

# Noor Al-Hekma

The Official Dar Al-Hekma University Magazine

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## DAH Creates World Record

First Hekma Scientific Research Forum

Rest in Peace "Mama Susu"

Dar Al-Hekma Law Students Amaze Us Once Again!

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# Dr. Suhair Hassan Al Qurashi

## Investing in Minds Leads to Creativity

Creativity is an important skill for achieving success in today's time. Therefore, it was decided that the value for the academic year 2015-2016 would be "fostering creativity."

Noor Al-Hekma met up with Dr. Suhair Al Qurashi, President of Dar Al-Hekma University to talk about the importance of this year's leading value and its significance to the educational process.

Why did you choose "fostering creativity" as the leading value for this academic year?

In general, creativity means creating something new and original. Creativity is not something new at Dar Al-Hekma; it is a style and approach that accompanied our educational journey since its beginning. It has painted a learning path that aims at finding quality education where students excel in their majors.

It is not a rigid and steady process, but it is a permanent process that keeps developing and blending old and new ideas to come up with creative works. Creativity does not mean the invention or the introduction of a new idea; it is not a luxury but a necessity required by our time to stay updated and on the track of the development taking into consideration how it can adapt with our religion and values.

The Dar Al-Hekma board this year talks about "fostering creativity-invests in your mind", what is the link between them?

Creativity is the result of investing in what someone sees in oneself and the surrounding, it is a worship encouraged by the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

Islam does not urge for anything without a reason. Thinking induces the capacity of the mind and stimulates the reflection and contemplation of everything happening around and finds the reasons and causes, and how to



build a complete civilization able to development and adjustment and coexistence with the progress of the time, and in more than one verse came the verse: "Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?" ( Surat Al-A'raf 185). "Say, [O Muhammad], Travel through the land and observe how He began creation. Then Allah will produce the final creation. Indeed Allah, over all things, is competent." (Surat Al-Ankaboot 20), "Say, 'Is the blind equivalent to the seeing? Then will you not give thought?'" (Surat Al-Anaam 50).

If you provoke the mind and stimulate it by asking questions and by allowing it to be inquisitive then you are on the right track of encouraging the knowledge seeker to be creative and innovative. Our great scientists from the past who advanced the world in the fields of medicine, mathematics, literature, education and more created a civilization that became a reference to the whole world depended on the Holy Qur'an which was their catalyst for creativity. We do not claim that we are creating theories, but we can conclude from our experience that education is an investment in the mind = creativity.

What is the role of educational institutions in stimulating creativity in society in general, and in Dar Al-Hekma specifically?

The educational institution that sets the vision, mission and objectives on the basis of motivating its students to think about what subjects are proposed is no doubt a leading institution that will invest in its creative graduates who will make changes in themselves and their communities and humanity as well. Educational institutions should find appropriate and integrated environments that stimulate creativity and help it to grow, starting with the preparation of oriented curricula based on analysis and conclusions and development of creative thinking, and how to find viable solutions to the problems faced by the humanitarian community, and can impede its progress. And to enable the teacher with modern methods and means that support her/him in the field of education and use it as a way to provoke thought and stimulate the imagination of the student and the observation and conclusion and feeding his curiosity feeling. They should also develop and amend the curriculum and its application with new realities, transfer the class environment to an environment encouraging discussion and receiving questions as a door of creativity. Also, educational institution should adopt creative and innovative projects and fund them and develop them.

Dar Al-Hekma University –as I mentioned above is keen on creativity starting from selecting the programs and its subjects, means of delivering and supporting activities, providing possibilities and modern techniques, and rehabilitation and development of students based on the local and international experiences, and review the latest developments of education, and motivate them to attend exhibitions and conferences outside the university, and conduct exhibitions and conferences in campus. It is important that educational institutions should not limit creativity as it is a complete process for scientific and literary majors. The values of morality and history may turn to innovative materials, both in presentation and submission, as well as in

social responsibility programs and community service.

What is the result of creativity and innovation on DAH students and graduates? And how did it contribute in changing their lives?

The creative output on the human being in general and DAH students and graduates in particular appears from the special innovative output in the field of work, community service and self-development, and this is noted by the internal and external community. For example, DAH student Mawaddah Muhtasib from VisCom won the "Create and Inspire" competition for her short film entitled "The world is not black and white". She was among the 12 winners who have entered to

competition with hundreds of other participants.

Few months ago, Dar Al-Hekma University honored its 111 entrepreneurs who have shone in various fields of leadership. There is no doubt that their work has been subject to standards of creativity that were applied in their work. There is also no doubt that DAH's environment and policies played a big role in achieving this.

Anyone who follows the university's news can see what our graduates have achieved on both local and international level as they take special seats in major businesses that attract creative people.

"Creativity is a style and approach that accompanied our educational journey."

- Dr. Suhair Al Qurashi -



## Rest in Peace "Mama Susu"

A tragic accident caused the death of Saudi business woman Sanaa bin Laden, the famous "mother of orphans," and her husband, Dr. Zuhair Hashim, in addition to her mother Rajaa Hashem, and the Jordanian pilot, Captain Mazen Da'jah when their private plane crashed into a car auction center in Hampshire, UK. The plane, a Phenom-300, failed to land at an airport in Hampshire causing the immediate death of the passengers.

With her death, Saudi Arabia has lost one of the finest women, a woman who was a known philanthropist supporting local orphanages and sponsoring children's education. Sanaa bin Laden spent her life in the service of society, a woman loved by everyone. She helped silently and worked as per God's words: "O believers, spend in Allah's Way the best portion of the wealth you have lawfully earned and that which We have produced for you from the earth, and do not pick out for charity those worthless things that you yourselves would not accept but with closed eyes. Bear in mind that Allah is Self-Sufficient, Praiseworthy." [Al-Baqarah: 267].

### About Sanaa bin Laden

It is known that Sanaa bin Laden did not have children of her own yet she was the mother of everyone and they all called her "Mama Susu". In Jeddah, she was also called the "Mother of orphans" in recognition of her unlimited social work. She sponsored orphans in several associations and was concerned with their financial and educational affairs and used



to send them abroad to study and supported them to get married by furnishing the grooms' apartments. She was known for her love of philanthropy and volunteering and never asked for fame. She was a humanitarian who did good for the sake of good and a social icon for her active role in charity work. She did not support one particular association but was a member in various charity associations, and was known for her significant role in the care of orphans and in catering to their needs during their presence in the association and after. All charitable associations in the Mecca region remember the role she played in providing financial support, generous action and helping disadvantaged cases. She dealt with the orphans better than many mothers cared for their own children.

### Her role in supporting educational institutions and charities

Throughout the Kingdom, the late Sanaa bin Laden was well-known for supporting education and supported the funds of several Saudi universities, including Dar Al-Hekma University. Sanaa, may God rest her soul, used to believe that education is for everyone and that money shouldn't be an obstacle in the face of anyone seeking for knowledge.

Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, president of DAH remembers Sanaa bin Laden very well saying: "May the soul of all who passed away in this tragic accident rest in peace, and may Allah accept them as martyrs. It is a big loss to the nation. The late Sanaa bin Laden was known for her compassion and kindheartedness. She was always on the search for opportunities to help, took the initiative before being asked, and used to offer permanent annual scholarships to the university and every time her daughters graduated she would start afresh with new students. Sanaa was the first who supported the University's expansion project as she believed in the importance of girls' education. May she rest in peace."

In Jeddah, she was called "Mother of orphans" or "Mama Susu" in recognition of her unlimited social work.

### The Farewell

During the funeral that took place in Madina, large crowds of worshipers filled the Prophet's mosque to perform prayer on the dead who lost their lives in that tragic incident and found their final resting place in the Baqi Cemetery. With the death of Sanaa Bin Laden, the Kingdom lost a generous woman who gave without limits and loved and cared without asking anything in return. May Allah bless her soul and everyone else's soul who was with her on that awful flight.

### What people said upon her death

Dr. Hatun Ajwad Fassi published an image of Sanaa bin Laden, and tweeted saying: "I sadly announce the loss of a dear friend from school time and colleague Sanaa bin Laden, who met the Almighty yesterday, in a tragic plane crash along with her mother and her husband."

Business woman Aisha Natto: "Dear Sanaa your wish to die with your mother was answered... To God's mercy dear Sanaa and Mama Rajaa, we are in deep sorrow and grief. You will be much happier in heaven." Nora Abdulaziz wrote: "she used to furnish grooms houses and everyone called her mama".

The holy Prophet (pbuh) also said: "Four things continue to reward a person even after his death; a man who dies on the true path, a good advise or knowledge given by him to someone who acts on that advice, an act of charity and a good son who prays for him and asks for forgiveness on his behalf".

