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Academic Periodical

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Contents

Dean Receives Award.....	4
Foreword by the Honorable Dean, Dr. Abdullah Al-Melhi.....	5
World and National Affairs	5
University and Faculty.....	5
Manni Majed Manni	7
Abdullelah Essam Makhssom	8
Mohammed Mofareh Mohammed Ahlaly.....	9
Osama Yayah Asiri	11

Dean Receives Award for Academic Excellence



Chief Editor, Dean Abdullah Al-Melhi (right) receiving an award for his contribution to literary and scientific excellence in the Kingdom from KKU President, The Honorable Falleh Al-Solamy.

Foreword by the Honorable Dean, Dr. Abdullah Al-Melhi

In The Name Of Allah
The Compassionate,
The Merciful

Dearest students, colleagues and readers, it seems like a lifetime ago that I wished you happiness during Eid in our 2020 Eid Edition. I am extremely grateful to Allah for granting me the opportunity to, once again, offer you greetings and wishing you and your family a blessed Eid Mubarak.

World and National Affairs

As we all know, the pandemic is still causing major problems in the world. As humans we have been forced to dramatically change our behavior to curb the relentless spread of the Coronavirus. Although Saudi Arabia has up to now been relatively successful in containing the rate of infections, we need to avoid dropping our guard. The current scenes of death and mayhem occurring in certain regions of the world should be a stark reminder for us to remain constantly vigilant. It remains our responsibility to try our utmost not to expose ourselves and our loved ones to the ever-present dangers of becoming infected.

A major occurrence since my last address to you in this magazine, has been the discovery of vaccines to help combat the devastating effects of the pandemic. Saudi Arabia has been relatively successful in procuring substantial supplies of vaccines to inoculate our residents. Although it is not yet compulsory to be inoculated, it is probably advisable for us to make use of the first opportunity which comes along. It is becoming obvious that freedom of movement will be directly related to having been labelled immune or not.

We must always bear in mind that the development of the vaccines has been a concerted effort by the entire world's scientific community. The primary aim of this combined effort is to protect humanity against the deadly effects of the virus. Our volunteering to be inoculated is an important factor in contributing to winning the battle against this deadly and constantly mutating virus. In this regard I am pleased to see that our beloved country is on track to return to normality, Insha Allah.

University and Faculty

Despite all the adverse conditions around us, the Faculty of Languages and Translation is extremely excited about the prospect of our Bachelor of Arts in English Program being on the verge of receiving international accreditation. Our Quality and Development Teams have worked extremely hard to come this far in our aim to become fully accredited. I am hopeful that we will achieve our goal in this regard before the end of 2021, Insha Allah. I sincerely thank all my colleagues who have

Mountain Top

Academic Periodical

worked diligently on this project for many, many months. Your dedication is much appreciated. We are also extremely proud of our Department's Masters' and Doctorate Programs, which are continuing to grow from strength to strength.

Although there has been a limited amount of on-campus teaching activities by departments which depend on practical learning activities, most classes have remained online. In recent times, both educators and students have obviously become more accustomed to online teaching methodologies and practices. We are however hopeful that the new academic year will allow us to return to our traditional on-campus classes. In my opinion, the physical presence of educators and fellow students in on-campus settings has many benefits which can never be duplicated by online teaching.

The ongoing closure of the campus has, unfortunately, negatively impacted on the operation of our Language Enhancement Program (LEP). Many of our top achievers in the English Department have benefited enormously from activities at the LEP. Even this Mountain Top Students' Magazine has felt the negative effects of being unable to source promising writers and orators from the LEP.

We are thus hopeful that conditions will allow us to return to normality in the coming academic year. In my discussions with the Mountain Top Student Committee in the past, I realized that they had many exciting competitions and projects planned. I am thus hopeful that the return of students to campus will reignite the enthusiasm which they had before this devastating closure of campus.

Finally, I wish to thank those colleagues who will be leaving King Khalid University this year. Your service and dedication will be sorely missed. We wish you every success in your future endeavors and pray that Allah will protect you and your families wherever you may find yourselves. In order to avoid irreversible problems, returnees must please ensure that they do so timeously.

