

Alumni from HBKU and Partner Universities Reconnect at the First HBKU Alumni Reunion

DOHA, June XX, 2014 – Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), held the first alumni reunion event on Wednesday, May 28th. The event brought together alumni from HBKU and its partner universities from all past graduating classes for the first time to celebrate their achievements since graduation and introduce them to the tools HBKU Alumni Relations offers to support their professional careers.

The event also launched the Alumni Board Committee (ABC) to lead and be the voice of the alumni community at Education City. The 12 member board consists of representatives from HBKU and partner universities who will advance career, social and networking initiatives of the alumni community in collaboration with HBKU Alumni Relations. The ABC will meet regularly and begin its programming in the fall semester.

Addressing the alumni at the event, Dr. Khalid Al Khanji, Vice President of Student Affairs at HBKU said, "Reunions are about building communities. You have been part of one when you were a student who studied, lived and dined here, but it does not have to stop there. Communities can be built and they can grow. The community is you, and you build it by your attendance and participation. What we hope to do at these events is to facilitate that."

A diverse panel of alumni was highlighted at the event to reenergize the attendees in pursuing their professional goals by sharing inspiring stories on the successes achieved on their personal and professional journeys thus far. The panelists were: Khalid Hassiba (Texas A&M University at Qatar, Class of 2009), Mariam Al-Homaid (Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Class of 2010 and Class of 2014), and Sarah Al-Derham (Northwestern University in Qatar, Class of 2014).

Sarah Al-Derham, after sharing her educational journey in a presentation titled "Perseverance in Education," said: "I'm very excited and honored to have been one of the speakers at this unique event, the first HBKU alumni gathering of its kind. I believe this is a great step towards strengthening the community and reinforcing our values and beliefs as a diverse, first class educational institute."

In her address, Sana Al-Buainain, the Alumni Relations Manager at HBKU, spoke on the values of the HBKU Alumni Association and its relationship to the alumni themselves and said, "The HBKU Alumni Association is the voice of all HBKU and partner universities alumni. HBKU Alumni Relations will make sure that this community carries the values we believe in: diversity in members and programs, unity in bringing together all alumni in one community, nurturing local values, embracing global standards, and making a difference. "

The event concluded with a special recognition of Amna Al Zeyara (Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar Class of 2014) for her outstanding performance in the Undergraduate Student Research Competition 2013 at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference. Dr. Khalid Al-Khanji presented Al Zeyara and all three panelists with certificates of appreciation.

Through these activities and initiatives, HBKU Alumni Relations brings awareness to the extended alumni community that graduates from HBKU and its partner universities belong to. HBKU builds on unique partnerships that add unprecedented value to the education of its students, and HBKU Alumni Relations extends this value far beyond its alumni's university years.

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About HBKU

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its students through an array of interdisciplinary programs.

HBKU's partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and University College London Qatar.

