

NEWSLETTER

Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education



The start of 7th Semester at Gawharshad this fall

Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education started its seventh semester this fall 2013. Gawharshad started its journey in 2010 with 120 students. After three years Gawharshad has travelled along way. Now Gawharshad has 1564 students. It has shown remarkable resilience: during this time it has not only enormously expanded, but Gawharshad has demonstrated to have the potential of becoming the leading school of social sciences in the country.

Since its inception Gawharshad has strived to deliver education that is relevant to the socio-economic needs of the country. The academic program at Gawharshad and its many other campus activities have been designed to train a future generation of leaders and professionals that are committed to the fundamental principles

of human rights, women rights and democracy. The institutional survival and expansion of Gawharshad is the reflection of society's positive response to the vision of Gawharshad.

Gawharshad has departments of Political Science, Law, Economic Management, Business Administration, and Engineering. The first cohorts of students will graduate in 2014.



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Dear Reader

You have in your hand the first issue of the *Gawharshad Newsletter*. The *Gawharshad Newsletter* will be published by the Office of Communications and External Relations at Gawharshad once every semester.

The newsletter will provide you with information about campus events, academic developments, recent achievements and important forthcoming activities at Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education.

We are looking forward to the criticisms, contributions, and cooperation from the Gawharshad community and our readers and friends elsewhere to improve the forthcoming issues of our newsletter and enhancing Gawharshad activities in general.

Thank you,

Office of Communications and External Relations
Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education

This Fall Gawharshad Internship Program will be launched

Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education will be the first university in Afghanistan to start an internship program for its students. The Gawharshad Internship Program has been devised to help Gawharshad students get work experience and enhance their capabilities to confront the challenges of the competitive job market in Afghanistan.

Nabi Khalili, a lecturer of economics at Gawharshad overseeing the program, states that "within a few years a large

number of youth would graduate from universities across Afghanistan. Thus, the job market will become even more competitive." He adds that "we at Gawharshad want our students to be a few steps ahead in meeting the challenges of the job market. We want our students to have the necessary work experience to be able to get their foot within the door."

Elham Gharji, chancellor of Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education says that "given the socio-economic needs of the

country we at Gawharshad want to be a carrier focused university. The Gawharshad Internship Program is an important step towards this direction."

Gawharshad has started contacting private companies and non-governmental organizations to seek their support for the Gawharshad Internship Program. Soon Gawharshad students will be working for reputable national and international organizations as part of this program.

Gender Studies Summer School 2013

Women's Empowerment Center at Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education [GIHE] has been holding Gender Studies Summer School. The Summer School began on August 24, 2013 and will continue until early October 2013. As part of this program, 36 half day sessions will be held, at the end of which regular participating students will receive certificates.

More than 40 students from various walks of life, such as university students, members of civil society organizations, government employees and many others, have been participating in these classes.

Several prominent gender studies scholars and women's rights activists are instructing these sessions. Manizha Wafeq, Shaharзад Akbar, Zakia Shafae, Yalda Royan, Sediqa Nawrozian, Nasima Rahmani, Elham Gharji and Wazhma Frogh are leading these workshops on several themes in gender studies, such as Gender and Development, Gender Analysis, and Gender Programming, Gender Budgeting, Feminism, Gender and Politics, and Women in Conflict and Peace Processes.

Gawharshad has held workshops and seminars on women's issues in Afghanistan in the past. Where many internationally renowned gender studies scholars have lectured.

Nasima Rahmani, director of Women's Empowerment Center at Gawharshad, affirms that given the paramount importance of women issues in Afghanistan, Gawharshad is working towards establishing a Gender Studies department; the current gender studies

summer school are the initial steps towards this goal.



Ms. Sediqa Nawrozian with participants of Gender Studies Summer School 2013

Diplomacy in Practice Seminars:

9 Foreign Diplomats Visited Gawharshad in first Semester of 2013

In the first semester of 2013 9 distinguished European and Asian diplomats visited Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education. Several ambassadors to Afghanistan spent hours with Gawharshad students and faculty. All these ambassadors delivered lectures to Gawharshad students and engaged with them in discussions about Afghanistan and world politics.

They all applauded the important work Gawharshad is doing in the field of higher education and in training a new generation of leaders committed to fundamental principles of human rights and democracy. The following is a list of the visitors to Gawharshad.

