

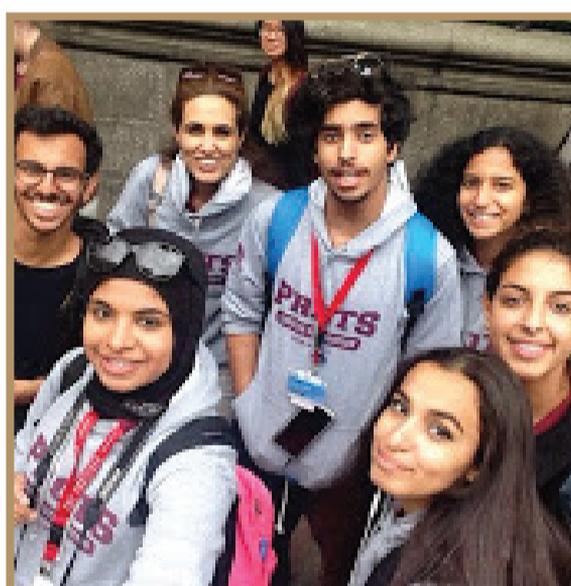


The Alumni Highlight is a monthly newsletter that aims to highlight the philanthropic, academic, entrepreneurial and professional achievements made by our thriving BBS Alumni community.

Rana AlKhaled was a student of BBS up to the invasion year. She graduated high school in Egypt during the Iraqi occupation year and went to Tufts University in the US to study and graduate in Economics and Political Philosophy. Rana is a co-founder and mentor in the Proteges Program, a youth training program aimed at promoting the culture of mentorship and guidance amongst the youth and training on awareness of personal strengths and the unlocking of individual potential in the context of values awareness and value based living.

### How did the idea for The Proteges come about?

The idea was Shamlan AlBahar's brain-child. His inspirational spark for this kind of program was in fact an incident where someone from the younger generation was unaware of a famous Kuwaiti football player and his achievements. This stimulus led him to speak to people like me along with the other founding mentors AbdulAziz AlAdwani, Yarub Burhama, Abdullah AlEssa, AbdulAziz Alloughani, Meshari AlMufarreh, Budour AlShbeli and Reem AlHuneidi to come up with and design an intensive youth training program and network, reliant upon a mentoring and highly engaging modus operandi.



### What are some essential soft skills that recent college graduates seem to lack?

According to my experience with the youth over the years, college graduates seem to lack the awareness of how best to take in and register this new phase of their life and how to approach it. The lack of a mentor in their life plays a role in this. Oftentimes, graduates feel at a loss of what they want and how to approach their career and how to handle the different factors that they think go into the decision of 'what should I do next and how do I do it'.



### What skill do you base most emphasis on in the program and why?

The program is designed according to a mosaic of awareness and skills training and mentoring, when put together the whole is designed to be larger than the sum of its parts. The pillar is awareness, and the tools are mentoring, creative and critical thinking, self-discovery, project and idea conception and execution, values and ethical training workshops. We expose the youth to the different fields from arts to business to science and technology etc., and we draw on local cases and expertise for relevance and role modeling purposes. Our international/travel component is an important part of the mosaic, making the linkages, exposing the proteges to international experiences, and driving through the learning that we are part and parcel of the global community and the tie of humanity is of the highest importance.

### Any plans to expand on the methodologies taught at The Proteges program to reach a wider audience?

The Proteges Program is always under rigorous review and we continuously work on improving it. A wider audience is one of our interests. We're about to graduate our 5th generation, putting our count at 120 graduates to date. We continue to ponder plans of how to reach a larger number in any given year, given the resources, and ensuring no compromise on quality.



To get in touch with Rana and find out more about The Proteges, please visit @theproteges on Instagram.

### We're on social media, tag along!

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