BALSAM ALSUGAIR

PROFILE

I am a strong advocate of human factors in design; especially in the design of electronic systems. Thus, I believe in designing systems and interfaces that conform to human capabilities to ensure intuitive and easy interaction. As such, I find myself interested in various Human Computer Interaction (HCI) topics. Furthermore, I am interested in designing systems and interfaces with strong ties to research and theories in psychology, sociology and education. I have particular interest in employing this theoretical knowledge to influence human behavior through the design of electronic systems.

EXPERIENCE

HEAD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, KING SAUD UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES – SEPTEMBER 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2024

I was fully responsible for running the department from all aspects; academic and administrative. The department currently has over 90 faculty members, 400 students and 5 administrative staff. I coordinated the department's schedule of courses offered and the assignment of said courses to appropriate faculty members. I also coordinated the assessment of our programs and lead the revision, if needed. I was also responsible for the adherence of our processes to the established accreditation standards as our department is ABET accredited and is in the process of applying for national accreditation.

ASSISTANT VICE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, KING SAUD UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES – SEPTEMBER 2018- AUGUST 2022

I was responsible for managing the academic affairs in the female section of the college. This includes: scheduling, exams, student affairs, student -led activities and various other duties relating to the faculty and students of the college.

GRADUATION PROJECT EXAMINATION COMMITTEE – 2018-2021

The committee is responsible for the evaluation of all of the graduation projects in the IT department; from the proposal phase up until the final product assessment. The committee's tasks include ensuring adequate and comparable scopes across all projects, identifying common evaluation criteria, ensuring fairness across projects (upwards of 25 projects in some cohorts) and providing recommendations for the evaluation process. I was an establishing member of the committee and helped set up the work flow and evaluation process. I became the head of the committee during the

last year.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, KING SAUD UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – 2016-PRESENT

I teach courses that are part of the department's B.Sc. program (e.g. Software Engineering, HCI, etc.). Teaching responsibilities included determining suitable material, delivering lectures and assessing learning. Also, I take part in the department's bi-monthly council meetings which make various decisions regarding department's and students' issues.

PHD STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM – 2010-2015

I was a member of the Mixed Reality Lab (MRL) in the School of Computer Science. As such, I attended and gave periodic talks on various topics of research. I also gave guest lectures in relevant HCI courses taught at the school, both at B.Sc and M.Sc levels. In addition, I participated in multiple courses aimed at developing teaching and research skills.

TEACHING ASSISTANT, KING SAUD UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – 2007-2008

I was responsible for running lab sessions for courses taught as part of the department's B.Sc. program (Visual Basic and Microsoft Word and Excel). TA responsibilities also included assessing learning through quizzes and practical examinations.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM – PHD IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, 2016

Thesis title : "Designing to Motivate Interaction between Peers in Learning Contexts", supervised by: Professor Steve Benford, Dr. Gail Hopkins, Dr. Elizabeth FitzGerald and Dr. Tim Brailsford. This Human Computer Interaction (HCI) research aimed to explore influencing users' behavior through the design of a system. The research included extensive examination of theories in psychology and sociology. As such, AnswerPro, a help seeking and provision system, was designed with the aim of motivating pupils to academically interact with each other. The system was developed using Python under the Django framework. AnswerPro was designed and evaluated thoroughly with end-users using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Quantitative analysis included complex statistical analysis of large datasets using inferential statistics (e.g. multiple regression).

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM – MSC IN INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS DESIGN, 2009

Dissertation title : "Teaching mental Models: Electronic Resource versus Traditional Learning Method", supervised by: Professor Sarah Sharples and Dr. David Golightly. Obtained degree with distinction.

KING SAUD UNIVERSITY, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA – BSC IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS, COLLEGE OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES, 2007

Graduation Project title : "University Registration System -URS" supervised by Dr. Sheroug AlKhalifa. I graduated ranking second on cohort; obtained degree with GPA (4.88/5) - First Class Honors.

RESEARCH

SKILLS

- organizing, conducting and analyzing the results of qualitative and quantitative studies with users; including questionnaires, interviews and focus groups
- organizing and conducting field studies both large scale (300 users) and small scale (20 users)
- completing reviews for research papers submitted to conferences and journals
- publishing and presenting research in distinguished conferences
- publishing research in academic journals
- Publications:
- AlSugair, Balsam; Hopkins, Gail; FitzGerald, Elizabeth and Brailsford, Tim (2014). AnswerPro: Designing to Motivate Interaction. International Journal of Mobile and Blended Learning, 6(4) pp. 22–38.
- AlSugair, Balsam; Hopkins, Gail; FitzGerald, Elizabeth and Brailsford, Tim (2013). AnswerPro: Designing to Motivate Interaction. In: Proceedings of the 12th World Conference on Mobile and Contextual Learning (mLearn2013), 21-24 October 2013, Doha, Qatar.
- AlSugair, Balsam, Hopkins, Gail, FitzGerald, Elizabeth, Brailsford, Tim (2012): Designing a mobile academic peer support system. In: Proceedings of the HCI12 Conference on People and Computers XXVI , 2012, . pp. 303-308. http:// dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2377957

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- analyzing data using descriptive and inferential statistical analysis
- carrying out complex statistical analysis on large datasets using regression and multiple regression analysis

COMPUTING

- advanced coding ability in Python, C, C++, PHP, Java, JQuery and HTML
- creating web-applications under the Django framework
- designing interfaces to ensure user-friendly interaction based on current HCI guidelines
- assessing systems' usability and accessibility

- designing and creating databases