### Gift the Dead!

We should not forget those who have departed from us by praying for them, by giving charity on their behalf and by visiting their graves. The holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "Gift the dead". When the companions asked what they should gift the dead with, the Prophet said: "With Charity and Prayers," and continued to say that: "the souls of dead people descended every Friday on earth and begged their close ones with a forlorn voice: 'O Mother, O Father, O Children, O Close ones to me, be kind to me even with a dirham, or a piece of bread or clothes, and Allah shall reward you."

### Mama Susu Store

In Mama Susu's honour, her family opened the Mama Susu Store, a mother & child department store, in November 2015. It is worth mentioning that fifty percent of the profit goes to the late Mama Susu's orphans she so much cared about during her lifetime.

Please visit the store located on Malik Road and get a cute gift for a mom to be or for a newly arrival that has blessed your home or the home of a loved one.



"Dear Sanaa your wish to die with your mother was answered..."

- Aisha Natto -

## It's Time to Get Creative

A lot of people believe that creativity is an innate ability and talent that some people do or do not have. They also link creativity with the accomplishments of extraordinary people such as Mozart, Einstein and Leonardo Da Vinci. But in reality, creativity is considered to be more of a skill that needs to be fostered from a very early age.

Recent research indicated that there is no specific personality type associated with creativity. One "can be creative in any activity that engages our intelligence because intelligence itself is essentially creative." Creative process is embedded in the imagination and we all have creative abilities but in many cases we do not know what they are or how to draw on them.

Edward de Bono, a nominee for the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2005 and regarded by many as the leading authority in creative thinking, innovation and the direct teaching of thinking as a skill said, "We really need to stop considering thinking as simply 'intelligence in action' and think of it as a skill that can be developed by everyone."

Because Dar Al-Hekma University realizes the importance of creativity, the University launched the Creativity Project for the Academic Year 2015-2016 to coincide with the Academic Year's leading value "Fostering Creativity." The Creativity Project is designed to deliver university-wide transformative training program for faculty members, heads of departments and students.

On the first day of the Academic Year 2015-2016, Dar Al-Hekma University held several workshops delivered by a team of international professors and top experts led by Dr. Isabel Creuznacher, an Associate Director of the Institute of Transformation in Business and Society at the EBS Business School in Germany, and by Janet Thomson, a Transformational Life Coach from the UK. The new students received a new workshop for four years at the beginning of each year to graduate more creative "accomplished women, leaders and



Dina Kattan, Dr. Sanaa Askool, Janet Thomson, Dr. Suhair Al-Qurashi, and Dr. Isabel Creuznacher

entrepreneurs."

"This project's goal is to change the way you teach not what you teach ... The training program is designed to enable you to use all the necessary tools and techniques with your students and staff as well as in your life. It is also a valuable experience for your professional development and will cater for your own personal growth. Therefore, your full participation in this program is crucial," said Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, the president of Dar Al-Hekma University during her speech during the hour-long

project introductory session in Dar Al-Hekma University's auditorium. During the first two weeks of the academic year faculty members, heads of departments and new students received two training workshops. The first was "Power to Change" which was delivered by Janet Thomson. "I wanted to show faculty and students both that they have the potential to be whatever they want to be, the human brain is personal and individual and it will be programmed wither you participated or not, and it is a really good idea to be the architect of that change. There are environmental



and cultural things that change you, but ultimately you have control," said Thomson.

The second training workshop titled "Critical Thinking with a Creative Mind-set" was delivered by Dr. Isabel Creuznacher and Ute Thumm. The main focus of the workshop was to provide and illustrate more creative ways to tackle the classroom experience.

"We learned a lot about the Saudi culture and the challenges they face, but the optimism that each teacher has and the need to be involved to raise the new generation really

hit the standards. The teachers were here with their soul and their heart and were really diving into the subject and this is not just a job for them they are here to get the best out of their students, it was an amazing experience," said Creuznacher.

Ute Thumm, who is a managing director in Thumm & Partner and a trainer in the second session added, "I am really impressed with the mission of Dar Al-Hekma University and what is done here, so the faculty as well as the students can live-up to the mission. I was impressed

by the readiness of the faculty to participate, contribute and invest time even at the beginning of the semester when they know there is a lot of work ahead."

"The workshops were very well received by all faculty members. They offered a great opportunity to further develop creativity and positive thinking. I am sure that Dar Al-Hekma University will continue to grow for the benefit of our students and the wider community," said Dr. Karima Saci, the chair of the Banking and Finance Department who attended both workshops.

"Our president is a leader with passion for unique advancements, she is investing in an institute that will breed holistic entrepreneur women, training the staff and the faculty in parallel to the students will make Dar Al-Hekma University the creative educational hub and we shall continue to flourish. When your employer insists on developing you, you will continue to grow," said Reem Altorki, an assistant professor in the General Education Department.

"In the next ten years, 60% of jobs will require creative thinking. Therefore, the Arab world needs to begin focusing on creative thinking, innovation, and encourage inventors. Moreover, the education institutions in the Arab world need to train students on how to use the full potential of their brains," says Dr. Manahel Thabet one of, if not the most, intelligent people among the Arab population, and has an IQ of more than 168, putting her in the top 0.1 percent of the world.

Creative thinking is responsible for success. Thinking creatively helps us to recognize and solve problems we hadn't seen before. Being creative helps opening up a world of possibilities and change as well as generating social connections.

Creativity improves cognitive development and academic, social and economic achievement. Therefore, we need to promote creative thinking in education in order to build a nation of creative people who use their talent to advance personally, socially and economically.

# WAYS TO STAY CREATIVE

1. Get Out More



2. Read more



3. Break Your Routine

4. Listen to Music



5. Allow Yourself to Make Mistakes

6. Get A New Hobby



7. Drink Coffee  
8. Travel

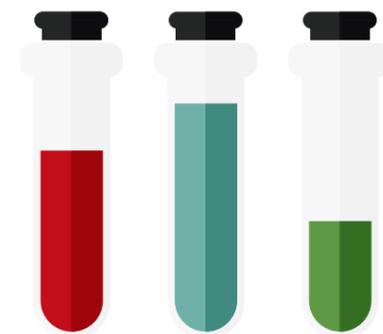
9. Visit Museums & Galleries



10. Have Fun

11. Make Lists

12. Challenge Yourself



13. Experiment

14. Stop Trying To Be Someone Else's Perfect



# DAH Creates a World Record

**"We did not come here to fear the future. We came here to shape it."  
- DAH student -**

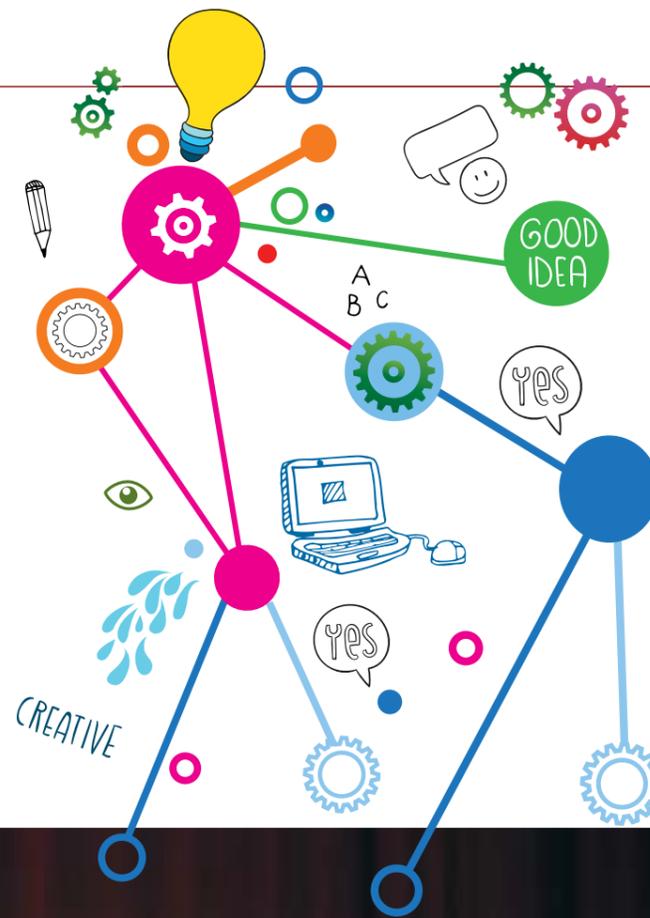
It was those very words that became the essence of that tremendous day for Dar Al-Hekma University. As Dr. Suhair Al-Qurashi, DAH's beloved president, uttered the three golden words 'We did it!' the auditorium that had been bursting with 1,385 students, faculty and members of staff, erupted into a furor of earsplitting sounds, each of which was swathed in sheets of unbounded joy, exuberance and celebration! Dar Al-Hekma University had just carved its name on the immemorial slate of history.