1. Ambassador Nils Haugstveit, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kabul lectured about Afghanistan and Norway's relationship.
2. Ambassador Han Peters, Royal Embassy of Netherlands in Kabul lectured about Netherlands policy in Afghanistan.
3. Ambassador Voygadas Usackas, Special Representative of European Union to Afghanistan lectured about EU policy in Afghanistan.
4. Mr. Alfred Grannas, Deputy Head of mission, EU special representative office in Kabul lectured about EU policy in Afghanistan.
5. Mr. Jonas Grans, Political Advisor of EU office lectured about EU foreign policy.
6. Ms. Anna Stege, Political Advisor of EU lectured about EU institutions with a focus on the functions of European Union parliament.
7. Mr. Onno Koopmans, Political Advisor lectured about the

courts and the legal system of the European Union.

8. Ms. Nasrin Hoseni, Swedish Embassy in Kabul and Ms. Birgitta Jansson, Swedish International Development Agency exchanged ideas with students about the future of Afghanistan and the role of the international community beyond 2014.
9. Ambassador Xu Feihong, People's Republic of China exchanged ideas about regional role of Afghanistan and its relationship with neighbouring countries.

Most of the above visits and lectures—that were titled diplomacy in practice—were designed to correspond with the content of a course in political science department about European politics. Mr. Elham Gharji, chancellor of Gawharshad, states that "Gawharshad will continue to expand and deepen its relationship with international institutions and will seek their support to expand the horizon of thought of our students through interactive learning methods."

Gawharshad Signs MoU with University of Technology Sydney

Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education has signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] with the University of Technology Sydney [UTS].

Based on the MoU, the UTS will provide academic assistance to Gawharshad students and faculty. The Gawharshad students will have access to online lectures and other academic resources; moreover, the UTS will support Gawharshad academics visiting UTS for the purposes of teaching, research, and professional development. UTS will also support two scholarships for Gawharshad students to study at UTS.

This MoU between the two universities is providing a venue for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and knowledge between the students and academics of the two countries.

This development is another important step in the direction of expanding Gawharshad's relations with other international academic institutions. In the past Gawharshad has established relationship of cooperation with five other international academic institutions, including Future Generation Graduate School, Indigo Foundation Australia, Culture of Resistance

Foundation in the USA, and Canadian Federation of University Women.



Public Events at Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education

In the first semester of the academic year 2013 Gawharshad organized three important conferences, where prominent intellectuals delivered keynote lectures.

1. *The development of political thought in Afghanistan, from Mahmood Tarzi to Syed Ismael Balkhi.*

Farid Bezhan, a researcher and scholar of political thought, delivered an important lecture on the history of the development of political thought in Afghanistan. A large number of students and academics participated at this event who also engaged with Mr. Bezhan in a discussion and exchange of ideas.

2. *Constitutional Movement In Afghanistan*

Dr. Askar Mosawi delivered an important lecture on the history of constitutional movement in

Afghanistan. He stated that the history of constitutional movement in Afghanistan dates back to 1909, which sprouted in several intellectual circles that were later repressed. However, this movement re-emerged in 1914, 1919 and 1964. Between 1964 and 1973 constitutional monarchy was established in Afghanistan, which is famous in the history of Afghanistan as the decade of democracy.

3. *Honouring the poetry of Qanbar Ali Tabish.*

This event was organized to celebrate the work of the renowned modern poet of Afghanistan, Qanbar Ali Tabish. Several poets and literary scholars such as Elham Gharji, Salar Aziz, Yaqub Yasna and Qanbar Ali Tabish talked at this event.

The conferences at Gawharshad are one



From left to right. Dr. Sima Samar, founder of Gawharshad; Dr. Abdul Qayum Sajjadi, President of Khatam-ul-Nabiyin Institute of Higher Education, and Qanbar Ali Tabish attending the conference on poetry of QA Tabish.

of the most popular campus programs. It always attracts students and academics from across the city.

Gawharshad Peace-building and Conflict Resolution Training

Women's Empowerment Center at Gawharshad with the support of United States Institute of Peace [USIP] has held 9 day workshop on Peace-building, Conflict Analysis and Resolution Training in June 2013.



Participants of the workshop on Peace-building and Conflict Resolution

The workshop covered major themes in peace-building and conflict resolution. Hodei Sultan and Hamidullah Nateq from USIP facilitated the workshops. Many government employees, members of civil society groups, students and academics participated at these workshops.