

**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

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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.