

Editorial Board

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Cover Photo



**Bani Hashem
Teaching complex**

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From the President

AL al-Bayt University: A New Vision for a New Era

As part of its preparations for the new academic year, AL al-Bayt University has embarked on a set of measures to improve its overall teaching/learning, educational and administrative environment, and to expand its research profile and community service record.

In this vein, a number of specialized and ad hoc committees have been formed and entrusted with varied tasks and missions, including, but not limited to, the revision of the current by-laws and regulations pertaining to faculty members and academic staff with particular emphasis on promotion and tenure, by-laws and regulations relating to academic research and publications, and by-laws and regulations governing the award of scholarships; the expansion of the library and the provision of improved IT and ICT facilities to encourage innovation and best practice in teaching, learning and research; the implementation of austerity measures to rationalize oil consumption and cut down expenses; etc.

At the same time, some committees have been formed to outline a five-year strategy for the University and to support the implementation of this strategy, while others have been tasked with defining the University's needs of faculty and equipment for the upcoming three years. This includes devising measures for recruiting and retaining competent staff members, and providing them with constant training and updated skills they need, to enable them to

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undertake teaching and research duties in a manner that would reflect positively on the University's mission, philosophy and objectives.

As for its revised scholarship program, some 100 merit-based doctoral scholarships are to be allocated to students in fields and disciplines that the University is still in short of in reputable universities worldwide. Upon graduation, students are to be committed to serve on the faculty of the University and to enrich the University with the knowledge and qualifications they have gained abroad. However, a 'point scheme' will be operated whereby students and graduates of the University will have priority to these scholarships in accordance with the points they manage to accumulate. At the same time, and under the same scheme, University graduates who are residents of Mafraq, will stand a good chance in any employment opportunity at the University in the future.

In terms of its admission policy, there is good news in store for Mafraq residents. In that, the University intends to increase the number of seats allocated for students from Mafraq to 100 seats instead of the previous 25 only.

Al-Hussein Fund for Excellence (HFE) and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education in the United Kingdom granted the University the second rank in terms of the quality of its Business Administration programs. Achieving this good rank comes as the result of the dedicated efforts the University is exerting. Nevertheless, the Uni

versity shall always aim high and look forward to obtaining the first rank in this and in all other programs it is teaching. In this context, "quality" is and will ever be the touchstone against which the University's operations, functions, services, and duties are measured



President Adel Tweissi

and assessed.

Students are the cornerstone of any university. In addition to formal education and instruction, the University is keen on involving them in a wide-range of extra-curricular activities, with a view to making their university experience worthwhile, rewarding and entertaining. To this end, and to improve the quality of its infrastructure and services, the University is now considering the establishment of umbrellas, a complex for student sport and other activities, and shaded areas with asphalted roads on campus. At the same time, a special committee has been formed to offer a feasible solution for students' transportation problem.

At the cultural domain, the University will form a cultural committee to revive intellectual and cultural activities on campus, and to build bridges with the local intelligentsia on issues of major concern.

In furtherance of its record of community service, the University is now in the process of conducting a comprehensive survey of the various institutions operating in the Mafraq Governorate, in an effort of establishing a data base that serves the needs and demands of researchers and decision-makers.

To meet the changes, challenges, and demands of the new era, the University has recently em-

barked on a process of restructuring its faculties and academic departments. Some faculties have been divided into two, while others have been renamed. At the same time, some academic departments have been merged or renamed. The ultimate objective is not to effect change per se, but to re-organize the University's programs and resources to better serve newly defined objectives and demands.

In response to the University's attempts to keep abreast of technological methods of education, the University has taken necessary measures to teach 25% of its courses on-line via the Internet and modern teaching technologies within a period of three years. In this vein, the traditional methods of teaching and instruction are to be modified in keeping with new methodologies adopted by reputable universities worldwide.

On home turf, the University is contemplating the establishment of an Agricultural College or what can be termed as a Model Centre for Development to oversee the realization of some investment and developmental projects that would yield results of optimum benefit to the region and its vicinity.

The adoption of the principle of democracy in the education and decision-making processes are of paramount importance to the University. In that, decision-making is a collective process that is being made following wide consultation across the University or via the

formation of committees and councils, each in accordance with its specializations, jurisdictions and fields of concern.

In order to realize its plans, programs, and strategy for the coming year, each and every member is expected to shoulder his/her duties to the utmost and to spare no effort to help the University compete with modern universities and reach international standard.

AL al-Bayt University Appoints New Vice-President for Islamic Affairs



Vice-President "Mohammad Hashem" Sultan

Dr. "Mohammad Hashem" Sultan has recently assumed his post as Vice-President for Islamic Affairs of AL al-Bayt University.

Dr. Sultan who holds the rank of "Professor" from the University of Mohammad V/ Morocco since 1985, earned his Ph.D. Degree in Aqeedah (Creed) and Philosophy from Al-Azhar University/Egypt in 1977.

Prior to being named Vice-President at AL al-Bayt University, Dr. Sultan served as Chairman of the Department of Da'wah (Call for Islam) and Principles of Religion and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Principles of Religion at al-Balqa' Applied University. He was also on the academic staff of the University of Jordan and established the International Centre for the Revival of Sufi Heritage in Cairo.

Earlier in his career, he served at the University of Algeria and at the University of Mohammad V.

Dr. Sultan is a prolific researcher and his articles and studies in the field of his specialization were published in refereed journals. He has also participated in many conferences, academic meetings, and colloquies that discussed issues pertaining to Islam.

University Explores Language Cooperation with Bulgarian University

University President Adel Tweissi received in his office on August 16, 2005, Director of the Department of Language Learning at the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski/ Bulgaria.



The Bulgarian guest exploring relations

The highlight of their discussions were means and ways of enhancing cooperative relations between the Bulgarian department and AL al-Bayt University's Language Centre in relation to the teaching of Arabic for non-native speakers of the language.

