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Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar graduates largest class to date *104 graduates join global alumni network of over 100,000*

DOHA, QATAR – Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar celebrated its eighth graduation ceremony last night, the largest in the Doha campus’ history, as 104 graduates representing 19 countries were awarded their diplomas in front of family, friends and the university community.

As the largest graduating class from the Qatar campus to date – 54 business administration students, 29 in information systems, 17 in computer science, and four in biological sciences – graduating students received their degrees to officially become part of Carnegie Mellon University’s global network of more than 100,000 alumni.

The ceremony began with a processional led by faculty marshal and associate dean John O’Brien and comprising graduates, faculty and members of the university’s senior leadership. The ceremony was held on campus at the iconic Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar building in Education City.

Congratulating the class of 2015, Ilker Baybars, dean of Carnegie Mellon Qatar, said: “It is with great pride that I extend my congratulations to the Class of 2015. You have exemplified Carnegie Mellon’s traits of hard work, collaboration across disciplines, and innovation. As Carnegie Mellon graduates, we are confident that you are prepared for your future—in Qatar and across the world.”

Baybars awarded the Meritorious Teaching Award to Muhammad Fuad Farooqi, assistant teaching professor of finance, for his remarkable dedication to his undergraduate teaching.

Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards went to graduates from each program, based on outstanding academic performance, and included, Bilal Jaradat from biological sciences, Tanzeel Huda from business administration, Sabih Bin Wasi from computer science, and Sama Kanbour from information systems.

Lana Al Kahala, the 2015 Andrew Carnegie Society Scholar, and the Qatar Campus Scholars, was also recognized during the ceremony. This year’s Qatar Campus Scholars were Al Kahala and Tanzeel Huda, both business administration graduates, Sabih Bin Wasi from computer science and information systems graduate Sama Kanbour.

Also this year, 10 students received Senior Student Leadership Awards: Vanessa Fernandes (with distinction), Tarek Al Hariri (with distinction), Hassan Al-Malki (with distinction), Mohamed Benkermi, Francine Dinglasan, Ahmed Hashmi, Lana Al-Khahala, Mohammed Al-Matwi, Lamana Mulaffer, and Amalan Roshan.

During his remarks, Nathan Urban, Carnegie Mellon’s Interim Provost, encouraged graduates to pursue their ambitions: “Carnegie Mellon has prepared you well for whatever directions your lives and aspirations will take you; in every field of study, this university has given you a worldview that

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will serve you well. I look forward to seeing what the Class of 2015 will accomplish and how you will contribute to the world.”

Abdelrahman Haroun, the student speaker and an information systems graduate, plans to pursue a graduate degree and eventually return to his home country of Egypt to make positive change.

Highlighting the vast opportunities available to the Class of 2015, Haroun said, “There is the student whose campaign against reckless driving will save lives. Another developed business fashion shows so that more of us will have professional confidence. Another wanted to host websites, now his startup is employing our undergraduates. Almost all of us had ideas cooking for a long time as daydreams, but Carnegie Mellon gave us the courage to pursue them.”

Carnegie Mellon Qatar graduates are highly sought after by local, regional and international organizations. More than 90 percent of the university’s alumni are either in graduate programs or employed in top organizations like Google, Microsoft, Qatar Petroleum, Shell and Commercial Bank Qatar.

For more information about Carnegie Mellon Qatar and its programs, please visit: www.qatar.cmu.edu

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About Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

As a global leader in education, Carnegie Mellon University is known for its creativity, collaboration across disciplines, and top programs in business, technology and the arts. The university has been home to some of the world’s most important thinkers, among them 19 Nobel Laureates and 12 Turing Award winners.

In 2004, Qatar Foundation invited Carnegie Mellon to join Education City, a groundbreaking center for scholarship and research. The campus continues to grow, now providing a prestigious education to more than 400 students from 40 countries. The university offers five undergraduate degree programs in Biological Sciences, Business Administration, Computational Biology, Computer Science and Information Systems.

Students in Qatar join more than 13,000 Carnegie Mellon students across the globe, who will become the next generation of leaders tackling tomorrow’s challenges. The university’s more than 100,000 alumni are recruited by some of the world’s most innovative organizations.

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