Reflections

President’s Report 2015-16
As we reflect on the past year at CNA-Q, the perfect starting point is actually at the end. We completed the academic year with a magnificent graduation ceremony and the largest graduating class ever, with nearly 550 students crossing the stage! Coupled with last year’s graduating class of over 480, CNA-Q has graduated over 1,000 students in the past two years. This, after all, is what CNA-Q is all about, providing the youth of Qatar the opportunity to attain their personal, academic, and occupational goals, and contributing to the human development pillar of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Graduation day was made even more special by the announcement from visiting Minister of Advanced Education and Skills for Newfoundland and Labrador, the Honourable Gerry Byrne, that legislation was passed in Canada granting CNA and CNA-Q the authority to grant degrees. While a lot of work remains to be done, we will work with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar and CNA to bring degree programs to our students and alumni as soon as possible.

In addition to this exciting news, the College had much to celebrate on other fronts. An ideal example is the successful transformation of the Technician Preparatory Program (TPP) to the Technician Certificate Program (TCP). In close collaboration with Qatar Petroleum, the program was completely redesigned by our academic and program development teams, as well as subject matter experts from the College and QP, who fully integrated real-world equipment and processes with educational technology and professional learning materials. TCP is now an official CNA Certificate program, designed in Qatar, for Qatar, and will meet a very specific and important training need in Qatar’s energy sector.

The College’s goal is to be renowned in Qatar, the GCC, and internationally as a Center of Excellence in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The realization of this goal took a giant leap forward over the past year with the appointment of Dr. Rupert Maclean as the Qatar Petroleum Professional Chair in Vocational Studies. Building on this development, Dr. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Secretary General of the National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science, visited our campus to announce that UNESCO had awarded CNA-Q a prestigious UNESCO Chair on TVET and Sustainable Development, and that, Dr. Rupert Maclean was appointed as the CNA-Q UNESCO Chair holder by UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. CNA-Q and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that committing the two organizations to working together to raise the profile of TVET in Qatar. I am confident that Dr. Rupert’s work in both Chair positions will establish CNA-Q as a beacon for TVET education and research in Qatar and the Gulf region.

As I review the many accomplishments of CNA-Q and its students, faculty, and staff, I have to remind myself that these are the highlights, and we can’t forget that on a day by day basis, thousands of young people come to our campus where they are engaged and motivated to learn and prepare for their futures – that is our core business! We do this well, thanks to our talented, dedicated faculty, stellar Deans, Leadership team and the team of administrative and operations professionals that provide essential support to the academic enterprise.

As we reflect on 2015-16, I hope you enjoy this review of our many moments of achievement and celebration.

Regards,

Dr. Ken MacLeod
President, College of the North Atlantic Qatar
CNA-Q aspires to be a premier technical college that will provide the best education for the State of Qatar by offering all students the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The words "premier technical college," though brief, are loaded with meaning and vision. The word "premier" infers being first, being the best. As the State of Qatar transitions from a resource-based economy to a digital, knowledge-based, global economy, the best can only be defined as an institution that has 21st century facilities, faculty, programs, and educational practices, and an institution that graduates learners with 21st century technical skills and learning behaviours.

The word "technical" delineates the unique educational niche that CNA-Q fills for the State of Qatar and underscores the reality that a technical education and general technical literacy are essential to realizing the opportunities afforded by a new age economy and the attainment of prosperity for all citizens of Qatar.

Finally, the word "college" infers workplace-relevant, learner-centred, applied learning programs delivered in a supportive learning environment where learner success is an institutional imperative, and innovation and creativity are core values.

CNA-Q will strive to achieve the vision that these three words encompass by maximizing our expertise in, and passion for, innovation and applied learning, and comprehensively using technology to support innovative teaching and learning, creating robust educational and operational support systems, and developing 21st century skill proficiency for our learners. That is, CNA-Q will be a leader in using technology to enhance how we learn, work, and grow.

The CNA-Q Vision and Mission reflect the needs of our varied stakeholders in the State of Qatar. CNA-Q meets these needs by engaging in the following learning activities:

**Developmental Education**
CNA-Q ensures that our students have the appropriate academic foundations to be successful in our programs by providing training in English, Math, and Science.