The possibility of the two universities joining hands in convening conferences and academic activities as well as activating a program for faculty and student exchanges were also explored during the visit.

The two sides were of the opinion of reaching a Memorandum of Understanding to serve as an umbrella for all cooperation endeavours in the future.

The meeting was attended by Vice-President Ahmad Alawneh and Director of Admission and Registration Kuf-tan Al-Momani.

For the Record

Since 1963, the Department of

Language Learning at the Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski/Bulgaria, which is the legitimate successor to the Institute for Foreign Students, has been teaching Bulgarian and science subjects to foreign students in Bulgarian universities according to a curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education. At present, the Department also teaches Bulgarian to foreigners residing in the country.

In 1976, a Foreign Language Learning Centre was established within the institute. Subsequently, English, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic as well as Greek, Turkish, and Russian are now being taught to over 6,000 Bulgarian citizens each year.

The Department is a licensed examination centre for Bulgaria in the following languages: French, Greek and Russian.

It also administers preparatory courses for TOEFL, SAT, FCE,

CAE, CPE, D.E.L.E. INTER-MEDIO.

Over 200 highly qualified teachers are on the Department's staff. The proven foreign language teaching methods are further developed and updated. The Department is equipped with eleven language laboratories, three computer multi-media laboratories, laboratories for chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics and information technologies and a library.

The Department of Language Learning is the only Bulgarian institution which is member of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE). It attempts to set standards for the teaching and learning of Bulgarian as a foreign language in accordance with the standards established for the teaching of other modern languages, especially those elaborated and promoted by the Council of Europe.

Dutch Technical Team Reviews Status of Jordanian Universities Network



Part of the visit

University President Adel Tweissi received in his office on September 6, 2005, a consultative delegation from Delft University of Technology/The Netherlands, accompanied by a representative of the Jordanian Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and a representative of the Jordanian Universities Network.

High on the agenda of their talks was the overall status of the Jordanian Universities Network, and means and ways for making optimum use and benefit of this network, with a view to gaining access to all the information available for educational and research purposes. The possibility of linking this network with a research network in Europe was also explored during the visit.

The meeting was attended by Vice-President Ahmad Alawneh, Dean of Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah Faculty of Information Technology Isma'il Ababneh, and Assistant to Director of the Computer Center Jamal Obeidat.

President Tweissi Discusses Community Issues with Voluntary Society



Part of the discussions

University President Adel Tweissi emphasized that AL al-Bayt University is part and parcel of the local community and active university-community collaborations are an integral part of its mission.

President Tweissi was addressing Chairman and Members of the Mafraq-based Queen Zein Sharaf Society on September 13, 2005.

He unveiled plans within the University Strategic Plan to provide the local community with all the technical training it needs, with particular emphasis on ICDL and computer related literacy programs. Other training and educational programs with direct bearing on the welfare of women and children are also in the pipelines.

He reiterated that the University's gates are wide open for each and every member of society and its facilities are made accessible to them.

At the end of the meeting, Chairman of Queen Zein Sharaf Society Amneh Omari gave a briefing about the society's activities and the role it has played, over the past years, to boost the women sector in Mafraq.

**President
Tweissi
Discusses
University
Needs with
Mafraq
Governor**

University President Adel Tweissi received in his office on August 28, 2005, Mr. Fawwaz Irsheidat, Mafraq Governor.

High on the agenda of their discussions were means and ways of linking the University programs and activities with the needs of the local community.

In this vein, Mr. Irsheidat noted that the Mafraq Governorate will start with the construction of a tunnel on the Jaber International Highway as soon as the road that links AL al-Bayt University with the city of Mafraq has been completed.

Mr. Irsheidat pledged active cooperation with the University with a view to helping it accomplish its educational and social goals that reflect positively on the welfare of society and citizens.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Dr. Tweissi to brief the Governor on the University's plans to optimize the level of services it is rendering to society. He referred, in this regard, to the new scholarship program that the University is implementing and the increased number of seats allocated at the University for students residing in Mafraq.

**University President Briefs Guest on
University's Programs in Islamic Studies**

University President Adel Tweissi received in his office on August 19, 2005, Professor Zaghloul Najjar, President of the Committee on the Scientific Immitability of the Holy Qur'an and President of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Cairo.

Professor Tweissi briefed the guest on the University's philosophy which combines modern scientific knowledge with the teachings, concepts and principles of Islam and its lofty mission and teachings.

He also briefed him on the courses offered by the University in Islamic Jurisprudence and Law which are



Tweissi receiving the guests in his office

intended to deepen students' knowledge and appreciation of Arab and Muslim heritage.

At the end of the visit, President Tweissi presented the guest with the University shield in appreciation of his contribution to the cause of Is-

lam and the Muslim nation.

Later, Professor Najjar delivered a lecture at the University on the Immitability of the Holy Qur'an which was attended by faculty members and students.

Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal Honors Excelling Students at University



Part of the ceremony

His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal patronized the Excelling Students Award Ceremony which was held by the University on August 10, 2005, in the presence of University President Adel Tweissi, faculty members, and Mafraq Governor Fawwaz Irsheidat.

The ceremony was intended to honor some excelling 45 students from among the seventh batch of graduates, this year, who ranked first in each program offered by the University at the Bachelor's, Master's and Diploma level.

Addressing students, the Prince noted that graduation is one of life's major milestones. It is a time of celebration of all the hard work that has been done, the knowledge that has been gained, the experiences that have been acquired, the happy and difficult moments that have been experienced, and the future opening before students.

He added that graduation is a very special occasion in students' lives as it puts them on the threshold of a new beginning marked by a new life, a new career, and a new perception of real life. It is at this transitional moment that students are expected to make optimum use of all the skills, knowledge and information

that their alma mater has equipped them with to serve as the future pioneers of the nation and region's future.

He voiced hope that students would shoulder their responsibilities to the best of their abilities, and would remain loyal and faithful to this country and to their alma mater for many years to come.