Dar Al-Hekma University, in partnership with the Gifted Academy, created history by setting a new Global Mental Literacy Guinness World Record for the largest female training on mind mapping. For the DAHers, this is an understatement for this achievement is beyond a mere record. On 14th September, Dar Al-Hekma entered the Guinness Book of World Records for training 1385 females on the Buzan technique

of mind mapping which was the largest and first of its kind in the Gulf region. Mind mapping is a technique pioneered by the renowned educational consultant Tony Buzan. It is a method to translate thoughts into a visual form to help solve problems and generate ideas more effectively by thinking 'outside the box'. Dr. Manahel Thabet believes that mind maps augment performance, memory and creativity. Dr. Suhair Al-Qurashi commented that the primary goal behind this initiative was to yield more creative and critical thinkers. This was in alignment with DAH's leading value of this academic year: Fostering Creativity. Mr. Chris Day, the General Secretary of the World Memory Sports Council and the auditor for the event from the Guinness Book of World Records, was very impressed by DAH's initiative to foster creativity among its students and to teach the students techniques on "how to learn" rather than "what to learn". He described the initiative as being

"the way forward in education". DAH produced 1385 qualified maps from the 1400 who participated in this mega-event. DAH successfully broke the original record of 1200 mind maps in two hours with 1385 mind maps in less than two hours!

The seminar was orchestrated by the honourable Dr. Manahel Thabet, vice chancellor and vice chairman of the Gifted Academy in the U.K, which caters to the people of special needs. Dr. Manahel, who is an expert on mind mapping, is a triple PhD holder with an IQ of 172. She is the youngest recipient of the Woman of the Year Award in 2000 from Woman Federation for World



Peace. She has been listed as one of the top 30 smartest people in the world and has also been declared as one of the 500 most powerful Arab women by Forbes. What is even more incredible is that Dr. Manahel is autistic, but never did it prevent her from scaling heights. With all her myriad achievements, she is an inspiration of one of a kind.

The workshop commenced with a few words from Dr. Suhair and Mr. Chris Day. Personal video messages from Tony Buzan, the creator of the Buzan mind mapping technique, and Craig Glenday, editor-in-chief of Guinness book of World records, were displayed wherein they conveyed their best wishes to Dar Al-Hekma and Dr. Manahel. Dr. Manahel, before commencing

the training, said that it was an honor for her to lead the initiative and that it would be a challenge for her to train the participants in 30 minutes and only an hour and a half to review the maps of the 1380 participants. She also requested full cooperation from all the participants in order to achieve the goal that they had set out to accomplish that day. To which the students replied 'yes!' and what made that moment radiate brighter by degrees were the words 'you can count on us' that fled from the lips of the students and reverberated in the auditorium.

Dr. Manahel then began the arduous task of training the 1300+ congregation how to mind map. As soon as the training ended, all the

Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi giving the students a motivational speech before they start the training



students, staff and faculty, who had been equipped with sketch pads and sketch pens, started sketching their mind maps. Once the 30 minutes allotted time for drawing the mind maps elapsed, Dr. Manahel began her evaluation of the maps. Everyone curled up in tension as Dr. Manahel went from row to row evaluating all the mind maps. After 90 minutes of reviewing each participant in the jam-packed hall, Dr. Manahel concluded her assessment of the maps and she declared "I'm done!" Mr. Chris Day then announced Dr. Thabet's spectacular record of evaluating each mind map in 3 seconds and the gathering exploded into another burst of emotions.

The maps were then relayed to the basketball court for auditing by Mr. Chris Day. Students, staff, faculty, executives and journalists from a number of well-known local and international newspapers and media agencies such as Reuters, MBC group, Saudi TV eagerly gathered, awaiting the announcement that would catapult DAH to fame and

honour.

As everyone waited in anticipation of the glorious news, Dr. Manahel said that a new record would be achieved not only in the Arab world, but also in the entire world when Dar Al-Hekma University would be entered in the Guinness Book of World Records. She added that this feat would "enforce awareness of creative thinking methods developed by global thinking leaders".

The crowd that had thronged to the atrium, waiting to hear the results of their efforts, erupted in to a joyous celebration when Dr. Sanaa, the Dean of Students, declared 'We did it', marking the day that Dar Al-Hekma achieved its greatest and most outstanding feats of all times.

All those who were present that day can never forget that one enchanting moment of hope and courage a day prior to the event, when Dr. Manahel's words echoed through DAH's hall: 'I chose you for knowledge, don't say no.'

Hellen Keller said that optimism is the faith that leads to achievement and that nothing can be done without hope and confidence. Dar Al-Hekma's great achievement is a proof of this, as none of this would have actualized without Dr. Suhair's rock-solid determination, the faculty and staffs' unrelenting support, the students' remarkable dedication and Dr. Manahel's unyielding faith in the university. None of it came easy. It was only through the unified and mutual efforts of one and all that translated this dream into a reality.

This achievement will not only help put Dar Al-Hekma on the map but also serve as an example of Dar Al-Hekma's relentless dedication to empowering its students and 'graduating accomplished women, leaders and entrepreneurs'.

Dar Al-Hekma is ecstatic, proud, frenzied, and reveling in glory.

We did it.

Dr. Manahel Thabet inspecting the mind maps





## First Hekma Scientific Research Forum

In January 2015, Dar Al-Hekma University organized the first scientific research forum for the students. The forum that ran over two days showcased Dar Al-Hekma University students' achievements featuring over 50 presentations, 12 poster presentations, 11 videos, animations and documentaries and more than 200 artworks.

"Innovative scientific research is the most important pillar of sustainable and comprehensive community development. There is no doubt of the important role the educational institutions play in enabling and activating the progress of scientific research in all aspects. Implanting the concept in the early stages of education is highly important to start a culture that thrives on research," said Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, the president of Dar Al-Hekma University.

Dar Al-Hekma's vision behind the scientific forum is for it to become an annual event that can compete with global conferences similar in terms of quality of work and diversity which in return reflect the goals of Dar Al-Hekma University.

"Therefore, Dar Al-Hekma University integrated scientific research in the heart of its educational strategy and we made it part of our mission to graduate accomplished women, leaders and entrepreneurs. The requirements of leadership and entrepreneurship in building a civilization are the merit in all the aspects in building a society that rank along developed nations. This only will be achieved through access to diverse scientific research that meets the needs of the developing and changing society, whether in the fields of humanities or scientific, technical and engineering fields," added Dr. Suhair.

The Director for Scientific Research Center Dr. Khawla Zahran organized the forum and facilitated all the displayed projects and presentations. "We give great importance to the advanced training of young researchers as they will be our future scholars. Our teaching practices reflect our beliefs and the strength of our research methodology classes which are good opportunities for exchanging ideas between young researchers and faculty members," said Dr. Zahran.

Dar Al-Hekma University organized the forum as preparation to the Ministry of Education's Sixth Forum for students in higher education and to motivate Dar Al-Hekma students to contribute to the scientific development of the Kingdom by using the results of their research in scientific research projects and

"Our teaching practices reflect our beliefs and the strength of our research methodology"

- Dr. Khawla Zahran-

creative work in different disciplines in addition to providing them with a range of academic and personal skills.

Students participated in the forum by submitting research papers and artwork on the following categories: innovation, community service, engineering, humanities, documentaries and creative art work such as drawing, painting, caricature, calligraphy, digital art and photography. Elocution and giving public speeches was also another category.

The forum also had winners in the research categories that were divided into two parts, research papers and research posters. In the research papers, the first place winners

were Karen Ferrao, Sameera Khan and Farah Baraja from the Dar Al-Hekma School of Business and Law for the "Comparison of Consumer Behavior toward Saudi and Foreign Products in Jeddah". This research aimed to study and compare the consumer behavior of supermarket shoppers toward Saudi and foreign products in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Using the positivism philosophy and the inductive approach, the researchers used the survey strategy with a mixed-method design, where they collected data from two groups using non-probability sampling methods. The researchers found that although a large majority of the consumer sample group said they preferred to spend on foreign products, nevertheless 55% of this group said they would choose to buy the Saudi product if price and quality were the same; reasons being that they would want to support local businesses and help develop the Saudi economy.