**Technical Education**
CNA-Q ensures that our students successfully transition into the workforce and meet the demands of an increasingly intellectual and technology-rich workplace. CNA-Q certificate and diploma programs reflect the importance of applied learning and learner engagement and are developed in close collaboration with our key external stakeholders.

**University Transfer**
CNA-Q provides degree completion options for our students by securing pathways with accredited degree-granting institutions.

**Corporate Training**
CNA-Q addresses the varied lifelong learning needs of those who are already in the workforce by providing professional development programming that assists employees in keeping up with the knowledge and skills needs of a rapidly changing workplace, and meeting their personal and professional goals.

**Continuing Education and Community Engagement**
CNA-Q personnel engage with, and provide leadership to, the community in which we live. Whether it be supporting K-12 teachers to integrate technology and practical science in their classrooms, engaging students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) subjects through our GO ROBOT and Skills in Schools programs, supporting community causes, or celebrating culture and diversity, CNA-Q personnel bring their unique blend of skills and enthusiasm to supporting the varied goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, and enriching the lives of the people of Qatar.
CNA–Q: SETTING THE STANDARD FOR TVET IN QATAR

In December of 2015, Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) and the College of the North Atlantic - Qatar (CNA-Q) signed a ground-breaking agreement to create a Professional Chair in Vocational Studies that will assist in building a strategic roadmap for the future of vocational and technical education in Qatar.

The establishment of the QAPCO Professional Chair aims to improve the quality of vocational and technical training that is delivered by CNA-Q and QAPCO to their students and trainees and will strengthen the knowledge, skills, and capacities of practitioners to improve the delivery of current and future programs.

The sponsorship of this Chair is part of QAPCO’s innovative research and development strategy that focuses on implementing new and innovative ways of developing and supporting the Education Sector within Qatar in line with the country’s National Vision 2030.

The scope of the Chair is wide-ranging and includes a commitment to conduct a review and GAP analysis of current vocational curriculum, to act as an in-house expert and champion of vocational and technical education and training at CNA-Q, and to engage in research that will ensure worldwide best practices are implemented within the TVET sector in Qatar.

Dr. Mohammed Yousef Al Mulla, QAPCO’s Vice Chairman and CEO, described the new Chair as one of the most important educational research initiatives to be implemented in Qatar for many years. Dr. Al Mulla spoke to the importance of the Chair holder’s work in changing attitudes toward TVET careers and reviewing, designing, and implementing strategies that will improve the overall quality of future graduates, equipping them with the specific competencies required today in Industry.

With this new step, CNA-Q is positioned to share our vision and passion for TVET and to work with business, industry, and the media to underline the importance and value of this type of education for Qatar.

A Centre of Excellence for TVET

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is characterized by an ‘applied learning’ approach to teaching and learning focused on the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and values for the workplace.

TVET has the potential to provide highly skilled, technologically competent ‘knowledge workers’ for Qatar’s new, and ultimately diversified, economy. However, in Qatar, as in other countries, TVET suffers from the perception that it is inferior to an academic education provided by traditional universities. In most countries, students, parents, and career advisors still hold a strong bias in favor of degrees from traditional universities and see TVET programs as a “second tier” option. At CNA-Q, we are committed to changing this perception, and growing the awareness in the community among leaders, parents, teachers and students that a technical and vocational education is a strong and proud pathway that takes students from the classroom to the workplace, with great skills and capacity for growth.

CNA-Q: SETTING THE STANDARD FOR TVET IN QATAR

It has been reliably estimated that about 80% of all jobs worldwide require some form of vocational skills.

Dr. Rupert Maclean
QAPCO Professional Chair in Vocational Studies and UNESCO Chair on Technical and Vocational Education and Sustainable Development

SEMINAR SERIES ELEVATES TVET

CNA-Q is a UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre, and as part of that Centre’s revitalized activities our campus is now host of a seminar series focused on TVET. The series was launched by QAPCO Professional Chair in Vocational Studies Dr. Rupert Maclean with Professor Stephen Lamb, from Australia, as the inaugural speaker.