Dean of Student Affairs Khalil Hajjaj and Assistant to the President Mohammad Droubi addressed the ceremony in which they called on students to live to the high hopes that their country pins on them, and to abide by the true and genuine teachings and principles of Islam.

At the end of the ceremony, the Prince presented students with gifts in appreciation of their achievement.



The Prince honoring one of the students

To Commemorate His Memory, University Names Water Laboratory after the Late Professor Akiyoshi Sugimae

In its ses-
sion no. 24/2004/2005 which
convened on August 1, 2005, AL al-
Bayt University Deans' Council has ruled the
following:

The Water Analysis Laboratory of the Higher Institute
of Earth and Environmental Studies shall, henceforth, be
named after the late Professor Akiyoshi Sugimae, the Japanese
Volunteer who was dispatched by JICA on a research mission to
the University. The late Professor Sugimae could not accomplish his
mission due to a tragic accident while conducting research in Jordan. The
official name of the laboratory shall be as follows:

The Akiyoshi Sugimae Laboratory for Water Analysis

University President Dr. Adel Tweissi dispatched the following letter to His
Excellency Ambassador of Japan to Jordan informing him of this decision:

His Excellency Mr. Koichi Obata

Ambassador

Embassy of Japan

P. O. Box 2835

Amman 11181 Jordan

Your Excellency,

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Deans' Council of AL al-Bayt Uni-
versity has unanimously made a resolution in its session no. 24/2004/2005 which
convened on August 1, 2005 to name one of its water analysis laboratories housed
within the premises of the Institute of Earth and Environ-
mental Studies after the late Professor Akiyoshi Sugimae.

The resolution is intended to honor and commemorate the memory of the late
Professor Akiyoshi Sugimae, and to pay tribute to the efficient services he
rendered to this University during the period he spent at the Institute.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could bring this information to the
attention of the family of the late Professor Sugimae.

Seizing this opportunity to convey to you my highest esteem, I
remain.

**Sincerely yours,
Dr. Adel Tweissi
President**

AL al-Bayt University Business Administra- tion Program Ranks Second Amongst Five Public and Private Universities

AL al-Bayt University Business Administration program ranked second, among five public and private Jordanian universities, in the quality assessment of its Business Administration programs.

Al-Hussein Fund for Excellence (HFE) sponsored the program for assessment/excellence in cooperation with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education in the United Kingdom. The review process underwent three stages. At the start, each university is asked to prepare a self-evaluation document of its Business Administration program. The report is then submitted for assessment by the QAA. The final stage is a field visit by a review team assigned by the QAA.

The competition aims at pointing out the pros and cons of each program so that further concrete steps of development would be implemented. In addition to testing the efficiency of the Business Administration programs, the HFE aims at giving a boost to the economic sustainability in Jordan.

In the assessment process, AL al-Bayt University scored 19 out of a total of 24 in accordance with a four-point scale that included the following aspects of evaluation/assessment.

Student Support and Guidance:

Grade scored by AL al-Bayt University: four out of four.

Curriculum Design, Content and Organization:

Grade scored by AL al-Bayt University: three out of four.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Grade scored by AL al-Bayt University: three out of four.

Student Performance and Achievement:

Grade scored by AL al-Bayt University: three out of four.

Learning Resources:

Grade scored by AL al-Bayt University: three out of four.

Quality Management and Enhancement:

Grade scored by AL al-Bayt University: three out of four.

To Provide an Ever-Enriching and Ever-Innovative Learning Experience to Students, University Restructures its Faculties and Academic Departments

To meet the changes, challenges, and demands of the new era, the University has recently embarked on a process of restructuring of its faculties and academic departments. Some faculties have been divided into two, while others have been renamed. At the same time, some academic departments have been merged or renamed.

The present **Faculty of Arts and Sciences** has been divided into two Faculties, viz.:

1. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities: It comprises the following four academic departments:

The Department of Arabic Language and Literature (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Arabic Language and Literature).

The Department of English Language and literature (which offers the Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature).

The Department of Modern Languages (which offers the Bachelor's Degree in French Language and Literature).

The Department of History (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in History).

2. The Faculty of Science: It comprises the following four academic departments:

The Department of Physics (which offers the Bachelor's

and Master's Degrees in Physics).

The Department of Chemistry (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Chemistry).

The Department of Biological Sciences (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Biological Sciences).

The Department of Mathematics (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Mathematics, and the Bachelor's Degree in Actuarial Sciences).

On the other hand, **the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences** has been renamed as **Faculty of Finance and Business Studies**. It comprises the following five academic departments:

Department of Business Administration (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Business Administration).

Department of Accounting (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Business Accounting).

Department of Finance and Banking (which offers the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Finance and Banking).

Department of Public Administration (which offers the Master's Degree in Public Administration).

Department of Financial

and Business Economics (which offers the Bachelor's Degree in Financial and Business Economics).

In addition, **the Department of Computer Information Systems** and the **Department of Business Information Systems** of Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah Faculty of Information Technology have been merged into one academic department, viz., **the Department of Information Systems**. It offers the Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems, and the Bachelor's Degree in Business Information Systems.

Commenting on the restructuring process, University President Adel Tweissi said that given its keenness to provide an ever-rich and ever-innovative learning experience to its students, the University has deemed it appropriate to rethink the standing of its academic programs. In that, the University has phased out those programs that have outlived their purposes, retained those in demand, and introduced new ones in accordance with emerging needs. The major objective of this restructuring is to re-arrange the University's faculties and departments in order to encourage scholarly activity, give new shape to the curricula, promote innovation, streamline decision-making, and make best use of available resources.

