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PRESS RELEASE  
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**Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar graduates 80 students**  
*Graduates join 95,000 strong global alumni network*

**DOHA, QATAR** – Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar celebrated its seventh graduation ceremony last night, bringing together dignitaries, family and faculty to recognize 80 graduates representing 24 different countries as they were awarded their diplomas.

As the sound of traditional Scottish bagpipes filled the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), the graduates processed onto the stage, led by students carrying their programs' academic flag.

The biological sciences graduates were led by Kenneth Hovis, assistant teaching professor of biological sciences, followed by the business administration graduates, who were led by Sham Kekre, distinguished career professor, production and operations management. They were joined by the computer science graduates, led by Kemal Oflazer, teaching professor of computer science, followed by the information systems graduates, led by Selma Limam Mansar, associate teaching professor of information systems.

All 80 graduates—2 in biological sciences, 42 in business administration, 10 in computer science and 26 in information systems—now form part of Carnegie Mellon's 95,000-strong global alumni network.

Addressing the graduating class, and more than 1,200 distinguished guests, family members and friends, Subra Suresh, president of Carnegie Mellon University, praised the graduates for their achievements: "You have achieved something important, something that took time, discipline and willingness to persist in the face of difficulties. That is impressive, so savor the moment."

Consistently ranked among the top universities, Carnegie Mellon has more than 12,000 students, 95,000 alumni and 5,000 faculty and staff globally. In Qatar, students from more than 40 countries enroll at the university's world-class facilities in Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's Education City, giving them a truly unique and multicultural experience.

Suresh continued: "This campus is itself an example of intentionally seeking out diversity. Carnegie Mellon Qatar has brought a distinctive flavor to Carnegie Mellon University as a whole, and over the past 10 years, this campus has opened the institution to new and innovative ways of teaching and learning. The two campuses together have created new opportunities for undergraduates to exchange knowledge, and to collaborate in new ways, this interaction has made us more successful as a global institution."

Ilker Baybars, dean of Carnegie Mellon Qatar, congratulated the graduating class, "Over the past four years, our students have worked hard not only towards their degrees, but also by contributing to the country's research efforts and by making a difference to society through community outreach in Qatar and overseas."

"We look forward to seeing the difference these young leaders will make to the community and market. The Class of 2014 join the university's high caliber alumni network who are making an impact through key roles with regional and international organizations, setting up their own businesses or joining graduate programs," Baybars added.

# Carnegie Mellon University Qatar

Saleh Al-Raisi, a business administration graduate and the student speaker, acknowledged his fellow classmates at the ceremony: “We have all reached a new turning point. Together, we have learned and laughed, but most importantly we have matured together. The spirit of teamwork, whether in the classroom, students clubs or the student body government, has made us close friends, given us wonderful memories to cherish and has produced 80 exceptional graduates.”

Al-Raisi, who served as president of the Qatari Student Association in 2011 and 2012, and as president of the Student Government in 2013, is currently participating in the 2014 Al Fikra National Business Plan Competition and hopes to go on to make a difference to Qatar’s development as an entrepreneur.

Abdulla Saleh Al-Raisi, chief executive officer of Commercial Bank Qatar and proud father of graduate Al-Raisi said: “When Saleh was born I looked at him wondering what his future would hold. Today, I look at him with pride as he graduates from one of the top universities in the world, which has fulfilled my wish as a parent; to see him develop into a responsible individual. Thank you to Carnegie Mellon for contributing to the well-rounded individual I see before me today.”

Academic Achievement Awards were presented to three students based on their outstanding academic performance: Haider Zali, business administration graduate, Fahim Dalvi, computer science graduate, and Haya Thowfeek, information systems graduate, received the awards.

Narcis Sadat Jafarian, who received the 2014 Andrew Carnegie Society Scholar Award, and the Qatar Campus Scholars were also recognized during the ceremony. This year’s Qatar Campus Scholars were Jafarian, a business administration graduate, Syed Moosavi, a computer science graduate, Zali and Thowfeek.