Professor Lamb is an expert on examining how effective schools and education systems are at assisting students to transition from school to work - a topic which is highly relevant for TVET. Professor Lamb reported on the ‘Cities Project’ an international study he is leading on school to work place transitions, which Doha was invited to join.

The second installment of the seminar series was given by Dr. Margarita Pavlova, an expert in TVET with a special focus in the area of environmental development. Her presentation titled, ‘Greening of skills and economies for a successful transition to environmentally friendly low-carbon development’, not only captured the attention of her audience in the College Boardroom at CNA-Q, but an interview with the Gulf Times after the seminar led to front page billing in the Gulf Times Community Newspaper as well as a two-page spread in that publication.
Working Toward A Healthier Nation

A healthy population is one of the most important achievements that a nation can strive for. A healthy next generation in Qatar is vital to the achievement of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

“Health literacy” is an emerging concept that is gaining prominence at the College of the North Atlantic-Qatar. Our level of health literacy directly affects our ability to not only act on health information, but also to take more control of our health as individuals, families, and communities. This is the key reason that CNA-Q, through its School of Health Sciences and Recreation Department, takes a leadership role in developing programs that educate our students and the community about their own health, focusing on fitness and wellness.

In Qatar, where close to 17 percent of the population suffers from diabetes, solutions for managing the condition are being developed through CNA-Q’s Advanced Diploma in Diabetes Management. In a country with a burgeoning number of automobiles on the roads, CNA-Q’s Advanced Care Paramedicine program is proving to be a life saver—literally. These programs, coupled with an ever-expanding array of key partnerships in the healthcare sector, are just a few concrete examples of how CNA-Q is leading the way in applied learning that makes a difference.

In Qatar, close to 17 percent of the population suffers from diabetes, solutions for managing the condition are being developed through CNA-Q’s Advanced Diploma in Diabetes Management. In a country with a burgeoning number of automobiles on the roads, CNA-Q’s Advanced Care Paramedicine program is proving to be a life saver—literally. These programs, coupled with an ever-expanding array of key partnerships in the healthcare sector, are just a few concrete examples of how CNA-Q is leading the way in applied learning that makes a difference.
ORAL HEALTH WEEK

Oral Health is an important health determining factor in Qatar, and is linked to cancer and diabetes. The rise of dental issues in the population has been a concern for medical leaders in the country, and so the importance of education and good treatment has grown. For the fifth year, CNA-Q joined forces with other partners of Qatar’s National Oral Health Committee to promote better oral health practices to the public. This included demonstrations on campus on how to brush and floss properly. CNA-Q’s School of Health Sciences is the only post-secondary institution in the State to offer a Dental Hygiene diploma program. The College’s program graduates Oral Health professionals who specialize in prevention of oral disease by providing clinical and therapeutic services and education to the population.

HEALTH M.O.U.’S SIGNED

CNA-Q continues to solidify its connection with the health care community in Qatar with the signing of two important Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Aspetar, the leading specialized orthopedic and sports medicine hospital in Qatar, and CNA-Q signed a clinical training agreement to offer the use of the required training facilities for CNA-Q students studying several specialty programs, including Pharmacy Technician, Medical Radiology and Respiratory Therapy. In addition to the MOU with Aspetar, CNA-Q also signed an MOU with the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC). PHCC operates 21 primary health care centers across Central, Western, and Northern Qatar. The MOU with PHCC will allow CNA-Q students to obtain clinical training and practical experience in the provision of health care and patient care services during the course of their studies.

SIMULATION AMBULANCE GIFTED BY HAMAD

Experiential learning is key to the success of CNA-Q students, particularly in areas of Health Sciences. Fortunately, we have environments that provide realistic simulations for applied learning.

A great example of this is the use of a simulation teaching ambulance so our Advanced Care Paramedicine students can experience life on the front line. Last year, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) generously donated an ambulance to the College. The Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Irene O’Brien, accepted the keys to the ambulance from Mr. Ali Darwish, CNA-Q graduate and Senior Operations Manager of HMC’s Ambulance Service (HMC-AS). CNA-Q will use the ambulance for simulation training in its world-class Advanced Care Paramedicine program.