Renaming of Administrative Units and Introducing New Ones on Campus

In its recent session, the Dean's Council, presided over by University President Adel Tweissi, decided to rename a number of administrative units on campus and to introduce new ones, as follows:

1. Renaming the Department of the President's Office as Department of Administrative Affairs. The Central Administrative Bureau, the Incoming/Outgoing Mail Section and the Follow Up Section are to be affiliated with this Department.
2. Establishing a new Councils' Secretariat Department that comprises the Secretariat of the University Board of Trustees, the Secretariat of the University Council, the Secretariat of the University's Deans' Council and the Appointment and Promotion Committee.
3. Establishing a new Quality Assurance and Control Department that is composed of a Quality Assurance Section and a Quality Control Section.
4. Renaming the Public Relations Department as Public Relations and Media Department. The Public Relations Section, the Cultural Relations Section and the Media Section are all to be affiliated with this new department.
5. Introducing a President's Office Department that embraces the President's Secretariat and the Scholarship and External Relations Offices.
6. Introducing a new Section for Conferences and Academic Symposia as part of the constituent sections of the Deanship of Academic Research.

At the End of His Tour As Ambassador to Jordan, University Pays Tribute to Outgoing Omani Ambassador to Jordan

In honor of outgoing Omani Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Hamad Bin Hilal Al-Mu'amari, AL al-Bayt University hosted a tribute on August 14, 2005 in the presence of the First Secretary in the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman So'ud Bin Ali Al-Rukaishi.

University President Adel Tweissi, who presided over the tribute, recognized the sterling efforts exerted by Ambassador Al-Mu'amari in furthering friendly and productive relations between the two countries and in contributing to the promotion of bilateral academic exchanges. He referred in this context to the Omani Studies Unit that has been established within the premises of the University. He noted that the support provided by Ambassador Al-Mu'amari to this unit and to the various activities it hosted managed to have profound and lasting impact on Jordan-Omani educational relations. In that, Ambassador Al-Mu'amari has worked untiringly and successfully to foster a deeper understanding among Jordanians of Omani culture, history and civilization.



Part of the farewell

President Tweissi recalled during the meeting the successive visits paid by Ambassador Al-Mu'amari to the University to meet with Omani students pursuing studies at the University, and to make sure that they are proceeding well with their studies and with adapting to Jordanian life and culture.

On his part, Ambassador Al-Mu'amari voiced his thanks and appreciation to the University and pledged to continue his mission as ambassador to Jordan no matter wherever his new as-

signment might be.

Director of the Omani Studies Unit Elayyan Al-Jalloudi gave an address in which he thanked Ambassador Al-M'amari for his significant achievements and support to the Unit during his tour as Ambassador of Oman to Jordan.

At the end of the ceremony, which was attended by Vice-President Ahmad Alawneh and Deans of the Faculties, Dr. Tweissi presented the outgoing Ambassador with the University shield and a token gift.

To Celebrate the Centennial of Albert Einstein University Hosts Physics and Astronomical Sciences Conference



The inauguration of the conference

On behalf of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al-Hussein, University President Adel Tweissi patronized the 7th Arab Conference on Physics and Astronomy which convened at the University on August 15, 2005, under the theme: "Physics and Astronomical Sciences in the Service of Arab and Muslim Societies."

The two-day forum was organized in cooperation between AL al-Bayt University Higher Institute of Astronomy and Space Sciences, Princess Sumayya University for Technology, the Jordanian Astronomical Society, Ibn Al-Haitham Centre for Advancement of Science and Technology, and the Union of Arab Physicists and Mathematicians.

Addressing the inaugural session, University President Adel Tweissi referred to the University's Higher Institute of Astronomy and Space Sciences in its capacity as unique of its kind in the region, offering Master's program in Astronomy and Space Sciences. He dwelt on the state-of-the-art equipment housed by the Institute and its plans, programs and aspirations for the future.

According to Dr. Hameed Mijwel Al-Nu'aimy, President of the Union of Arab Physicists and Mathematicians, and

Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the conference, the forum was held as part of the Science world celebration of the centennial of Albert Einstein's "Special Theory of Relativity" which he later expanded to a "General Theory of Relativity."

Einstein's theories of relativity are about the basic ideas mankind use to describe natural happenings. They are about time, space, mass, movement, and gravity.

The conference attracted more than 150 participants and researchers from 20 Arab and foreign countries worldwide, in addition to Jordan, who enriched the conference's 14 sessions with some 90 research papers tackling new trends in the field.

Conference goals can be summed up as follows:

1. **Celebration** of the centennial of Einstein's Annals Mirabilis (1905), and a contribution to the World Year of Physics (WYP 2005).
2. **Follow-up** on the Arab Conferences on Physics, Astronomy and Space Sciences, in order to keep track of the activities and accomplishments of Arab scholars and researchers in the Arab world and abroad in such fields. The convention of the Fifth Conference of the Arab Un-

ion of Astronomy and Space Sciences, and the discussion of its current and future plans. 3. **Gathering** the largest possible number of Arab scholars, researchers, and individuals interested in Physics, Astronomy and Space Sciences, in order to enhance the scientific and technical collaboration between them, and to open new channels of collaboration between Arab researchers and institutions, on the one hand, and researchers and institutions worldwide, on the other.

4. **Discussion** of the scientific, administrative and financial reports of the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences (AUASS) since its establishment in 1998; the modification of its Internal Regulations; and the election of the President, Vice-President, and members of its Higher Board.

During the closing session of the conference, panelists called for the creation of an Arab Space Agency, the incorporation of courses on Astronomy and Space Sciences in the various levels of school teaching, and the establishment of a database on the various branches of Astronomy and Space Sciences to service scientists and researchers, among others.

Under the Patronage of Minister of Social Development, Social Work Conference Convenes on Campus

Under the patronage of His Excellency Minister of Social Development Abdullah Oweidat, the Conference on Social Work was inaugurated at AL al-Bayt University on August 15, 2005.

The two-day forum attracted a number of researchers and social work specialists who discussed issues relating to social and voluntary work in Jordan, and exchanged viewpoints and opinions.

In his inaugural address, Minister Oweidat lauded the idea and theme of the conference which addressed means and ways of activating community development and voluntary social work in Jordan. These topics, he stressed, are very much in line with the Ministry's agenda of priorities and demonstrate interest and participation in social and community services, on the part of institutions and individuals of the local community. In that, social work goes hand-in-hand with voluntary work and the programs and activities of all voluntary societies operating in the Kingdom are part and parcel of the Ministry's programs and activities. The ultimate objective is the welfare of society.