Dean Baybars also recognized Matthew Szudzik, assistant teaching professor of mathematics, with a Meritorious Teaching Award. Marion Oliver, teaching professor of mathematics, was recognized as the 2014 recipient of the University Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Advising, which was presented to him on the Pittsburgh campus last month.

Senior Student Leadership Awards were presented to 13 exceptional students this year. These students showcased extraordinary leadership and made substantial contributions to the community during their time at the university.

Recipients were: Saleh Al-Raisi (with Distinction,) Kenrick Fernandes (with Distinction), Saba Singh (with Distinction), Aved Shiekh (with Distinction), Haider Zali (with Distinction), Fahim Dalvi, Hashim Moosavi, Rama Sbei, Safouan Amor, Narcis Sadat Jafarian, Stephanie Abi Gerges, Maha Al Meer and Dana Al Ansari.

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

Members of Carnegie Mellon Qatar’s Class of 2014 are as follows:

## **Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences:**

Rula Al-Baghdadi and Fatima Al-Saygh

## **Bachelor of Science in Business Administration:**

Ali Abbas, Rafay Abbasi, Nazish Abdin, Adan Adonis, Abaan Ahmad, Saad Ahmed, Mohammed Al Thani,

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Aysha Al-Abdulla, Dana Al-Ansari, Reem Al-Emadi, Shaikha Al-Emadi, Mohammed Al-Hadhrami, Sultan Al-Jabir, Haya Al-Kubaisi, Maha Al-Meer, Saleh Al-Raisi, Sara Al-Remaihi, Sara Al-Sulaiti, Aisha Al-Thani, Almaha Al-Thani, Maha Al-Zaini, Khalid Allouba, Muhammad Nauman Chaudhry, Faryal Dad, Noor Daqaq, Lulwa El-Matbouly, Fawwaz Farid, Syed Haider, Narcis Sadat Jafarian, Alisher Khamraev, Saif Mujahid, Zeina Murtada, Hamza Nagree, Ziad Nasser, Nada Salem, Rama Sbei, Raheem Shahid, Reham Shaikh, Aved Sheikh, Saba Singh, Haider Zali and Syed Hassan Zuhair.

## **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science:**

Alina Al-Aswadi, Abdulaziz Al-Homaid, Amna AlZeyara, Fahim Dalvi, Kenrick Fernandes, Aisha Hasan, Syed Moosavi, Mohd, Nabil Murshed, Shailja Relwani and Baljit Singh.

## **Bachelor of Science in Information Systems:**

Hawra Abdulla, Ammar Abouelghar, Prince Abraham, Haris Aghadi, Umair Ahmed, Shamma Al Hetmi, Asma Al-kubaisi, Noora Al-Maslamani, Sara AlMulla, Safouan Amor, Ernest Appiah Appiah, Nawal Behih, Srinjoy Chakravarty, Daniel AbdulRahman Cheweikey, Ola Daher, Fatima Fakhro, Nourhen Feki, Zuhair Ghalib, Aliya Hashim, Afran Hassan, Sarah Mustafa, Muhammad Polin, Maahd Shahzad, Talal Shoeb, Haya Thowfeek and Stephanie Abi Gerges.

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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 11 Turing Award winners.

In 2004, Qatar Foundation invited Carnegie Mellon to join Education City, a groundbreaking center for scholarship and research. As Carnegie Mellon Qatar celebrates its 10th anniversary, the campus continues to grow, providing a prestigious education to 400 students from 42 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 12,000 Carnegie Mellon students across the globe, who will become the next generation of leaders tackling tomorrow's challenges. The university's 95,000 alumni are recruited by some of the world's most innovative organizations.

To learn more, visit [www.qatar.cmu.edu](http://www.qatar.cmu.edu) and follow us on twitter @CarnegieMellonQ