offered by GUST is ideal, and each semester brings forth a chance to interact with amazing colleagues and students. In particular, I look forward to meeting my students, who inspire me every day.

Since I enjoy creative problem-solving, I love being an educator, since it provides me with an opportunity to contribute to the University and the Kuwaiti society. My interest lies in making each assessment more engaging for students. With the help of practical projects, I facilitate real-life application of the students' skills.

As an Associate Dean of College of Business Administration, I liaise with faculty to enhance processes. We work in tandem to strive for excellence, and formulate curriculum that is engaging and relevant.

I just love the learning- I learn from staff, faculty and students. I wouldn't trade this job for anything!

HOW HAS THE COVID-19 ERA CHANGED YOUR TEACHING APPROACH?

Although online teaching is stressful and challenging, I have learnt a great deal. Before every class I found myself asking “What do students want?” “How can I keep them engaged?” “Are my students in the right state of mind to absorb new information?” Eventually, I realized that online lectures, like regular classrooms, can still facilitate discussions, debates, and creativity!

In regular classes, I would employ several techniques in my lectures. However, this period has encouraged me to leverage previously unused technology as a part of my lectures. I always seek innovative ways to engage my students to make my lectures more enjoyable. This situation forced me to re-evaluate my teaching strategies. I spent days and weeks learning from others, researching new materials, talking to colleagues, getting inspired, and applying new techniques.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH ONLINE TEACHING.

I’ve always considered myself to be an innovative and creative instructor. The rapid shift to online teaching has transformed me into my best version, both as an instructor and a human being. However, online teaching did not alter my teaching philosophy; it transformed how I deliver information and engage with my students. I have learnt a lot through this change and adapted to the situation. After returning to the campus, I will continue to employ some of the techniques I currently use!

The last 18 months entailed a steep learning curve, where we had to learn, adapt, and digest many things in a short period. There were mixed feelings though! Although online teaching is challenging, it could be very effective and efficient. This shift has forced me to be more innovative and creative while teaching and assigning projects to my students! The greatest challenge is to ensure that the expectations of my students are met in the virtual classroom.

I still believe that in-person teaching cannot be replaced, since education is also about engaging in interactions with our students to form meaningful teacher-student relationships. However, this did not prevent me from establishing meaningful relationships with my students, which is an integral part of teaching. One drawback of online teaching is the inability to read students’ body language and facial expressions. Thus, we must dedicate more time into talking to students to ensure they are ok and on the right track.

ANY ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE OUR ALUMNI?

Stay in touch with your professors; they will be glad to help you! Never offload the skills and knowledge that your educational journey imparts.

I highly encourage you to learn constantly and adopt new skills. Your dream job may not be served on a golden plate, so grab any opportunity you get to gain experience. Every experience will enhance your career prospects.

Rise to the occasion. Kuwait needs smart people like you.

EMPLOYEE WELLBEING & PRODUCTIVITY



ALUMNI ARTICLES

BY NAZEEMA DERBAS

ABOUT NAZEEMA

Nazeema Derbas is a GUST alumna who has recently joined GUST as Business Development Specialist in the Vice Presidency for Development, Alliances, and Advancement. She has been an Adjunct Faculty in the Finance and Economics Department. She has contributed an article to this newsletter on ‘Employee Wellbeing & Productivity’ that discusses the employee productivity in the workplace post-pandemic which has been a recently trending topic globally.

The world has seen a rise in unemployment post pandemic, both due to businesses downsizing or shutting down and due to an increase in resignations. Millennials and Generation Z are leading the wave, after being quarantined with endless work hours at home they now seek higher wages and greater job flexibility. Individuals have felt the urgency and lack of control that the pandemic caused encouraged everyone to seek more control in their careers while looking for work-life balance conditions.

Businesses are now looking to enhance the well-being of employees by introducing remote working options, and an environment that supports work-life balance. The pandemic has increased the trend of employers playing an expanded role in their employees’ financial, physical and mental well-being. Support includes enhanced sick leave, financial assistance, adjusted hours of operation and childcare provisions. As more operations have employees working from home, some companies have also been providing a remote- work stipend. These companies include Google, Twitter, and Shopify and have provided amounts up to \$1,000. The stipend is meant to help employees recreate the office at home, and cover office expenses for things they might need to purchase and use for work in their homes.

Elon Musk uses a good strategy for increasing employee productivity without pressuring them, and it is called the 85% rule. This rule is simple: When you're only doing things that are of the highest quality and contribute the most value, 85% of your time is taken care of. The other 15% is for housekeeping tasks and things that don't matter as much. This helps combat what is known as 'productivity dysmorphia' which is something many of us might have experienced and that is feeling like you accomplished nothing even after working so hard and providing output. It's a perception that stifles productivity overtime as people feel tired from all the work and do not feel the satisfaction from these accomplishments. When employees of Tesla are not pressured to overproduce and focus on quality, they have shown increased productivity as the workers become more relaxed and productive with the reduction of pressure.

The pandemic made us all more considerate of the need to live and enjoy life while we are healthy and able to and still lead a life of purpose and productivity.

23RD CAREER FAIR

8:30AM-3:00PM | March 13 & 14, 2022

GUST (Quad Fountain Area)

Gulf University for Science and Technology is organizing its 23rd Annual Career Fair, to take place on March 13th & 14th at the university's campus (Quad - Fountain Area), created to help foster relations between private and public businesses, as well as, bridge the gap for both employer and potential employee.

During the career fair, GUST's expected graduating students and alumni will be able to submit their CV's, sign up for interviews, and showcase their skills and competencies, while the employer would have the opportunity to meet with our students, expected graduates, and alumni.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

UPCOMING EVENTS
CATCH UP TO EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

CATCH UP TO EVENTS

23rd CAREER FAIR | HR WORKSHOPS

Get a head start and prepare for the upcoming Career Fair this March!

- ✓ Building your CV
- ✓ Job interview basics
- ✓ Job hunting
- ✓ Career path guidance
- ✓ Career opportunities

Wednesday | 2 February, 2022 | 1:30PM

Presented by: **Ms. Zeinab Diab**

Junior HR Business Partner

Monday | 9 February, 2022 | 5PM

Presented by: **Esraa Al Sultan**

HR Manager - Warba National for Medical & Scientific Centre

Founder - Miss and Mr. Lathatha

Wednesday | 16 February, 2022 | 5PM

Presented by: **Dana Al Doweesh**

HR and Talent Management experience in financial services industry

Founder - Van Life

Sunday | 20 February, 2022 | 12:30PM

Presented by: **Ms. Ghaliah AlSaleh**

HR- Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait

Sunday | 21 February, 2022 | 11PM

Presented by: **Mr. Basel Baroun and Mr. Fahad Al Mubarak**

HR - Commercial Bank of Kuwait

To register for these virtual sessions, send an email with your name, GUST ID, and preferred date to alumni@gust.edu.kw

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PART OF US

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