University President Adel Tweissi gave an address in which he traced the history of community services rendered by the University to the local and regional communities ever since its inception. He said that the University's aim of these services is the achievement of sustainable development rather than the mere provision of employment opportunities for its graduates. He referred to the University's organization of tailor-made training courses to



The inaugural session



upgrade the professional skills and competence of employees in the various institutions of the private and public sector. He also referred to the University's recent revision and ratification of its scholarship program under which some 100 highly qualified students are to be dispatched on scholarships to obtain their doctoral degrees in fields and disciplines that the University is still in short of, with the objective of serving on its faculty upon graduation.

He further noted that the University is now in the process of conducting a comprehensive survey of the various institutions in the Mafraq Governorate, with a view to establishing a data base that serves the needs and demands of researchers and decision-

makers.

Director General of the General Union of Voluntary Societies and Director General of Social Development in the Directorate of Mafraq gave addresses in which they emphasized the feasibility of partnership between and among institutions of civil society, voluntary societies and other institutions of the private and public sector, with the ultimate objective of rendering effective services to society.

During the various sessions of the conference, panelists discussed papers that tackled issues pertaining to the role of media, NGOs, civil society, voluntary societies, the private and public sector and individuals in developing social work and local communities.

University Hosts Training Workshop on AIDS

University President Adel Tweissi inaugurated at the University on July 30, 2005, the training workshop on AIDS, organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, to build leadership capacity in the area of youth-specific HIV/AIDS prevention and fighting.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Tweissi noted that this workshop will provide students with an opportunity to learn about AIDS-related issues from the experience of the health sector operating in Jordan. The consultations and instruction that students receive as part of their training will deepen their vision and understanding of the old saying: "Precaution is better than cure."

Dr. Sulaiman Affash, Director General of the Mafraq Governorate Health Division, said that the Ministry of Health is working hand-in-hand with NGOs and international institutions to combat the spread of this disease.

In his address, Dean of Student Affairs Khalil Hajjaj highlighted the importance that AL al-Bayt University attaches to its students' participation in addressing society's health and other issues. The workshop, he added, will allow students and health professionals to exchange information on the successes and failures experienced by their institutions in combating HIV/Aids.

To Mark the New Academic Year University President Meets with Faculty Members

University President Adel Tweissi met with faculty members to discuss with them issues pertaining to the University's preparations for the new academic year 2005/2006, and to inform them about the University's vision, plans, and aspirations.



President Tweissi in an open dialogue with faculty members

At the outset, President Tweissi emphasized that the student is the cornerstone of the learning/teaching process on campus. To this end, the University is to spare no effort to help students make the most of their stay on campus, and to prepare them academically and professionally for their future careers.

In response to the University's attempts to keep abreast of technological methods of education, Dr. Tweissi said, the University has taken necessary measures to teach 25% of its courses on-line via the Internet and modern teaching technologies within a period of three years. In this vein, the traditional methods of teaching and instruction are to be modified in keeping with new methodologies adopted by reputable universities worldwide. At the same time, the University is to reject the idea that professors are knowledge-givers or lecturers who dictate information to students. Classrooms are no more to be considered as mere lecture halls. To the contrary, classrooms are to serve as venues of teacher-student interaction that is based on the communicative approach.

During the meeting, Dr. Tweissi informed faculty about the various components of the University strategic plan, its goals and objectives, means of realizing it, and time-frame for accomplishing each component. He stressed that "quality" and "relevance" are the hallmarks of the University's academic and research programs. These programs are intended to serve the needs of the local and regional community and to create a community dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the value of education.

Highlighting the importance of research as a necessary and vital part of its function as a University, Dr. Tweissi noted that the University is very much keen on encouraging the pursuit of excellence in research projects with direct bearing on developmental needs and that demonstrate promise. He called on faculty to keep themselves posted on recent trends and developments in the fields of research, both theoretical and applied. He voiced hope that research will not be carried out for the mere sake of promotion, but rather, to be streamlined towards rendering efficient services to the public and private sector.

An open dialogue ensued at the end of the meeting.

University President Meets Deans and Senior Administrators from Across Campus

University President Adel Tweissi held a series of meetings and open dialogues with Deans of Faculties and Higher Institutes, and senior administrative staff from across the campus.

The objectives of these meetings are to debate key issues of major importance to the University march, and to provide a congenial forum for teaching staff members and senior administrators to air their views and opinions on means and ways of upgrading the teaching/learning and research process. The ultimate aim is to help the University to maintain academic excellence and to enable it to meet the challenges of the present era.

During these meetings, Dr. Tweissi emphasized the importance of team work, responsible interaction, mutual respect and dedicated cooperation to help the University in realizing its goals and objective, and in fulfilling its mission. The University, he said, is in the process of outlining well defined strategic long-term and short-term educational, academic, and administrative policies, to ensure its commitment to high ethical and professional standards.

Dr. Tweissi noted that community service and research streamlined towards developmental societal issues are defining characteristics of the University ever since the early days of its inception. He voiced hope that faculty members would benefit from available resources on and off campus to pursue research projects and conduct studies that would advance

the country's economic well-being and improve the lives of citizens.

An open dialogue was held at the end of each meeting during which staff raised questions and exchanged views on a number of vital issues.

To Upgrade Their Teaching Techniques, Faculty Members Attend Training Courses at University



President Tweissi presenting a faculty with her certificate of attendance

University

President Adel Tweissi presented certificates of attendance to some 50 faculty members who attended a series of training courses organized by the University's Centre for Faculty Development (CFD) to help them develop innovative learning and academic administration technologies.

In his address on the occasion, Dr. Tweissi noted that it is an essential part of the University's mission to provide continuing professional development opportunities for all faculty members and to help them integrate the latest technology into their respective professions and disciplines.