On the other hand, three students shared the second place as following; from Dar Al-Hekma School of Design and Architecture Ameerah Alesayi won for the "Innovation Center", Ahaad Al Amoudi won for "The Unvoiced Identity of the Open Culture" and from Dar Al-Hekma School of Business and Law Wid Masoud won for the "Maintaining Prisoners' Basic Human Rights in the United States by Reducing Overcrowding in Prison Holding". The winners for the research poster were Maram Al Darwish, Lina Al-Sayed, Linah Al Humrani, Sara Alghamdi and Saja Al-Sulaimani. The research poster was titled "Development of an Augmentative & Alternative Communication System (AAC) for Shopping Centers in Saudi Arabia.

In the social responsibility category,



students presenting research

the students who presented "My Health is My Responsibility" won. The initiative was based on raising awareness on healthy food for children and the importance of adopting a healthy life style for children at a very young age. It is worth mentioning that this group won the first place on KSA among all universities in KSA and second in the Middle East after Jordan during the last academic year.

Furthermore, Arwa Bawazir won in the category of Elocution for "Women and Law". In the Innovation category Reem Mohamad won for her design for the "All in One: Travelling Bag Extension".

Finally, in the creative art category Sawsan Al-Aidarous won in the photography subcategory, Sara Jibreel won in the digital arts subcategory, Jood Yousef Toonsi won in the painting subcategory, Waad Harbi won in the documentary films subcategory and Hanan Dahlawi won in the drawing subcategory.

The goals behind the forum were to:

1. Increase the scientific and cultural level among female students
2. Raise awareness on research culture among students
3. Display scientific and creative work and the achievements of the students in order to enrich the students' academic area in the Kingdom
4. Develop their spirit of fair competition between students at both university and Kingdom level
5. Provide students with communication, negotiation and leadership skills



# Experiential Learning: Inside Hekma Design Week



The Hekma School of Design and Architecture (HSDA) hosted an impressive list of internationally acclaimed designers and artists during Hekma Design Week (HDW) from March 1 through 5. In addition to presenting an extensive schedule of speakers there were nearly forty indulgent workshop offerings designed for budding student designers. For three days the "workshop enabled student creativity with the help of the guests", explained Dr. Effat, Dean of HSDA. Some of those invited to facilitate workshops for the Visual Communication Department (VisCom) included Lebanese type designer Pascal Zoghbi, Jordanian designer and calligrapher Hussein Alazaat, Lebanese type designer Kameel Hawa, Australian illustrator, artist, and creative Timba Smits, and internationally renowned American designer and author Gail Anderson. In addition to an impressive international guest list, local Saudi artists and designers such as freelance designer Maram Al-Hidmi, alumna and lecturer at King Abdulaziz University, Deema Merdad, and marketing professional Ziyad Organji also gave workshops.

Some of the DAH faculty and staff who designed workshops were lecturers Ms. Zaynab Odunsi and Ms. Rae Mearkle and assistant professors Ms. Karima Hussein, Ms. Barbara Anello-Adnani and Ms. Sylvia Shapiro. The event wrapped up with nearly thirty different lectures that were given over two days.

Workshop topics concerning Arabic calligraphy and Islamic design were plentiful during HDW and guests such as internationally exhibited type designer Pascal Zoghbi led their students on a journey that would connect their studies at DAH to a corporate setting. Mr. Zoghbi, founder of 29 Letters, an Arabic typography and design firm in Beirut, illustrated the need to "create synergy between Latin and Arabic script, not compromising the aesthetic of one in favor of the other". In his workshop "Kufic Contemporary Lettering" he demonstrated how to design calligraphic typography to "celebrate Arabic as a living script" and make it viable in a contemporary context. This is something that Mr. Zoghbi has done extensively as

he developed contemporary Arabic fonts for several Middle Eastern newspapers and major businesses such as Ibn Battuta Mall and Abu Dhabi Airport Terminal 3, and even Droid software for Google. Thus, by directing workshop attendees to take an early form of Arabic, Kufic, and revive it, Zoghbi demonstrated how to make what is traditionally perceived as historic, contemporary, and then mobilize it to use in the design market.

Another Arabic typography theme was offered by Hussein Alazaat whose workshop "Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy" instructed students how to use calligraphy



Gail Anderson



Timba Smits



Ziyad Organji

with social responsibility in mind. Creating in ink, and eventually in a stencil format, students worked with calligraphy in a variety of forms. Mr. Alazaat explained that attendees "created their own tools... and worked in collaboration to select the three words in Arabic that represent Dar Al Hekma's mission". The outcome of the project resulted in a message, delivered by spraying the calligraphy onto the bulletin wall of the classroom, representing the collaborative objective of the workshop. Lecturer Ms. Sara Albadi assisted in Mr. Alazaat's workshop and described the experience as a unique process that brought the attendees together. "Beyond learning how to understand calligraphy and practicing the various styles through the workshop the students explored how artwork could be used to do good deeds and fulfill humanitarian purposes. So, while students enjoyed the aesthetics of calligraphy through the week, they were also encouraged to collaborate. At the end of the workshop each student chose one word from DAH mission statement and then wrote it in a unique calligraphy style that they designed themselves. This design was translated to a stencil and the word was spray-painted onto the bulletin wall of the class. Mr. Alazaat's workshop represented more than just a week of something fun for the students to do. Students were connected with the power of Arabic calligraphy and were reminded of how it could be used

"The workshops engaged students in different modes of design outside of the classroom"

- Dr. Effat Fadag -



for good. It was a deeply moving experience from start to finish." Other topics were also popular such as Mr. Timba Smits' workshop "From Little Things, Big Things Grow". This offering was designed to inspire creativity by starting with something the students were passionate about and then asking them to follow their love of the topic through to the production of a "Zine", a short magazine. Describing his philosophy of creativity as a

"methodology of spontaneity", Mr. Smits' encouraged students to take their ideas to a new level, inspiring them to "be the first to jump into the deep end and work it out."

Ms. Gail Anderson, a 2008 AIGA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, delivered a workshop entitled "Finding Found Type", which inspired students to play with formatting and typographic design in the process of designing book cover. Ms. Anderson opened the workshop first by showing her own work in typography. Students were given the task to select a writer who had at least three published books and they designed book covers for the series. Lecturer Ms. Madiha Jamil, who assisted in the workshop explained that the task was challenging as the students had to consider a theme for the series but Ms. Anderson "gave the students a huge copyright free collection of amazing fonts and decorative material to use in their designs" to help them be successful. The students' covers were printed and later displayed in the exhibition. Ms. Jamil expressed her admiration for Ms. Anderson's work saying "she knows how to make an extraordinary design by using the right typeface. Overall it was a great learning experience for me as well for the students."

The workshops engaged students in different modes of design outside of the classroom environment and, as Dr. Effat mentioned, inspired students to creativity. Thus, while they were encouraged to be creative, students engaged with industry relevant concepts. Lecturer Ms. Nada Zaidan who assisted in Dr. Karima Hussein's workshop "Collagraph Printing" felt that "students were motivated to engage with the older technology

Cordula Peters with Timba smits





awareness and making crochet out of trash, Trochet, through to a discussion about how personal experiences can shape professional identity. Talks also addressed graphic design topics such as Deema Merdad's "Type Design Lettering" lecture, Arabic branding pioneer Mr. Ziyad Organji's inspiring lecture "Think to Create, Not Imitate", and type designer Kameel Hawa who extolled the splendor of the Arabic letterform, likening a perfectly structured type design to "a beautiful bird on a wire", balanced and perfectly proportioned. The VisCom department chair Ms. Cordula Peters explained the value of the event, saying that it "helps put Dar Al-Hekma on the map as a design school that is engaged with dialogue about contemporary design. It illustrates that the department is a proactive participant in knowledge exchange through design conferences that are taking place around the world". The work produced in the workshop was displayed in an exhibition at the end of the week. Sophomore Ms. Shaikhah Ba Suhai said that she was really surprised by the sophistication of the finished outcome of the workshops saying, "looking at the exhibition, it was hard to believe that so many of the finished products were produced in just three days!" At the end of the second day of the symposium students and faculty were given the opportunity to meet with guests. This gave the design students an opportunity to thank the guests for making HDW a great success.

of the collagraph printing process because they were interested. It was exciting to see this level of dedication among the students." Motion graphics lecturer Ms. Afsina Yildiz who helped facilitate Ms. Hind Al Ghalayini's workshop "Acrylic Coffee Tumblers" expressed enthusiasm about the learning model of the HDW workshops. "Students thoroughly enjoyed the workshops because there was the element of fun and wonder as they were learning. Workshops are always popular with the students because they learn as they play". This idea of learning through play was echoed by co-facilitator of the "Giapeta's Workshop - Three Days as a Toy Designer" workshop, lecturer Ms. Rae Mearkle who explained how her workshop engaged

participants. She said students "use their imagination to create new and unusual toy renderings or prototype models" employing creativity in a fundamentally "play" environment: a toy shop. Students also feel that the learning model works well to help them engage with creativity in a less traditional way. Sohilah Abudawood said, "Giapeta's Workshop' taught us how to creatively build illustrate our own unique toys and figures... creating our own 2D designs into successful 3D figures or plush".