CNA-Q TRAINED HEALTH PROMOTERS JOIN SIDRA

Sidra Medical and Research Center (Sidra) recently introduced its first group of Qatari health promoters. The six promoters joined Sidra’s Health Promotion team after having completed their Postgraduate Diplomas in Healthcare Promotion from CNA-Q. The health promoters, whose postgraduate education was sponsored by Sidra, will be working closely with registered health professionals and key partners in Qatar. They will contribute to the planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of community health and wellbeing programs in the country. The health promoters have already started to work closely within the community.

“CNA-Q continues to solidify its connection with the health care community in Qatar”
One of the key events that keeps growing in stature at CNA-Q is the Al Ruwad Regional Business Case Competition. Competitions like Al Ruwad provide students with an opportunity to challenge themselves and test their ability to manage complex business issues, and work within tight deadlines to come up with innovative solutions to simulated business problems. This is the type of co-curricular activity that provides experiential learning opportunities for our students.

This past year, the four-day event saw 11 teams competing – nine local and two from Saudi Arabia. The event was sponsored by Doha Bank. For the second year in a row we were pleased to welcome Mr. Abdullah Asad Al-Asadi, Executive Manager of Customer Relationship Management, Shareholder Affairs, Private Banking and Wholesale Banking with Doha Bank to be our keynote speaker at the awards luncheon.

Many successful business ventures are rooted in strong partnerships, and bonds that are forged from open communication and trust. At CNA-Q we are forging those relationships with some of the biggest names in the world of Qatari business and industry. From oil and gas, to banking, to high finance, CNA-Q is reaching out and engaging with business and industry giants to ensure our students learn from the very best in order to see what it takes to make it in the competitive business world in the 21st century.

As any business person will tell you, the best way to learn is through real world experience. At CNA-Q, we create opportunities to replicate authentic business experiences so our students leave CNA-Q with more than the theories of business, but also much of today’s best practices.

CNA-Q was honoured to host several VIPs and dignitaries last year, but one visitor who stands out was Yousef bin Jassim Al-Darwish. The extraordinarily successful businessman was on campus to share some tips with business students. The question-and-answer style format is part of the School of Business Studies’ effort to inspire students by providing them the opportunity to hear from successful business professionals who have built today’s Qatar. Al Darwish United Company was established in 1994 as part of a family business set up in 1935. Yousef Al-Darwish took over as chairman that same year. The company has grown into a massive conglomerate with interests in construction, industrial supply, travel, real estate and media. Students were inspired by Mr. Al Darwish and his message of start at the bottom, think, and work hard.
QUICK STARTUP WINS

CNA-Q put on an impressive display at an event hosted by Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q). Quick Startup 2016, a competition sponsored by Qatar National Bank (QNB), saw 60 students from post-secondary institutions in Qatar develop business plans. The students are mentored by industry experts, college professors and Qatari business incubators. The event is intended to promote entrepreneurial skills in the country. CNA-Q teams captured first and third place! Aisha Al Derhim shared first place with a team from Qatar University, while CNA-Q’s Farnaaz Khan, Khadija Salim, Mohammed Zameel Zubair, and Seham Abuhuzeimah captured third place.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

As another example of how CNA-Q partners with business and industry stakeholders to enrich students’ educational experiences, QAPCO helped to co-host a very successful Women in Leadership event. The day-long event was attended by an impressive number of CNA-Q students, alumni, and staff and featured one of the most successful women in the region as the keynote speaker, Buthaina Al Ansari.

Ms. Ansari is the Founder and Chairperson of Qatariat T&D Holding Company and a Senior Human Resources Director at Ooredoo. She serves on the boards of the MENA Business Women’s Network and the Qatar Business Women’s Association as well as serving as an ambassador for Women Leading Change Qatar and as a Mentor in the Qatar Professional Women’s Network Circle.

Ms. Al Ansari talked about her remarkable career and how female leaders are changing Qatar. She also offered the young women in the audience strategies for forging successful careers.

CNA-Q AT ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

CNA-Q proved its mettle at the 2015 Shell-Bedaya Enterprise Challenge. This competition sees student teams pitching their new business concepts to expert judges and being scored based on the viability of the concept and its entrepreneurial creativity.