He noted that in this era of rapid change, it is inevitable that faculty members receive the needed training to help them master the modern art of class management and upgrade their knowledge and skills which they communicate to students.

The presentation ceremony was also addressed by Dr. Sulaiman Al-Qadiri, Director of CFD, who briefed attendants on the establishment of the centre, its mission and objectives, the training courses it has organized for faculty members on a wide range of topics related to teaching and learning, and the courses it is planning for the future.

The ceremony was attended by the Vice-President, Deans' of Faculties and Higher Institutes and faculty members.

University to Resort to Austerity Measures to Cut Down its Oil-Consumption

University President Adel Tweissi formed a committee to implement a package of procedures and measures aimed at rationalizing oil-consumption at the University and reducing its spending on energy. The decision came in light of the government's recent decision to raise fuel prices between 10 and 33 percent.

This increase in oil prices, Dr. Tweissi stressed, will have its negative impact on the University's budget. Hence, a prompt collective action should be made to safeguard the budget from further deficits.

Under the President's directives, the University is to trade in its gas-guzzling vehicles for more fuel-efficient cars as part of efforts to cut on University spending. In that, the University's vehicles with engines of 2000 cc or more will be replaced by smaller, more economic vehicles.

Also as part of its austerity measures in this regard, the University is to create the so-called car-share scheme, in a bid to reduce the number of university owned-cars traveling to and from the University. This entails an optimum travel plan schedule to be operated by the Transportation Section and prepared on daily basis, in full cooperation and coordination with all other sections, staff and students wishing to make use of these vehicles for pure official, research, and academic purposes. The ultimate objective is to operate the lesser number of university-owned vehicles heading to the same or nearby destinations with the maximum number possible of passengers.

At the same time, the University will resort to using bicycles and motorcycles for the distribution of its inter-campus mail and correspondence.

Trips abroad on the part of faculty will be reduced to a minimum, and faculty's remunerations with regard to attending of meetings organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific

Research are to be cancelled as faculty are being remunerated for the same mission from a different source.

The American Experience in E-learning Discussed at University

University President Adel Tweissi opened at the University on August 20, 2005, the seminar that was held between American students attending Arabic classes at the Language Centre and students from the Department of Educational Computer of Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah Faculty of Information Technology to discuss the American Experience in E-learning. This experience is concerned with contemplating a new approach to education via technology.

President Tweissi reviewed the reforms and innovations that the education sector in Jordan had experienced, over the past decade, guided by His Majesty King Abdullah II vision to remodel this sector and to reshape it in accordance with high international standards.

One landmark and immediate reform in response to the King's vision was the development of the Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy (ERFKE) Strategy, Dr. Tweissi said. In its major part, the strategy makes optimum use of emerging Information and Computer Technologies (ICT) in teaching, learning

and research, and integrates them in modern educational methodologies and e-learning initiatives in Jordan. Subsequently, the ERFKE strategy is to develop a high quality education system that makes Jordan the "hub" for ICT and an engine of economic growth and development in the region.

The seminar included a briefing by Mr. Sano Saoshian, Representative of the ERFKE Strategy, on this project which is funded by USAID/Jordan in support of the Education Reform Initiative in Jordan.

The project will be carried out over a four-year period in partnership with Jordan's Ministry of Education and the Jordanian Govern-

ment to develop a robust knowledge-based economy. A team of skilled professionals from the different partner organizations will be responsible for coordinating and implementing the project's activities.

Paramount among these activities is to prepare youth for Jordan's knowledge economy by enhancing the secondary level MIS curricula, developing MIS e-Learning modules, training MIS teachers, facilitating decisions on standards and piloting a school-to-work transition program. By working closely with schools and the private sector, the program will help make the MIS program relevant to the needs of youth and businesses.



Part of the seminar

The Higher Institute of Earth & Environmental Sciences

Two Training Courses to be Conducted in the UK

The following two Training Courses are to be conducted in the UK for academic staff from the Higher Institute of Earth and Environmental Sciences of AL al-Bayt University:

1. The implementation of IT as a Tool within Environmental Businesses

This course is intended for senior academic staff and managers involved in teaching, research and implementation of IT tools within environmental businesses and also involved with academic curricula. The course will cover a number of topics including the latest IT tools and state-of-the-art techniques in the above subject. There will also be a number of field visits to companies which have implemented the latest IT tools within their infrastructure in order to improve output and efficiency.

2. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and Sustainability

This course is designed for postgraduate students and researchers contemplating being involved in sustainable development, water resources and harvesting. The course will address a number of topics with regard to SSUDS and sustainability and will try to compare these systems with Water Harvesting Schemes. Also, a number of site visits will be conducted to existing SUDS schemes within the north West of England.

and

Four Training Courses to be Conducted at AL al-Bayt University in Cooperation with InWent

During the period September 4 -29, 2005, AL al-Bayt University served as a venue for four

training courses designed for Jordanian officials such as engineers and employees from different municipalities, NGOs, universities, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Health, and the private sector. According to Dr. Nadhir Al-Ansari, Dean of the Higher Institute of the Earth and Environmental Sciences, the courses are to be held under the EU-funded EMWater Project within the frame of: "Efficient Management of Wastewater, its Treatment and Reuse in the Mediterranean Countries."

The courses were organized by InWent-Capacity Building International, Germany and the Higher Institute for Earth Science and Environment at AL al-Bayt University.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is co-funding the project.

Dr. Al-Ansari noted that InWent, an international organization for training and human resources

development, has been entrusted by the European Commission under the EU-MEDA "Regional Program for Local Water Management" to implement the project entitled: Efficient Management of Wastewater, its Treatment and Reuse in the Mediterranean Countries, (EMWater Project, duration May 2003 - April 2007). The project is receiving co-funding from the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). The beneficiary countries of this project are Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. The overall objective

is to increase the security and safety of water supply in the MEDA countries, thus, providing core conditions for social, economic and political stability within the region. Among the various fields of action within the framework of the (EMWater) project is the training of stakeholders and professionals in the region with the aim of attaining human resources development and capacity building.

