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Academic Periodical



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Summary of interviews with The Dean, Prof Abdullah Al Mehli

The Mountain Top Newsletter's editorial committee recently held a series of interviews with our iconic Dean at his new office at the Al Farah Campus. A broad range of topics were covered, and we are grateful to have secured the opportunity sit face to face with this extremely busy educator. (See short edited clip of one of the interviews)

<https://youtu.be/hmkvn39saXs>

Introduction

The Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Translation, Prof Abdullah is truly an icon of dedication and perseverance. His life story sounds like a fairy tale, and it is easy for one to become enchanted by the unusual road that he travelled to reach his current, high-profile status.

Ironically, Prof Abdullah grew up in one of the tiny villages surrounding the new campus. Way back then, more than a half century ago, he helped his family with herding the animals, and other farm duties. Little did he know that he would one day return to this area as one of the most successful academics that Saudi has produced. Initially trained as an electrician, the young Abdullah later decided to divert his future towards becoming a fully-fledged academic. Through the years he travelled far and wide in his unwavering goal to improve himself. In recent years he has, together with a professional team of KKU English Department colleagues, succeeded in obtaining international, full accreditation for our BA courses. He has indeed set the highest goals and standards for our faculty, and KKU's English Department is still in the process of working towards attaining the highest international achievements possible.

Prof Abdullah encourages students to always set the highest goals for themselves. Without plans or goals in life, we may become directionless and fail to progress to a meaningful future. He also stressed that, whilst working toward those goals, we should not shy away from accepting any kinds of employment that come our way. All tasks and jobs should be seen as steps to climb enroute to our ultimate goal.

Challenges faced at the new campus

The Dean acknowledged that the transition to moving to Al Farah was inevitably bound to bring a host of challenges with it. But he is optimistic that, with a bit of patience, these teething problems will be overcome. He indicated that the president of the university is aware of all the challenges being faced and is eager to resolve all problems in the shortest time possible. Even the Prince is intensely eager to have the new campus, a major jewel in the crown of the Asir Region, fully operational.

Parking and Transport

Prof Abdullah said that he was fully aware of the huge number of students who are currently facing a major headache when it comes to parking. Once again, he encouraged students to remain patient. At some stage, as was the case at the Gregor Campus, on-campus buses will become operational. In the meantime, the Dean encourages students to enjoy the opportunity to walk from parking further afield and benefit from the exercise it affords. The Dean also advised students and staff to seriously consider the option of carpooling. More individuals travelling in a vehicle means less pollution, more parking spaces and fewer cars on the road.

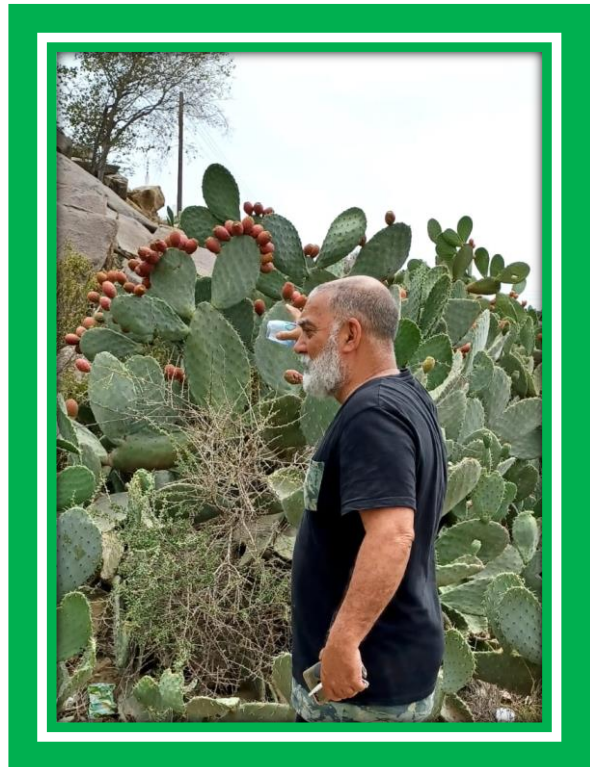
Summary

The Dean thanked the Mountain Top students' editorial board for their efforts to keep the publication operational, even through those dark pandemic days when it seemed that the whole world had come to a standstill. He emphasized that it was essential for more individuals to become actively involved in the affairs of the faculty. He especially mentioned the importance of staff members going beyond the call of duty and leave a legacy of their presence, after they depart.

May Allah guide and protect us, InshAllah

Thank You message from former coordinator, Dr Azaad Hayat

Farewell Saudi Arabia, Abha, King Khalid University and all your wonderful people. I have learned so much from you during this unforgettable phase of my life. I really miss your gracious hospitality and will try my best to share those lessons that you have taught me, with as many people as possible. I came for a year, with the intention to perform Haj. I ended up staying on for a whole 8 year. Thank you for accepting me as one of your own. If any of you wish to visit my hometown, Capetown in South Africa, do feel free to contact me on:



Email azaadhayat@hotmail.com

WhatsApp: 00966563953971 or

Phone number: 002712965897

I will do my best to advise you on how best to enjoy this beautiful part of the world in the safest way possible.

May Allah guide and protect us during this earthly journey of our souls

InshAllah.

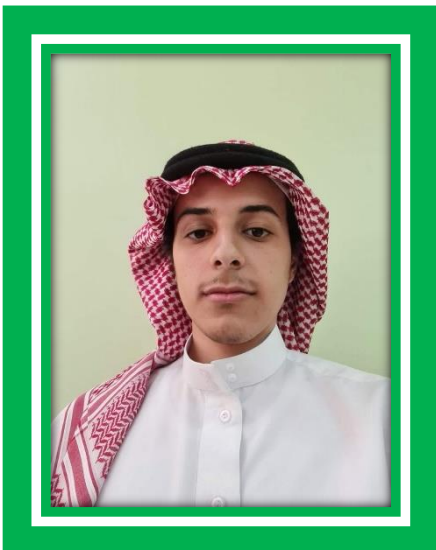
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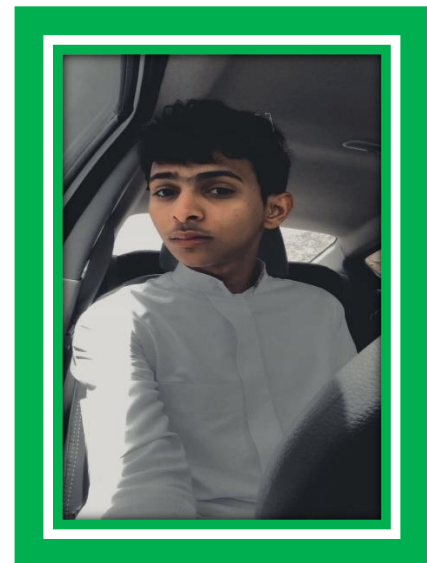
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