The three days of workshops were followed by a two-day symposium. Students attended talks by the guests mentioned above and many more. Topics presented in the symposium ranged from socially responsible design to environmental



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# "Mi Casa Es Su Casa"

DAH's Open House Event  
Welcomes High School Students



Rawaa Nazer Dr. Sanaa Askool, Hawazen Bakor, Dr. Faouzia Achmakh, Dina Kattan, and Dr. Diala Abihaidar

Dar Al-Hekma University opened its doors on April 16, 2015 for high school students and their female relatives to present the first "Open House" event organized by the Admissions Department. The event's goal was to introduce Dar Al-Hekma to future students and familiarize them with the University's schools, programs, admissions requirements, scholarships, extracurricular activities and the many other activities and services provided by the university.

Hekma University is known for its academic programs as well as rich extracurricular activities that shape the students personalities not just academically but also physically, spiritually and mentally in order to graduate accomplished women, leaders and entrepreneurs," said Dr. Sanaa Askool, Dean of Students. She added, "Dar Al-Hekma continues to strive for excellence and be one of the best universities in Saudi Arabia and the world through its



"The event was a wonderful success and we will hold it annually"  
- Hawazen Bakor -

services and activities in order for its students to stand out and be sought after. This Open House is a great opportunity for the university to communicate directly with future students and their guardians and informing them about Dar Al-Hekma and giving them all the information they need to know in order to enroll."

Hawazen Bakor, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Department, was excited throughout the day and checked with her team if everything was at its place and added some final touches here and there. "The Open House was a unique and interesting experience. High school students and their guardians received detailed description and information about the university and programs. They were also informed about DAH's Counseling, Career and Academic Support Services that help students determine their skills and professional orientation and help them throughout the course of their studies. The event was a wonderful success and we hope that we will hold it annually to attract more students," Hawazen said.

A special thank you goes out to all the students, directors, faculty and staff and every single person who made this splendid event come to live. See you again next year.







Reema Abu Najela working with one of children in the center

## “Narjis”

### The Hekma Assessment, Intervention and Training Center

#### Introduction

“The Hekma Assessment, Intervention and Training Center” is a newly established center under the Hekma School of Education and Sciences at Dar Al-Hekma University. The center provides a comprehensive array of clinical services and training programs. Clinical services include consultation, evaluations, and diagnosis to children and young adults in the areas of cognition, language, memory, attention, academics, among other areas. In addition, specific evaluations are given to rule in or out certain disorders, such as autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities. Referrals to the center may come from hospitals, schools or self-referrals. Training programs aim to improve quality of mental health and life for children and their families in our community. Training programs are targeting parents, teachers and service providers. Topics of training may include improving parenting skills, behavior modifications at

home and at school, improving teaching strategies, early assessment and diagnosis, among other topics.

The center aims to be a model institution for providing effective, comprehensive, professional clinical services in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that is based on using evidence-based practices and the

best clinical standards.

Clinical services include services such as diagnosis and evaluation, speech and language assessment and therapy, and behavioral assessment and intervention. Educational services will also be provided and will focus on expanding the internship program and establish in the future an early intervention program and a school program for students with learning disabilities (LD)/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The outreach services will focus on awareness, training, consultation and research.

Dr. Amal Alyamani working with one of children in the center




# NARJIS

Assessment • Training • Intervention Center  
Dar Al-Hekma University



#### Objectives

To provide high quality services in the followings:

1. Provides a site for full psychological/psych educational evaluations/diagnostics services for individuals
2. Provides full hearing, speech and language evaluations
3. Provides therapeutic services including speech and language treatment and behavioral therapy
4. Provide consultation services to schools and families in educational program planning and implementations including a school transition program
5. Provide parent training on different topics related to improving their parenting skills and using behavior modifications



6. Provide an internship program and training for school teachers and specialists

7. Provide training for teachers, and school personal for the purpose of improving effectiveness of teaching strategies and improving services available for children with special

needs

8. Provide training for service providers related to improving clinical screen and assessment skills, as well as intervention skills

9. Provide early intervention programs to children with developmental disabilities (autism) ages 1-5

10. Provide a school program for children with attention deficit hyperactivity and high risk for learning disability and autism in grades Kindergarten to third grade

11. Promote research and participate in the development in the fields of learning disability, ADHD, autism and inclusive education

12. Community awareness activities

#### Clinical Services

##### Evaluation and Diagnostic Clinic

Psychological and psychoeducational valuations are done through a multi-disciplinary team. It includes psychological and educational assessment. The child study team provides an integrated summary, conclusion and recommendations in a full comprehensive report.

##### Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic

The Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic provides valued services to the community while serving as a clinical education and research facility. The clinic is a living laboratory in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences with students training to become audiologists and speech-language pathologists. The Speech and Hearing Clinic specializes in identification, evaluation, and diagnosis of speech, language,

“The clinic utilizes evidence-based procedures such as incidental and pivotal response training.”

- Dr. Amal Alyamani -

swallowing and hearing disorders, and provision of prompt and quality intervention.

### Behavioral Assessment & Intervention Clinic

Behavior interventions are an integral part of treatment plans for many neurological disorders. Individuals with autism, ADD/ADHD, brain injury and with other disorders will be supported to perform routine tasks and improve their skills in different areas through comprehensive behavioral assessment and intervention. The clinic will utilize evidence-based procedures such as incidental and pivotal response training, interactive play-based approaches, and using positive behavior supports/reinforcement programs.

### Outreach Services

#### Awareness and Training Center

The center will provide information, awareness programs, training opportunities and a virtual library for parents, educators, specialists and service providers in the area of developmental disabilities, behavioral and academic disorders.

#### Program Development Consultation

The center offers consultation services for individuals and schools. Individual consultations will provide developing an individualized educational program for students at their school. Program consultation will assist schools in developing and improving their special education services.

### School Transition Planning and Consultation

The school transition program works with parents and schools to develop a transitional plan for children with autism or LD and

monitors its implementation and evaluation.

#### Research Services The research center goals are:

- ◆ Expand the available knowledge and provide updated information on the recent studies of special education practices that improve academic achievement.
- ◆ Transform special education and language intervention programs into an evidence-based field in which decision makers routinely seek out the best available research and data before adopting programs or practices that will affect significant numbers of special needs students.

### Educational and Training Services:

#### Future Programs

##### Early Intervention Program

◆ The early Intervention program provides early intervention services to children with developmental disabilities (autism spectrum disorder) from the ages of 1-5 with a transition plan that starts at the age of 4.

◆ The approach of intervention is to target the main domains of children's development and some pre-academic skills with children ages 4-5.

◆ To use evidence based strategies and strategies that are development and some pre-academic skills with children ages 4-5.

#### School Program

◆ The school accepts children grades 1 to 3 with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of learning disability, ADHD or autism spectrum disorders.

◆ The school provides Intensive intervention with individualized



instructions in a supportive environment that fosters meaningful communication.

The school program is individualized according to the child's needs; and children will receive one-on-one or group instruction and intensive therapeutic intervention from a team of specialists that may include special education teachers, teacher assistants, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, a music therapist and an art teacher.

#### Internship Program

The internship program will offer opportunities for university students to receive their supervised internship in speech and language assessment and therapy, autism, behavioral assessment and intervention, and learning disability assessment and education. Students will provide services under the supervision of qualified specialists and Dar Al-Hekma faculty.



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## Get to Know God through Khumasiyat Al-Hekma

With the beginning of the academic year 2014-2015, Dar Al-Hekma University introduced the "Khumasiyat Al-Hekma" Club to promote the university's values to its students, staff and faculty. The club organizes lectures open to all women in the society with the goal of emphasizing the importance of comprehensive development of the individual and highlighting as the name suggests the five aspects of development (Khumasiya in Arabic means quinary or consisting of five), namely: spiritual, social, physical, intellectual and self-development, hence empowering them to interact positively and confidently with their community.