The main objectives of the courses, Dr. Al-Ansari explained:

To provide practical aspects of environmental effects of treatment technology

To increase understanding of environmental impact of wastewater treatment plants and reuse projects

To introduce techniques of environmental impact assessment

The following courses are to be conducted:

Course No. 1 (September 4 – 8, 2005)

Efficient Management of Wastewater.

Course No. 2 (September 11 – 15, 2005)

Efficient Management of Wastewater Reuse (Management, Regulation / Standards, Impact on Soil, Hygienic Aspects and Economic Aspects).

Course No. 3 (September 18 – 22, 2005)

Low Cost Wastewater Treatment Technologies.

Course No. 4 (September 25 – 29, 2005)

Socioeconomics, Environmental Aspect and Public Awareness of Wastewater Treatment.

University Pays Tributes to Pioneers of Voluntary Work and Municipalities' Heads in Mafraq



Part of the ceremony

AL al-Bayt University organized on August 15, 2005 a ceremony to pay tribute to pioneers of voluntary work, heads of municipalities in the Governorate of Mafraq, and families of martyrs in the Za'tari town of Mafraq.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for University President Adel Tweissi to emphasize the University's role in serving the local community and forging a campus-community partnership that benefits citizens and local residents, and works for their well-being and prosperity.

Dr. Tweissi unveiled news about the University's revised scholarship program whereby more seats at the University are to be allocated to residents of Mafraq, and a better employment opportunity is to be provided to University graduates residing in the Mafraq area. He also announced news about the University's donation of five PCs to the Za'tari Society to enhance its members' computer literacy and skills.

President Tweissi noted that the University's research activities are streamlined to address water, environment and developmental projects in the vicinity of the University. At the same time, the University is organizing tailor-cut courses that respond to the needs of institutions and individuals from the local community, and is, in this context, making its resources, utilities, library, laboratories and sport facilities accessible to local residents.

At the end of the ceremony, Chairman of the Za'tari Society voiced his thanks and appreciation to the University and to the efficient services it is rendering to society.

Under Agreement Reached with AL al-Bayt University Al-Harahseh Institution to Allocate Scholarships for Needy Students



The signing ceremony

An Agreement was signed recently between AL al-Bayt University and Haj Mohammad Taha Al-Harahsheh Institution relating to the allocation of a number of scholarships for needy students from the University.

According to the provisions of this Agreement, scholarships are to cover tuition and other fees in line with the student's study plan, and can be either full or partial, depending on the overall academic, financial and moral record of the student.

In this context, AL al-Bayt University is to supply Al-Harahsheh Institution with names of students eligible for these scholarships on semester basis, including details about the academic and financial record of each student, the student's moral conduct, leadership abilities, etc. The scholarship scheme stipulates the clearance of the student's record of any warnings, probations, or penalties of any kind or for any reason whatsoever.

The Agreement was signed by President Adel Tweissi on behalf of AL al-Bayt University, and by Dr. Muntaha Taha Al-Harahsheh, on behalf of Al-Harahsheh Institution.

University Signs an MOU with Iraqi Geological Syndicate



The signing of the MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reached between AL al-Bayt University and the Iraqi Geological Syndicate on August 21, 2005 providing for joint collaboration in earth and environment-related sciences.

Under the MOU, the two sides are to encourage cooperation in the use of up-to-the-minute technologies in the earth and environment domain, and in the wise investment of natural and renewable resources without jeopardizing the environment or exhausting these resources.

At the same time, the MOU provides for conducting joint projects and studies with particular emphasis on the badia area, the formation of geographic maps, the management of resources, and the reduction and prediction of natural disasters.

One of the provisions of the MOU provides for the organization of tailor-cut training courses for staff from the Iraqi Geological Syndicate by AL al-Bayt University's Higher Institute of the Earth and Environmental Sciences to upgrade their skills and competence.

At the same time, experts from the two sides are to exchange visits and to attend conferences and academic activities that take place at the other country.

University Recognizes Three Retiring Administrative Staff



Paying tribute to staff

AL al-Bayt University recently paid tribute to three of its retiring administration staff at an award presentation ceremony. Organized by the Administrative Staff Club of the University, the ceremony was intended to acknowledge the services rendered to the University by Mr. Mahmoud Bourini, Mr. Karim Thabet, and Mr. Mohammad Khairallah Khaza'leh who have all reached retirement age.

In thanking the retirees for their diligent efforts and services, University President Adel Tweissi said: "I take this opportunity to recognize our retiring staff for their hard work and dedication to this institution. Given the relatively young age of the University, your role in the achievements it has made at the early stages of its establishment are highly esteemed and appreciated."

He wished the retirees a well-deserved and happy retirement and voiced hope that they would maintain their contact with the University.

At the end of the ceremony, President Tweissi presented each staff with a token gift.

"What Life Is About"

Life isn't about keeping score.

It's not about how many friends you have
Or how accepted you are.

Not about if you have plans this weekend or if you're alone.

It isn't about who your family is or how much money they have.

Or what kind of car you drive. Or where you are sent to school.

It's not about how beautiful or ugly you are.

Or what clothes you wear, what shoes you have on, or what kind of music you listen to.

It's not about if your hair is blonde, red, black, or brown

Or if your skin is too light or too dark.

Not about what grades you get, how smart you are, how smart everybody else thinks you are, or how smart standardized tests say you are.

It's not about what clubs you're in or how good you are at a sport.

It's not about representing your whole being on a piece of paper and seeing who will accept you.
Life just isn't about that.

But, life is about who you love and who you hurt.
It's about who you make happy or unhappy purposefully.

It's about keeping or betraying trust.

It's about friendship, used as a sanctity or a weapon.

It's about what you say and mean, maybe hurtful, maybe heartening.

About starting rumors and contributing to petty gossip.

It's about what judgments you pass and why.