A group of five CNA-Q students captured top prize at the competition, beating out 17 other teams from neighbouring universities. This was the third year CNA-Q has had teams compete in the State finals and we’ve been steadily moving up the leader board. The winning team of Karam Al-Jaradat, Mohamed Ali, Mahnoor Mirza, Abdelrahman Fahoum and Haleema Raja (otherwise known as Team “El Classico”) took home a cheque worth 20,000 QR. The money was put toward the funding and implementation of their business idea on campus.

“... it is our responsibility to share the expertise we have learned over the years, for the next generation of leaders in Qatar.”

Yousef bin Jassim al Darwish
Entrepreneur and Businessman
The best gauge of the success of any educational institution is the performance of its students. By this measure, CNA-Q would arguably be at the head of its class. Our students consistently achieve impressive grade point averages, and the ever increasing numbers of graduates successfully transitioning to the workforce or higher education points to a successful blend of a relevant Canadian technical education curriculum, delivered by experienced instructors in an applied and supportive learning environment.

Our students consistently prove they can compete academically with the best in Qatar. However, the impact of their CNA-Q education goes beyond the success they have here at the college as is evidenced by their success at transitioning to the workforce and attainment of higher education credentials.

After almost 40 years as an educator, I still feel joy and pride watching graduates cross the stage. It was an especially proud moment to watch last spring as 547 graduates - our largest contingent ever - made their way across the stage at Qatar National Convention Centre. Guest speaker Rashid bin Ali Al-Mansoori, CEO of Qatar Stock Exchange, urged the graduating class not to fear failure, because it can be the first step to success. Some of the loudest applause of the evening came as Minister of Advanced Education and Skills for Newfoundland and Labrador Hon. Gerry Byrne, announced that CNA had been granted the authority to offer degrees, which also opened the door for CNA-Q to explore offering an applied bachelor’s degree - a credential long awaited by our students and stakeholders.
Not unlike many former CNA-Q students, the main memory that resonates with Abdulla Hamad Al-Thani about his time at CNA-Q is the quality of the instruction he received while attending the College. Abdullah graduated from CNA-Q in 2009 with a Business Management – Accounting diploma. When asked whether any instructors stand out, his only concern about answering the question was the possibility of leaving someone out.

One of the first people Abdullah met at CNA-Q was Career Centre Coordinator John Fowler. Abdullah credits John with helping him understand why accounting was the proper choice for him. "Accounting sounded like the thing I liked the most - I had no idea it was the most challenging at the time," said Abdullah, who went straight from CNA-Q to a job as an internal auditor with Qatar Foundation. "I did very well my first semester and the following semesters."

Indeed, Abdullah, who was self-sponsored during his time at CNA-Q, did very well. He was the winner of the 2005-2006 overall Highest Achiever Scholarship and the 2006-2007 School of Business Studies Highest Achiever.

"It was really nice. And as a result of getting that award I was given a scholarship, which covered the cost of me being in the College," said the 38-year-old. "I didn't set a goal of getting the highest grades specifically. The main thing for me was learning and doing the best I can."

Abdullah began his academic career studying Engineering at a big American university, but when things didn't work out he decided to give CNA-Q a try, and is glad he did. "Some of the classes at university were in big lecture halls where they went over the subject material as a general discussion, but did not get into it deeply," he said. "At CNA-Q the class sizes here were smaller. The instructors were always willing to meet with you, discuss things, and assist you. They also made lots of adjustments in the curriculum to reflect the local business environment."

As for his overall experience at CNA-Q, Abdullah stressed it was second to none. "If you are looking to study accounting, to the best that I know, there is no other place in Qatar to study accounting properly," he said with pride. "With CNA-Q, at least for business, I can't speak for other majors, but I suspect it is the same, the knowledge you get is what you get to use immediately in the workplace."

**CNA-Q ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MEET ABDULLA HAMAD AL-THANI**

**AWARDS NIGHT CELEBRATION**

The superior job being carried out by CNA-Q instructors is on display every year at the Rewarding Excellence Awards Night, and last year was no exception. In December, the Rewarding Excellence Awards Night saw 101 students, who achieved a Grade Point Average of 4.0, entered into the Honour Society. I am pleased to note that the cumulative averages of the award winners for the year were higher than the year before. For the second year, the awards ceremony was sponsored by our partners, ORYX GTL. ORYX GTL offered four very special awards to students who demonstrated academic excellence as well as a commitment to leadership, entrepreneurship, sport, or health and wellness. Other awards presented during the ceremony included the Highest Achiever Scholarship, which was presented to Business Management - Accounting student, Farnaaz Safdar Khan, for the second year in a row, to acknowledge her 97.3 per cent weighted average.