May Allah protect and bless us all, Insha Allah.



Manni Majed Manni

Former Chairman of the English Writing and Media Society - KKU Alumnus

Dear readers,

I trust that you are all doing well and coping with the demands of our new reality. After graduating, I really miss university life. Like many previous KKU English graduates, I was planning to persue higher studies in America, Britain or Australia. However, even after gaining the needed IELTS qualifying results I have had to put these plans on hold until the world returns to some form of normalcy. After realizing that the wait for my much anticipated studies abroad could be longer than expected, I applied for some local jobs. I must say that being a graduate of English from KKU was a major credit in my brief search before successfully landing a pretty high level job. Because of my mastering of the English language, I managed to secure one of the senior positions of helping in the coordination of the COVID-19 Virus Test Program in the Aseer Region. Although this job with the Department of Health has much scope for a lifelong, stable career path in government, I still plan to leave Saudi to gain my Phd as quickly as possible.

Although I am a young man, the current pandemic has taught me that life is very unpredictable and short. We need to constantly focus on our aims and goals in this life. The sooner we can achieve our goals, the faster we will find contentment and success in this life.

I hope that you too attain the goals which you have set for yourselves, as soon as possible. Stay focused, remain safe.



Abdullelah Essam Makhssom
Chairperson - Alumnus

Dear fellow students,

After having been chosen to chair the Writing Club Committee last semester, I was quite excited to help to implement all the projects which we had planned before the campus shut down for students. We were planning to hold writing, photography, debating and documentary making competitions. We were also planning to interview prominent leaders on campus and in the broader Saudi society. However, not being in personal contact with other students on campus made these goals practically impossible.

This 2021 Eid Edition was supposed to have many articles but, due to the fast tracking of the final Exams, potential contributing students were unable to complete and submit their work. We are hoping that the coming semester will allow us to operate from campus again. Once we are physically present at the university, we will be able to continue to implement our growth plans for the Writing Club. I can assure you that I will try my best to recruit and motivate students to become actively involved with the club and its activities.

I really miss you fellow students and my dearest teachers. I hope you enjoy a safe and memorable vacation. Keep on writing, taking pictures and making videos during your holidays. Who knows, maybe you can become a winner of one of our exciting competitions planned for the coming academic year. Stay Safe.



Mohammed Mofareh Mohammed Ahlaly
Third Year Student

Assalamhualaikum Dearest Readers,

Since the establishment of the Writing Club, certain people have constantly encouraged me to "put my thoughts on paper", as the saying goes. I have decided to begin to attempt to share my understanding of the term and concept of "Success" in this article. I know that I still have a long road to go before my writing skills can adequately reflect my thoughts, but hopefully this will be my beginning of expressing my spoken ideas in print. Because of time constraints, this first attempt is very short. Hopefully, this initial attempt will be followed by a more comprehensive discussion of this introduction of my comprehension of "Success".

To me, "Success" is a way of life. It is not about material possessions. It is not about our appearance or image in the eyes of others. It is an internal phenomenon which can only be measured by the individual him or herself. Just like our physical bodies need food, water and air to sustain itself, the soul also needs to feed itself to become a "successful soul".

As I have mentioned above, the comprehension and measurement of success is a very personal, individualistic, and subjective act. Personally, I feel that we all need to constantly strive to reach spiritual heights which we have never reached before. This takes intense focus and dedication to a predetermined goal which we set for ourselves.

Mountain Top

Academic Periodical

As you obviously know, this topic is not a simple one. "Success" probably has millions of different meanings to different individuals. So, for now, I leave it there. I look forward to continuing my discussion about "Success" in the next issue. I was disappointed that Mountain Top's team of interviewers was unable to visit and interview me in my village.

I hope that the future bodes well for all of us, and I will be able to continue to share my junior philosophical thoughts with you in various media formats.

Salaam for now. Take care of yourselves.



Osama Yahya Asiri
Pic of our in-house photographer/videographer/ editor - Third Year Student