Salwa Abdulraquib, supervisor and founder of "Khumasiyat Al-Hekma" and director of the office of Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, has expressed the importance of establishing the club, explaining, "The aim of Khumasiyat Al-Hekma is to emphasize the significance of the university's values and mission. I'm extraordinary happy to say that



Dr. Walid Fitaihi During one of the lectures

"The aim of Khumasiyat Al-Hekma is to emphasize the significance of the university's values"

- Salwa Abdulraquib -

the club has been a great success so far, thanks to God first and foremost and secondly to Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, President of the University and Dr. Sanaa Askool Dean of Student Affairs for their constant support. In the future, we plan to expand the scope of lectures and courses to include foundational courses and advanced courses, God willing. The courses offered are meant to help enhance and develop

ones personality and character which begins with loving God and His messenger and evolving until we achieve a holistic and sound relationship with oneself and others based on gratitude and empathy, compassion and awareness."

It is worth mentioning that the mission behind "Khumasiyat Al-Hekma" is to develop the members' communication skills that go

hand in hand with the university's values and mission of graduating "accomplished women, leaders and entrepreneurs." Salwa Abdulraquib came up with the idea after she had a positive experience with the "Five Model Training Program" developed by Dr. Osama Hariri, a faculty member of Umm Al-Qura University. Hence, the idea of "Khumasiyat Al-Hekma", an initiative started by the Office of the President to reinforce and support the university's values and mission.

Khumasiyat Al-Hekma provided excellent lectures throughout the academic year 2014-2015 with attendance ranging between 30 to 100 women per lecture. During the first semester, the lectures focused on communication with God which is the foundation of all other communication skills. The club's lectures were met with high demand, whereby ladies from different backgrounds participated



Sheikh Ibrahim Ayoub

from inside and outside the university.

By the second semester, the club had received a good reputation among the university and the community. The first season concluded with students performing the communication skills they have learned in front of a jury consisting of: Osama Hariri, Dr. Amal El-Tigani, Vice President for Finance & Administration and Dr. Sanaa Askool, Dean of Student Affairs. Certificates were given at the end of the session. Also, two participants were honored and given trophies of excellence for their outstanding participation during the semester, and they were: Ms. Areej Ayoubi (a school principal), and Ms. Zainab Saleh (a security guard employee of the university).

Khumasiyat Al-Hekma proved to be a huge success and attendees were satisfied with the lectures presented. Participants mentioned that they benefited from the club, both on a personal level as well as in their relationship with others. Everyone asked for the club to continue its lectures in the coming years and to cover a wider area of topics.



Salwa Abdulraquib and Dr. Osama Hariri founder of the Certification Program

## Dar Al-Hekma Students Organize "Hawaa's Rights" Lectures

Many women in Saudi Arabia are unaware of their legal and Islamic rights and therefore unwillingly stay in situations that may cause them mental and/or physical harm. As a result, two law students from Dar Al-Hekma University, Dura Ramadan and Mohra Ferak, came up with the idea of "Hawaa's Rights" (Eve's Rights) to educate women of Saudi society about their rights and privileges.

Dura and Mohra wanted to do something for the community and approached the Community Services Senior Officer, Lina Kurdi and introduced their idea of a project. Lina listened carefully and showed interest in the girls' idea and was impressed with the



Lamya Al-Etabi, Lina Kurdi, Dr. Olga Nartova, Muhra Ferak, Dura Ramadan and Khaleda Al-Sahref

students' enthusiasm and eagerness to do research and survey on what the community needs before they went on with the project.

Dar Al-Hekma University emphasizes much on community service and requires students to complete 100 hours of community service before they graduate. "We in Dar Al-Hekma University thrive to spread the culture of volunteering amongst our students because we believe of the importance of contribution to the

society's advancement and growth. Thus, the university incorporated the community service in the study plan. This was a driver for our students and the university faculty and staff to apply their social and academic knowledge and skills to serve the community. Now it is mandatory for a student to spend 100 community service hours before graduation," said the President of Dar Al-Hekma University, Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi.

While doing their research, the students found out that many women lack awareness when it comes to their and their children's rights. And so, they came up with "Hawaa's Rights" to raise awareness among women in Saudi society through a series of awareness lectures by academicians and prominent lawyers in the community to educate women and familiarize them with their legal rights.

Once "Hawaa's Rights" was established, a team was created to collaborate on finding lecturers, logistical arrangements and the marketing of each lecture. The team consisted of: Dura Ramadan, Mohra

Ferak, Khaleda Al-Sharif, Dania Al-Taweel, Lamia Al-Etaibi, Dima Al-Shareef, Mashael Al-Saud, Nour Mousa, and Reem al-Shammari from the Law Department as well as the graphic design student Yussra Badawood. "I started this project to share legal knowledge with women in Saudi Arabia and wanted to make them aware of their legal rights. I am very grateful that the campaign achieved a significant interaction with the audience. Thanks to the mighty God we have achieved introducing women and girls with the rights and the regulations that are stipulated to serve their interests and protect them," Dura said. She added "I am very happy that I was able to provide assistant and guidance to a group that may be unaware of their most basic rights."

The first lecture presented in the "Hawaa's Rights" campaign was about electronic crimes by Dr. Ibrahim Zamzami, a PhD. holder in international law. Dr. Zamzami and the last lecture was delivered

"Knowledge transfer is a very important indicator of growth and success for any academic institution"

- Dr. Olga Nartova -

by lawyer Anwar Khaled Al-Harbi who spoke about women's rights in the workplace. The Kingdom's first woman lawyer, Bayan Zahran also delivered a lecture entitled "Personal Status Cases". Bayan Zahran is a holder of the British Fellowship for legal advisers. She cooperated with the students and her lecture that targeted women and served the

community exceeded expectation when more people showed up than the number registered.

"My goal was to deliver the needed information to all women in the community. What made me happy is the presence of many housewives, teacher, and employees who were eager to learn and understand the legal matters. This heavy attendance gave me motivation to continue and expand the campaign to spread legal awareness even farther," said Mohra Ferak. "Knowledge transfer is a very important indicator of growth and success for any academic institution. From the perspective of law department chair, I am very pleased to see that our future graduates excel not only in studying but they are capable and eager to give and share the knowledge they have with the community and students from other universities," said Dr. Olga Nartova, the Department Chair of the Law Program.

Lina Kurdi supported this pioneering initiative and provided the students with all possibilities and facilities especially with regard to coordination with the law department at the University. "The attendance was excellent during the first two lectures which confirmed that the society needs such awareness lectures," said Lina. She then added, "I want to pay tribute to these two students for their efforts and dedication in organizing these lectures and I hope that they continue on this unique path."



The First Female Lawyer Bayan Zahran

"I am very happy that I was able to provide assistant and guidance to a group that may be unaware of their most basic rights"



Dura Ramadan



Maryam Al-dabbagh receiving the award

## Dar Al-Hekma Architecture Graduates Take Flight

On May 27 and 28, 2015, Dar Al-Hekma University hosted its fifth architecture exhibition "Threshold" that aimed to tell the stories of the evolution of exhibiting students from freshmen to seniors. The exhibition's main attraction was the work of the first batch of architecture graduates as it aimed to facilitate the students' smooth transition to the job market after graduation through the attendance of business and industry leaders.

Prince Amr bin Mohammad Al-Faisal, who acted as patron, opened the exhibition and took a tour with the university's Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Zuhair Fayeze, owner and founder of Zuhair Fayeze Partnership, the University Provost Dr. Areej Asseri, the Dean of Students Dr. Sanaa Askool and the Dean of Hekma School of Design and Architecture Dr. Effat Fadag and some of the university's management team to admire the students' work.

"We are very excited to see the first graduates to embark into the job market and we can hardly wait to see the positive effect they will

"We are very excited to see the first graduates embark into the job market"

- Dr. Suhair Al Qurashi -

have. The success stories and new ventures will be in their imminent future. Hekma School of Design and Architecture is one of the biggest schools in Dar Al-Hekma University, and this is the fourth and last exhibition this month organized by this school. These exhibitions are designed to expose our students to the best employers in the market and add to their learning experiences," said the President of Dar Al-Hekma University, Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi.

The "Threshold" exhibition marked the point of beginning for the first 20 graduates of the architecture

department as it told the story of the architecture students' journey from freshmen to senior years. Throughout their studies in Dar Al-Hekma University, students developed their creativity, skills, and talents to finally present their work as new future architects of Saudi Arabia.

The exhibition featured the 20 capstone projects students worked on for the last academic year and covered a variety of topic areas like hospitals, residential buildings, train stations and cultural centers. Samia Khan, one of the seniors, said: "My senior project, a 43-story residential tower, has been quite a challenge to pull together. However with the support of our expert faculty, the project is now successfully completed. It was exciting to showcase the skills that have been fostered by the architecture department in our exhibition."