**ORYX GTL PRESIDENT’S AWARDS**

CNA-Q’s best and brightest were honoured at the ORYX GTL President’s Medal for Academic Excellence Awards. The medals were presented to 30 graduating students who received the highest marks in their individual programs. Of those honoured, 12 achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Guest speaker Sami Al Shammar, IT and Telecommunications Manager at ORYX GTL, said his company is honoured to be associated with the awards and with such high achieving students. In addition to the medals, four Distinguished Graduate awards were presented to students who not only exemplified academic excellence but also excelled in extracurricular activities. One student was chosen for this honour from each of the academic schools at the College.

"All of the students who received awards demonstrate the commitment, drive, desire and abilities to succeed. These qualities will serve them as leaders of tomorrow, as each and every one has a crucial role in helping Qatar achieve the National Vision 2030."

*Writers of the students who received awards demonstrate the commitment, drive, desire and abilities to succeed. These qualities will serve them as leaders of tomorrow, as each and every one has a crucial role in helping Qatar achieve the National Vision 2030.*
As the premier centre for applied learning in Qatar, we are always looking for new ways to engage our students. So when the Library introduced the concept of ‘Makerspaces’ it sounded like a perfect fit.

Makerspaces are a community-driven space where people can gather to create, invent, and learn and encourages the use of new technologies. The CNA-Q Library and the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ) Learning Commons collaborated to create a ‘pop-up’ makerspace on CNA-Q’s campus during the annual CNA-Q Skills Competition event which was attended by students from both institutions.

Makerspaces teach students practical skills in an active learning environment. Makerspaces activities can serve as inspiration for multidisciplinary, experiential learning as well as support curriculum.

With support from the Marketing and Public Relations Department, Library staff were able to procure funds for equipment and supplies to host pop-up Makerspaces on campus for the 2016 Skills Competition. Activities included using technology to make fruit ‘play music’ as ‘keys’ on a piano, and engineering a model Roller Coaster.

Since then Makerspaces have popped up at several departmental workshops as well as the fourth Annual Teaching and Learning Conference (partnered with the University of Calgary in Qatar) in May 2016. The idea caught on and the Library, School of IT, and Advanced Learning Technologies Centre (ALT) partnered to host a CNA-Q booth at the 2016 Qatar Education Conference, in order to showcase the Skills in Schools initiative.

Future projects include the unveiling of the permanent Digital Media Lab in the Learning Commons where students can work on and create digital projects, as well as a 3-D printer partnership with the on-campus ALT Centre.

PROGRAM DEVELOPED WITH QATARIS, FOR QATARIS

Over the past year, a number of CNA-Q teams have been immersed in program development for a ‘made in Qatar for Qatari’ Technician Certificate Program (TCP). The program is a joint initiative between the College and energy and industry leader, Qatar Petroleum. This type of collaborative effort exemplifies how Qatar’s industry and education sectors can work together to develop a highly qualified labour force. The program will see students graduate with a CNA accredited certificate-level credential. A great deal of time and effort was spent developing curriculum, reviewing and updating technical shops and real-world equipment, integrating engaging educational technology, and revising our systems and processes, in order to make the new program a success.

Educational Innovation

‘Innovate’ is defined as “bringing in new methods and ideas.” This accurately sums up what CNA-Q has been doing since it first opened its doors in Qatar in 2002. CNA-Q innovation began with the original pioneering partnership with the State, and subsequent partnerships with stakeholders such as Qatar Petroleum. The notion of having a co-ed campus was innovative and bold, particularly in 2002. CNA-Q instructors, academic leaders, and academic support units consistently incorporate “new methods and ideas,” and new technologies such as our Learning Management System, D2L, to produce a world-class teaching and learning environment that is creating graduates who are prepared to assist Qatar in achieving its National Vision 2030. One of the mainstays of the College is the commitment we have made to innovation in the classroom by ensuring that teaching and learning practices will develop 21st century skills in our learners.