It's about whom you've ignored with full control and intention.

It's about jealousy, fear, ignorance, and revenge.

It's about carrying inner hate.

It's about having inner love, letting it grow, and spreading it.

But most of all, it's about using your life to touch or poison other people's hearts in such a way that could have never occurred without you.

Only you choose the way those hearts are affected, and those choices are what life's all about.

Seven Wonders

A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World."

Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the 'Seven Wonders of the World' are:

1. to see
2. to hear
3. to touch
4. to taste
5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love.

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

The things we overlook as simple, ordinary and take for granted are truly wondrous!

A gentle reminder - that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

Triple Filter

Keep this philosophy in mind the next time you either hear, or are about to repeat, a rumor.

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom.

One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students called Plato?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I'd like you to pass a little test.

It's called the "Triple Filter Test". "Triple filter?" "That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say.

The first Filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and..."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not.

Now let's try the second filter, the Filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, even though you're not certain it's true?"

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter - the Filter of Usefulness.

Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really..."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True, nor Good, nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?"

The man was defeated and ashamed.

This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

It also explains why he never found out that Plato was shagging his wife

DUST IF YOU MUST

I can't tell you how many countless hours that I have spent CLEANING!

I used to spend at least 8-12 hours EVERY weekend making sure things were just perfect - "in case someone came over". Then I realized

one day that no one came over - they were all out living life - having fun!

Now, when people visit - I find no need to explain the "condition" of my home - they are more interested in hearing about the things I've been doing - while I was away living life and having fun!

If you haven't figured this out yet - please heed this advice.

Life is short - enjoy it!

Dust if you must but wouldn't it be better, to paint a picture or write a letter, bake a cake or plant a seed, ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must but there's not much time, with rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and books to read, Friends to cherish and life to lead.

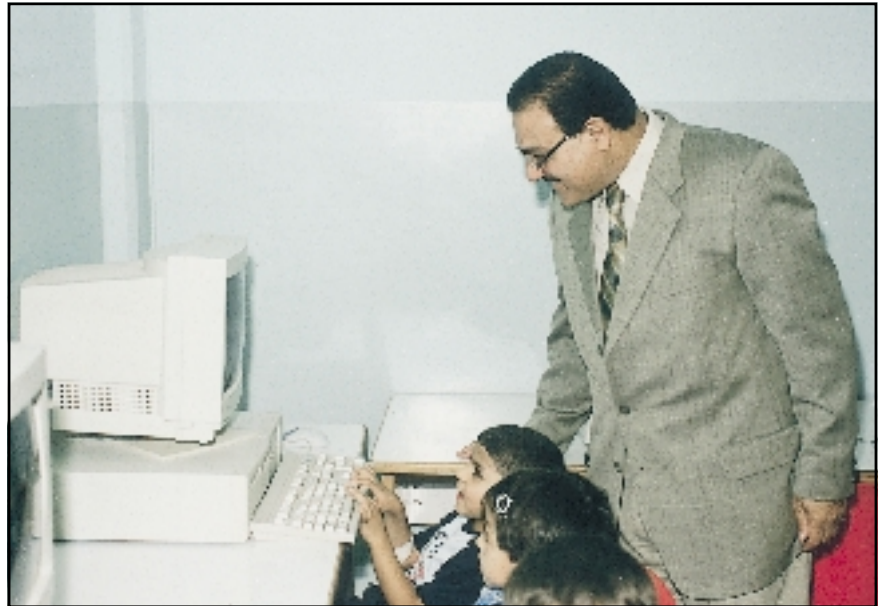
Dust if you must but the world's out there, With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair, A flutter of snow, a shower of rain. This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must but bear in mind, Old age will come and it's not kind. And when you go and go you must, You, yourself, will make more dust.

-Remember, a house becomes a home when you can write "I love you" on the furniture....



President Tweissi addressing a workshop on sports in Mafraq



President Tweissi inspecting the kindergarten of the University

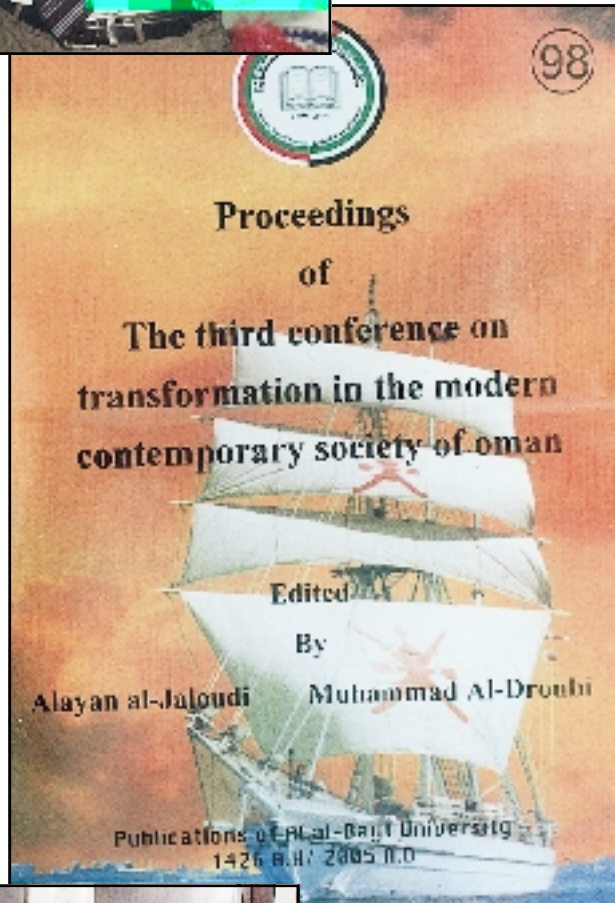


President Tweissi inspecting the University Restaurant



The graduation ceremony of American students who attended Arabic language courses at the Language Centre during the summer

The outside cover of a recent publication by the University



Part of the President's meeting with key officials and notables from the city of Mafraq