"I love architecture because it matches me in every way and wanted a major that is "a little bit of everything". Dar Al-Hekma University has lived up to the

challenge of providing that through lectures, workshops, exhibitions and all sorts of educational techniques. The architecture faculty, like the major, is just as diverse, you have instructors from different places and backgrounds that bring a new flavor to the table," said Rola Al-Ghalib, another senior student. She added, "After reaching this final finish line I feel like I can accomplish anything after these tough five years. I'm not only blessed to have given the opportunity of knowledge, but I am truly proud of myself and my classmates reaching thus far. I know that this is just the beginning of a lifetime of achievements."

## Dar Al-Hekma Law Students Amaze Us Once Again!



Dar Al-Hekma University's law students have once again proven their ability and strength in research and advocacy by participating and winning four awards in the 5th Vis Middle East Pre-Moot 2015 that took place in March in Amman, Jordan.

The Middle East Pre-Moot has affected the development of commercial law and arbitration curricula in Middle East law schools and helped to strengthen ties between law students and local practitioners of the Middle East who usually help in training students for the Middle East Pre-Moot.

The students who deserve our admiration and contributed to Dar Al-Hekma's acknowledgement in the world of law are: Maryam Al-Dabbagh, Jude Jamjoom, Nouran Almekhlafi, Mohra Ferak, Ohoud Mousli, Durra Ramadan, Lamia Al-Otaibi, Nedaa Alahmadi, Noha Bangitah and Ayat Al-Barakati. The students won for their submissions Best Written Memorandum

for Claimant and Best Written Memorandum for Respondent. The team members who won the Championship Team - Best Team Oral were Maryam Al-Dabbagh, Jude Jamjoom, Nouran Almekhlafi, Mohra Ferak, Ohoud Mousli. In addition, the winner for the Best Individual Oralist for Respondent was Maryam Al-Dabbagh.

"I feel so proud of the outstanding achievement for the whole Kingdom.

The excellence and enthusiasm of the law program leadership are evident in this historic accomplishment. Dar Al-Hekma University students in the Law team who participated in the "Pre-Moot Middle East Competition" challenged themselves and became role models to their fellow students," said Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, the president of Dar Al-Hekma.

It was the third time Dar Al-Hekma University's law team participated

Celebrating our law students achievement



in the Pre-Moot Middle East round. In the first time, in 2013, Dar Al-Hekma's team won two awards: the best team and the best oralist. In 2014, Darah Sahhab won best oralist; and this year, Dar Al-Hekma's team brought home four awards from the five possible awards -- Best Written Memorandum for Claimant, Best Written Memorandum for Respondent, Best Individual Oralist for Respondent, and the Championship Team - Best Team Oral.

"In a few words, given the large scale of this competition, we can say that winning four out of five available awards highlights Dar Al-Hekma University as the best law school in the region," said Dr. Olga Nartova, the chair of the Law Program in Dar Al-Hekma University.

A month after winning the awards, the National Committee of Lawyers has honored Dar Al-Hekma University's law students during their first meeting at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce. Yassin Khayat, Chairman of the National Committee of Lawyers, applauded the students for their accomplishments and winning four of the five awards in the 5th Vis Middle East Pre-Moot 2015. He also appreciated their participation in the Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna the week before the meeting. Mr. Khayat was very impressed with the level of knowledge and skills shown by the Dar Al-Hekma University



Maryam Al-Dabbagh

students in the competitions and by the law firm during their training. Nouran Almekhlafi, one of the students who were honored, said that during the Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Dar Al-Hekma University team was the only one from the Kingdom that participated along with 300 teams from around the world! "Our team argued their case against four different teams in front of three jury members and international arbitrators. After that round, only 64 teams progressed to the next level," said Almekhlafi.

Dar Al-Hekma University is very proud of the law team's accomplishments and success and their strengths were clearly evident in the performance of the team, and their outstanding result. "Being recognized locally is very important to them since this is the environment they will work and grow in, and being recognized internationally is even better," said Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, president of Dar Al-Hekma University.

Now that they have graduated, we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavor.

"In a few words, given the large scale of this competition, we can say that winning four out of five available awards highlights Dar Al-Hekma University as the best law school in the region"

- Dr. Olga Nartova -



DAH Law team during the middle East Pre-Moot

## Dar Al-Hekma Alumna Invents "Smart Glove"



Deaf people around the world communicate using sign language in their everyday lives. Sign language is a visual language which uses manual communication as well as facial and body movements to convey meaning. Sign language is not a universal language and different sign languages are used in different countries. But how can one improve communication between the hearing, speech and visually impaired community? Our alumna Hadeel Ayoub asked herself this question one day and set out to

invent a glove that translates sign language into speech and text.

Hadeel Ayoub is a successful interior designer and media artist who graduated from Dar Al-Hekma University back in 2003-2004. She is currently studying for her PhD in Arts and Computational Technology at Goldsmiths University of London. During her class "Design with a Cause" she invented a new piece of technology that answers the course's mission and may be a breakthrough that would remove

existing communication barrier.

To put it simply, the glove reads the hand movement when using sign language and then translates the movements into words then displays the words on a screen. "We are very proud of Hadeel's achievement and we are trying to extend any support she might need. At the same time, we connected her with Dar Al-Hekma students to inspire them and prove to them that they too can make great achievements in future," said the president of Dar Al-Hekma University, Dr. Suhair Al-Qurashi.

Hadeel has already created three different prototypes of the piece, and in her latest version all the components of this remarkable device fit on the glove itself; and on the wrist area of the glove there is a little monitor that instantly shows translated sign words as text. The inventor visited Dar Al-Hekma University and gave a lecture to

"The fact that the inventor is an alumna made me more proud."

- Amrina Farooqui -

the students which was one of the lectures under the "Dream it, Plan it, Do it" series. The series is designed to motivate and encourage students strive for success and achieve distinction. During the lecture she said that she is currently "looking into the possibility of manufacturing this glove for mass production. I am now in the fourth prototype but the applications are limitless. I am working on having the glove translate words into voice, text messages and emails."

For the fourth version, Hadeel wants to create a prototype called "Reach All" that is Wi-Fi enabled so that it could be connected to a smart phone and then allowing signers to talk to anyone as it would be able to send information directly to other smart devices. "This glove has the potential to overcome communication barriers between hearing impaired, visual impaired and speech impaired individuals," Ayoub explained to a room filled with interested students, staff and faculty. She also said that it means a lot to her to "eliminate disability, language and physical barriers."

Sharing her experience with the audience, she took them through all the phases of her inventions, the obstacles that she had to overcome and the inspiration that kept her going. "The lecture was indeed inspiring. The fact that the inventor

is an alumna made me even more proud of Dar Al-Hekma University," said Amrina Farooqui, who is a student in the Banking and Finance Department. Hadeel aspires to integrate more sign languages and more languages in her glove to help many people communicate and conquer all communication barriers they face in their daily lives. With a

goal like this, the smart glove may be the first of many of her future inventions, and we are all extremely proud of her and wish her all the best always.

If you would like to find out more about Hadeel's invention, follow her on Tumbler:  
<http://brightsignglove.com/>



Hadeel Ayoub with her "Smart Glove"



Hadeel Ayoub getting an award by the Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau in London



## Lama Alsharif Is UN Urbanization Adviser

Dar Al-Hekma alumna Lama Alsharif has been elected onto the United Nations Habitat Youth Advisory Board for two years as an adviser on the Future Saudi Cities Program. Alsharif is one of 16 young people voted onto the advisory board from the 600 who applied worldwide. Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi, the president of Dar Al-Hekma University, applauded Alsharif and said the university was delighted and honored to have helped her develop skills needed for the "real world."

Lama is the founder and manager of Shababuna Consultancy Firm and Awareness Program and Forum which focuses on youth empowerment through awareness, and has led the volunteer-based life of a social activist since she was 11, from lending a hand to hospitals, nurseries, and charity organizations to organizing fund-raising events and awareness programs. Her real journey started at the age of seventeen when she was selected as Saudi Arabia's youth representative to the Two Kingdoms Conference in London. She also participated in the 63rd UN General Assembly Conference in New York, was part of the World Economic Forum in Jordan, and joined the Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue Center

in Austria. All this has made her feel like a global citizen and more aware of the many similar societal problems that every country faces.

Our accomplished alumna graduated from Dar Al-Hekma with a bachelor's degree in MIS and received a diploma in international relations and diplomacy from Tufts University. She has recently completed her Master's in International Relations at Dar Al-Hekma University. Lama also loves to write poetry and has published her first volume of poetry back in 2006, and her second volume "Swimming in the Desert the Uncensored Poetry of a Saudi Social Activist" has been published by Authorhouse UK.