These skills transcend classroom learning to encompass leadership skills, critical thinking, and capacity for lifelong learning.
ENGAGING EDUCATORS ON INSTRUCTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

CNA-Q and University of Calgary Qatar (UCQ) joined forces to host a valuable Teaching and Learning conference. The two-day conference was themed, "Engage: Teaching and Learning in Higher Education". Over the course of the conference, more than 125 participants from a variety of sectors exchanged ideas on innovation in post-secondary education, and ways that educators in Qatar could improve teaching methods, specifically in a higher education setting. Several presenters focused on demonstrating how teaching innovations and theories could be applied to various specific classes, while others shared ideas aimed at increasing reading and writing levels and better managing student progress. University educators, researchers and students from UCQ, CNA-Q, WCM-Q, Sidra Medical Research Centre, Qatar University, and Doha Community College participated in the conference.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING AT THE QATAR INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR (QICF)

The CNA-Q booth drew a big crowd at QICF in 2015, with many high school students interested in learning more about each of the four schools represented. The booth stood out because it incorporated an engaging selection of hands-on activities that demonstrated the kinds of interesting careers that one can pursue at CNA-Q, and CNA-Q's engaging experiential learning. During the three-day fair, hundreds of potential students dropped by the CNA-Q booth to learn more about the College and to interact with applied learning demos as diverse as IT and Business Apps, simulations of Health interventions like CPR, and access to a 'virtual reality' welding machine. Our booth was visited by the Minister of Education and Higher Education, H E Dr Mohammed Abdul Wahed Ali Al Hammadi, who not only tried his hand at the welding demo, but showed an immediate aptitude for this hands-on activity.

SKILLS COMPETITION

The Skills Competition at CNA-Q continues to be a major event for students, proud to display what they have accomplished and learned during their time at CNA-Q. The 7th annual Skills Competition, sponsored by Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) and Maersk Oil Qatar, saw more than 600 students engaged in fierce but friendly competition in 38 categories in the college division hosted by Business Studies, Engineering Technology, Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Language Studies and Academics.

For the first time, CNA-Q partnered with high schools across Qatar so that over 100 secondary students could also join the competition. There were 15 Competitions in the high school divisions hosted by Engineering/TPP and Information Technology. Activities like the Skills Competition are important to engage students in TVET activities and build the prestige of this important sector. A group of CNA-Q students later traveled to Canada to observe the Skills Canada Competition.
CNA-Q is like a second home for many of our students and alumni, and they go above and beyond in celebrating this connection through exuberant participation in sports, special events, and student gatherings. They also show this connection by coming back - to see each other and to re-connect or to share their talents, energy and gained knowledge in the community. This is the true strength of a College - to act as one and give back to one another.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

As part of the College’s efforts to educate young people about breast cancer screening and prevention, CNA-Q hosted a breast cancer awareness event. The theme of the week was “Knowledge is Power.” Close to 300 school children from the former Qatar Canadian School were on hand to help us construct a human breast cancer ribbon on our football pitch, and breast cancer survivors shared their stories of courage. I was honoured to officially open the week’s activities – alongside instructor Sandee Thompson, a two-time breast cancer survivor.

TALENT SHOWCASED AT MAWAHEB

There is an incredible breadth of talent at CNA-Q. Academic talent, athletic talent, leadership talent, and at Mawaheb, talent of a different, but no less important, sort. Talent in poetry, singing, dancing, comedy, and playing a variety of instruments. Mawaheb is a showcase of CNA-Q performing talent, but also a showcase of CNA-Q teams working together to make an event successful, and young people supporting each other, enjoying each other’s traditional or contemporary talents, and, ultimately, enjoying each other’s company and growing personally and professionally in a multi-cultural, multi-national, multi-talented, campus environment. All in all, a very enjoyable way to spend an evening. And an excellent opportunity to recognize the extra-curricular talents of our CNA-Q student body.
NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

The CNA-Q campus was festooned in maroon and white for National Day at the campus. Dr. Latifa Al-Houty was back on campus to help lead the parade and enjoy the day’s activities. For the first time ever, CNA-Q partnered with the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) for the celebration. NMoQ brought several displays, including artwork that showed the growth in the Doha skyline and booths that depicted the history of Qatar and the evolution of the Qatari flag. The march around campus, which also included Miss Hissa Al-Aali and other members of the CNA-Q Executive, was followed by a sampling of delicious traditional food while local schoolchildren entertained the hundreds of people in attendance with dance performances. The stars of the show were, of course, our dynamic students who were on hand to share the CNA-Q story.

