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**Students at NU-Q Awarded in Media and Research**

**Doha, Qatar – March 28, 2017** – Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) has recognized a group of its students for their excellence in media and research at a recent ceremony held in Education City. The university's annual Media and Research Awards highlight students' successes in the areas of research, documentary, creative writing, fiction, news, and multimedia content.

"This is a chance for NU-Q students to have their academic and professional work—journalism, films, and research—assessed by outside experts who give them consistently high marks," said Everette E. Dennis, dean and CEO.

Prior to the awards ceremony, the university hosted a showcase of all nominees at the HBKU Student Center in Education City. All of the submissions were adjudicated by local and international industry leaders – many of whom were present at both events to recognize the efforts of the nominees.

"I'm glad that people are passionate about telling these stories, making sure that we know about these issues. What is important is that the students keep on doing it and that they remember it's all about the people," said Kamahl Santamaria, a journalist at Al Jazeera English. "I think people have the right idea. The energy, passion, and support that the students have for each other are wonderful to see. It heartens me that there are that many young people who want to do this still."

The winners were:

**Creative Writing**

Amna Al-Baker  
*Chromosomes*

**Documentary**

Maryam Al-Thani and Sheikha Bahzad  
*Al Ghwasa – Pearl Diving*

**Fiction Film**

Suleima AlHaj Abed and Hissa Al Mannai  
*Mkhammar*

**Independent Image**

Jemina Legaspi and Muhammad Faizan Shakir  
*Somewhere, Sometime*

**Independent Writing**

Sara Zainel  
*Peregrine*

**Journalistic Writing**

Habibah Abass and Ifath Sayed  
Underreported Rape Crimes in Qatar

**Multimedia**

Urooj Azmi  
*Graphics Corner*

**Research: Humanities**

Shakeeb Asrar  
*Evolution in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia*

**Research: Social Sciences**

Muhammad Faizan Shakir  
*Effects of Childhood Cancer on Siblings and their Coping Mechanisms*

“We're incredibly proud of our work and we're overwhelmed by the feedback we've received. We want to keep telling stories and give awareness to all those who don't have a platform to project their stories or struggles,” communication sophomore Hissa Al-Mannai said of her award-winning film which examines the Palestinian identity.

The Media and Research Awards marks the conclusion of NU-Q's “Go Wild Week,” the annual spirit week on campus. Throughout the week, Northwestern University in Qatar Student Union organizes events and activities for the student body, staff, faculty, alumni, and the extended Northwestern community.

“What I've seen at the ceremony, and throughout the judging process was passion and commitment — outstanding work,” Simon Ferguson, chief executive officer at Resolution Group, said. “The future of NU-Q is very bright.”

The judges were:

- Maria Arbelaez, senior producer at Al Jazeera
- Khalil Benkirane, head of grants at the Doha Film Institute
- Rima Ismail, communications manager at Hamad bin Khalifa University Press
- Hafiz Abdulla, director of museums at Msheireb Properties
- Kamahl Santamaria, news anchor at Al Jazeera English
- Shereena Qazi, online journalist at Al Jazeera English
- Omar Khalifa, director and executive producer at The Film House
- Hamad Al Mari, I Love Qatar presenter
- Simon Ferguson, group chief executive officer at Resolution Films
- Kristine Maj de Neergaard, independent art director
- Peter Okorn, head of information technology at Doha Film Institute
- Barry Malone, online editor at Al Jazeera
- Abdullah Saleh Baabood, director of Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University
- Claudia Lux, project director at Qatar National Library
- Ingmar Weber, research director at Qatar Computing Research Institute
- Omar Boukhris, post award director at Qatar National Research Fund

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**About Northwestern University in Qatar**

*Northwestern University in Qatar draws from its parent organization, [Northwestern University](#) (Evanston, Illinois), a distinguished history, famous programs and an exceptional faculty. Founded in partnership with Qatar Foundation, NU-Q provides a framework through which students explore the world and, ultimately, shape its future through its distinguished schools of [communication, journalism and strategic communication](#), and [liberal arts](#).*