In October 2015, Lama started her work as an adviser. But the work is not a fulltime job, "it is a position that has roles and responsibilities, but does not require our presence in an office. Instead, each representative works from their country sharing their input and case studies from their country via social media platforms and through meetings that are organized by Nairobi, Kenya headquarters," Lama explained.

Being elected as an adviser was a competitive process that

"This is a two-year membership. So, in two years, the opportunity will present itself to other youth, and I urge more Saudis to apply"

- Lama Alsharif -

took around over six months. Each applicant had to nominate themselves along with other young nominees from around the world. In August, UN Habitat announced the shortlisted 60 candidates of 600 applicants, and then left the matter open to an online voting system that closed on August 31. They then polled results and announced the 16 advisors who had the most votes on October 1st. "This is a two-year membership. So, in two years, the opportunity will present itself to other youth, and I urge more Saudis to apply," Lama advised.

While doing her Masters in International Relations, she did her internship within UN Habitat, as a researcher in the Future Saudi City Cities Program. Dr. Olga Noratova who has been "more than generous with her mentoring" supervised her. Lama considers herself lucky and said, "I was also lucky to work with Ms. Asa Jonsson as my supervisor in UN Habitat. Within this internship, UN Habitat spoke to me about all their projects to see where else I can give my input. It was then when they suggested I nominate myself to the UN Habitat Youth Advisory Board. Luckily, I made it and am now happy to be using all the research and project proposals conducted in my internship and share it with the Board. Hopefully, within my term in YAB, I can see some of my theoretical suggestions be applied into practice!" The YAB is made up of youths aged 18-32 years who seek to increase youth involvement in UN-Habitat initiatives. The



Lama Alsharif in her graduation speech

Board advises UN-Habitat on strategies to engage young people in sustainable urbanization and urban development; and may represent youth in local, national and international forums. The input from the YAB helps UN-Habitat develop appropriate policies across the agency to address issues related to youth empowerment and development. The Board also advocates and seeks to strengthen youth participation and youth-led initiatives in UN-Habitat and Habitat networks.

When asked about her future plans, Lama replied, "Sustainable development is the agenda of the UN Habitat YAB. We will be discussing it from the perspective

of youth. With the new Sustainable Development Goals of the UN, this is an important topic that requires more attention from civil society. We must be more diligent in our review of these goals, be more articulate in our stance as a country with regards to the goals and their relevance to us and be more proactive in our initiatives regarding urbanization, sustainability, development, and civil society. This era also marks an opportunity for Muslim countries so engage in solidarity towards portraying to the world the tolerance and justice that would be achieved when Shariah law is respected in all international treaties and organizations, rather than being antagonized and seen as backward. In a world where multilateralism is prevailing, we must ensure that our harmony results in a salad bowl of diverse and respected backgrounds, rather than a melting pot that aims to create one unfitting culture for all..."

Then she added, "Let us seek to benefit others and ourselves within our short time on earth, so that maybe our fleeting footprints can leave a mark for others to see. Maybe when that mark is seen, our lifelong passage will be discovered, and although it might not be relevant decades from now, at least it will be a preserved history that is taken into consideration. Perhaps that consideration makes all the difference, perhaps not; we will make the voyage regardless."



Lama Alsharif at the world Economic Forum

# Meet the Girl Who's Got Passion for Fashion

## Aram Kabbani

Saudi fashion designer Aram Kabbani is a Dar Al-Hekma alumna who studied Graphic Design at the university and graduated with Honors back in 2008. She also took a course at the Central Saint Martins - UAL - University of the Arts London. Recently, Aram became a stylist, fashion editor and designer. She has styled several Saudi celebrities such as Princess Ameera Al-Taweel and Muna AbuSulayman. She is the founder of "Culture Couture". Back in May, Rima Almkhtar from the English newspaper Arab News met up with Dar Al-Hekma's fashion starlet and conducted the following interview..

**1. When did you discover your talent?**  
My family and friends discovered my talent. Ever since I was a young girl, I closely observed my relatives and friends, and also helped them in choosing their clothes, shoes, bags, accessories and even hair and make-up. I believe elegance always stems from the simplest of things.

**2. You are a certified stylist. Tell us about your academic background.**  
I took styling courses at Saint Martin School of Art in London. I have been trained under high-end celebrity stylists in London and the US.

**3. The profile of a fashion stylist is relatively unknown in the Arab world. Why did you opt for it?**  
I did not select it deliberately, but my instincts led me to it. I loved this profession and although it is not famous in the Arab world, it did already exist but was not highlighted. As long as there are designers and celebrities, there have to be people behind the scenes doing a great, innovative job.

**4. What are the key steps you follow with your clients?**  
It depends on whether I know the client or not. If I am familiar with her taste, her social status and the



occasion, it is easier to meet the request. But in case I do not know her, I need to meet her several times to get to know her status, personality and taste.

**5. On what do you base your advice to the client?**  
It is very important to recognize the character of the client and her social status that must be represented and reflected through her outer appearance, in addition to identifying her ambitions and the level of her culture and any other information to enable me to have a clear idea about her taste and needs.

**6. What are the most famous Arab fashion houses whose collections you are keen to follow?**  
Of course, Elie Saab, Mohammed Ashi, Georges Hobeika and others.

**7. Who are your favorite international fashion designers?**  
Alaïa, Alexander McQueen, Lanvin and Antonio Berardi.

**8. How do you evaluate the appearance of Arab, and Saudi women, in particular?**  
The Arab woman is characterized by elegance; she loves beauty and is highly attractive and feminine. This

is what distinguishes her from the Western woman. The Saudi woman, specifically, is well-educated and successful and dedicates a lot of time to follow fashion and everything related to beauty. There are studies that have shown that Saudi women are the most interested in fashion and beauty among Arab women.

**9. An advice you would give to Saudi women?**  
I would advise the Saudi woman to stay away from imitation and to celebrate her personality and individuality instead, as well as to keep up with fashion according to

what suits her, and to trust herself and her beauty and show it in a way that serves her best. Lastly, I would like to remind her that beauty means simplicity.

**10. What is the biggest misconception people not working in your field have about your job?**  
People think a stylist is a designer. Usually designers start their careers as stylists. But stylists are not designers, not even close. They do help designers by updating them with the latest trend reports, color of each season and also help style their fashion shows or photo shoots. Another misconception is that people think stylists only put together a look or shop for individuals but that's not true, stylists are there to help in the marketing and PR of a fashion company and to help designers in fashion shows or photo shoots.

**11. What is the best style advice you have received?**  
Be confident. If you wear something, you should feel confident in your own skin. Confidence or the lack of it always shows in your posture

and body language. Another piece of advice is to wear whatever you feel happy in and make sure it suits your body and age.

**12. What do you like best about your job?**  
I love everything. I enjoy every second of it. This job is my oxygen, I love working in fashion and with designers, whether they are big brands or upcoming designers. Hunting for new trends is another passion of mine. Over all, I am a very lucky woman to be working in a field that I love and adore.

**13. What are the qualities and skills one needs to succeed in your profession?**  
One must have a good eye for style and trends, in addition to a strong educational background and skills on how to execute a fashion plan. Of course, you will also need the experience and training to perfect the quality of work.

Well done, Aram!



## A Final Word



When the word "creativity" is mentioned, some people might think that it is an essential part in the development of this time of age. But in fact, the word creativity has accompanied humanity since its existence, since God has bestowed upon us the five senses and provided us with a heart that feels, a mind that thinks and eyes that see.

Therefore, creativity is not linked to any time and place but is associated with the human mind and eyes; our ideas and thoughts change in search for something new, and our eyes observe our surroundings, hence both thought and observation produce creativity that serve humanity.

And the question that arises is: if all people have the means of creativity (the mind and sight), then why doesn't the world get filled with creativity every day?! And why do we see disparity in creativity within the communities?!

We say: creativity is a humanitarian collaboration within the community. The community plays a major role in awakening that thought and activating it through the provision of an appropriate innovative environment in which the means of stimulation and encouragement for creativity are available; not only that, but also through adopting creative people and their creations and developing their achievement and exhibiting their talents to the society. This kind of environment must exist through all the ages, and where creativity resides there is a home... a school, a university.

Thanks God, Dar Al-Hekma University has always been a creative environment since its establishment and the creativity and excellence in educational output was a prerequisite for its foundation. Dar Al-Hekma chose "Fostering Creativity" as a value for this academic year as creativity is a renewable process that develops according to the development of communities.

While leafing through this issue of Nour Al-Hekma, you will discover the University's creative environment as well of some of the students' creativity represented in the students and alumna's achievements that impressed the experts both on local and international levels.

May God provide us with more wisdom to be more creative and productive!

Dr. Suhair Hassan Al-Qurashi  
President, Dar Al-Hekma University

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