TERRY FOX RUN

Canadians and Qatars are known for their spirit of generosity. One of the highlights in this capacity is the annual Terry Fox Run in Qatar. An estimated 650 people turned out to run, walk, and ride all sorts of wheeled creations in order to support cancer research. More than 32,000 QR was raised from cash donations. Terry Fox was a Canadian athlete, humanitarian, and cancer research activist. In 1980, with one leg having been amputated, he embarked on a cross-Canada run to raise money and awareness for cancer research. Cancer claimed his life before he could complete his run, but his legacy continues to inspire benevolence throughout the world and millions have been raised for cancer research in his name. He specified that all proceeds raised in his honour must stay in the community where they are raised. Since 2004, The Terry Fox Run in Qatar has raised 1,000,000 QR for cancer research that remained in the State.

SOUK AREEJ MIN BALADI

In a truly unique celebration of the concept of home, or multiple homes in this case, CNA-Q’s multicultural pride was on display as we hosted the first ever Souk Areej min Baladi. More than 3,000 visitors converged on our beautiful campus to experience the sights and sounds of large Qatari and Canadian pavilions and also at booths featuring the homelands of 19 different nationalities. As always, the debka was the hit of the night, but the music and dancing at the first Latin America pavilion was a very close second. There were nothing but positive comments from the ambassadors and other representatives from Embassies who attended.

TAWASUL WELCOMES 400 STUDENTS HOME

The nurturing of a strong relationship with alumni is important for any post-secondary institution, and CNA-Q is no exception. That is why it was especially gratifying to see close to 400 people in attendance at our third annual alumni networking event – Tawasul.

Guests included CNA-Q alumni, members of the Qatar business and industry community, staff, faculty, and graduating students. The emcees for the event were two outstanding CNA-Q graduates, Ariba Ghani and Ali Al-Majid. The highlight of the glittering event were special video greetings sent from former students who were unable to attend because they are currently abroad, pursuing their degrees at various universities. All had the same story, great memories of their time at CNA-Q and thanks to their instructors for preparing them for this next challenge in their educational pathway.
SUCCESS THROUGH SPORT

It is not all textbooks and exams at CNA-Q. Athletics also make up an important part of the learning process and personal growth here at the College. The Female Falcons Basketball Team won the Sportsmanship Trophy at the 2015 HBKU Basketball Tournament. Quite an accomplishment when you consider that some of the women had never played basketball before! Olla Ali and Razan Saleh, both Health Science students, were also recognized as All-Star Players in the tournament. Not to be outdone, the men’s team placed third in the Hamad Bin Khalifa University Basketball League. The men also picked up the Sportsmanship Award and Mohamed Youssouf and Mahad Ahmed were named to the All-Star team. While placing in a tournament is fulfilling from a competitive standpoint, both teams winning sportsmanship and sportswomenship awards speaks volumes about the quality of CNA-Q students.

NEW SKILLS THROUGH STUDENT CLUBS

Our vibrant campus life is punctuated by the existence of numerous active student clubs. One of these is the very popular Photography Club, overseen by the energetic Beaver (Edward) Smith, who is also an Engineering Technology instructor at the College.

Beaver shares his love for and knowledge of photography with students, hosts workshops for both staff and students on how to improve photography skills, and brings in special guest speakers to share their insights on the subject as well.

As the former Dean of Student Affairs, Laurelee Kilgour, said in a note to Beaver earlier this year, “You have changed the direction for many students at CNA-Q. You helped coordinate photo exhibits of student’s work, donated your own work to Artmart... and we can’t thank you enough.”

The College is committed to students learning not only specific skills, but building their confidence and expanding their horizons, through many extracurricular activities.