

Issue No. 12 - [Spring 2010]



FOUNDATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



A very proud moment for Qatar University's

FOUNDATION PROGRAM

5-year accreditation awarded the Department of English by CEA

التميز والبراعة

Congratulations!



Knowledge that is known only to a few can be used only by a few.
[Gloria Steinem – Issues Across the Curriculum – 1997]

A piece of information that is shared can go a long way. [bbc.com]



The Foundation Program English Department Mission Statement

The Foundation Program English Department is committed to developing students' English language proficiency to a level that will allow them to gain entry to and succeed in the academic programs offered by the colleges at Qatar University. The program also aims to help students achieve academic readiness by equipping them with skills such as independent learning, critical thinking and the appropriate use of information and communication technology as a learning tool.



Faculty and Staff with the President, Dr Khalid, Robert Kennedy and Teresa O'Donnell at the Accreditation Ceremony

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Editor's Note

Progress is a question of learning where to stand, when to move and where to jump.

On a happy note we congratulate the Foundation Program Department of English for being accredited for five years by CEA. The Department approached the accreditation process with skillful leadership and dedication on the part of faculty and staff. Together, we worked with heart and geared up to meet CEA' 52 standards, and to our joy and pride have eventually chalked up our first win of the on-going accreditation process. Our final award marks this as a hugely successful endeavor.

What has been achieved is a welcome educational shift, and we know the real challenges over the next five years. We shall continue pushing boundaries; focusing on the key teaching and learning issues to extend the frontiers of knowledge and skills needed by our students, and reinvigorating our performance to take it to the next level. We are glad that we have contributed our bit of the remarkable stride the University has made in promoting education, and it will be remembered as one of the most spectacular for years to come.

No wonder, the Foundation Program's bash on Monday, 27 September, at the Sheraton Doha Hotel was great and wonderful, an all-round successful celebration. Everyone was there to celebrate the historical event, and we were honored by the presence of the President of the University Professor Sheikha bint Abdulla Al-Misnad, QU VP and Academic Officer Dr Sheikha bint Jabor Al-Thani, CEA Executive Director Ms Teresa O'Donnell, the Dean of the Community College Dr Judith Hansen and the many other distinguished guests. We wish here to extend our thanks to all those at the University who supported and helped us. A special thank-you goes to the Director of the University External Relations, Ms Zeina Al-Azma, and her staff for making it possible for us to celebrate in style, by organizing the event in liaison with the Foundation Program and for helping with the designing and printing of the mini Accreditation Special Issue of the FP Newsletter.

Now having presented our credentials as a serious department and demonstrated that we are worthy of accreditation, we need to calm down after the ecstasy of the celebration and rock ourselves to climb to the top of the hill and tackle a new ridge. In fact, the Department has already worked out a plan to review its instructional activities and services. However, we still have a long way to go; accreditation is an on-going process that leads to continual change and improvement.

AbdulMoniem



CEA Team with FP Director, Head of the English Department and the Accreditation Coordinator in the Engineering College Auditorium

ACCREDITATION

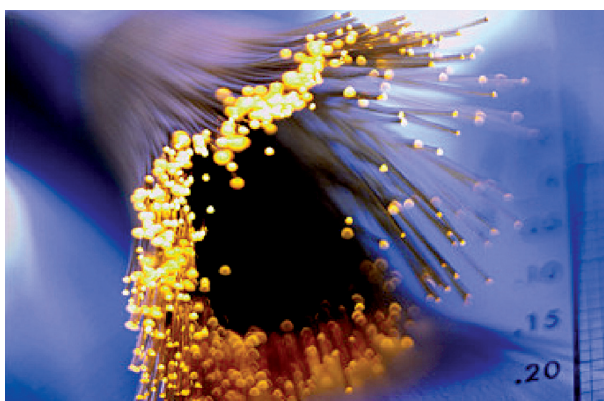
The Foundation Program Department of English Accredited by CEA **A very proud moment for Foundation Program Faculty, staff and students**

The Foundation Program English Department at Qatar University is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation, for the period April 2010 through April 2015 and agrees to uphold the CEA Standards for English Language Programs and Institutions. CEA is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accrediting agency for English language programs and institutions in the U.S.



Professor Sheikha holding the Certificate of Accreditation

On 27th September, 2010, the Foundation Program celebrated the event at Sheraton Doha. The event was attended by Professor Sheikha bint Abdulla Al-Misnad, the President of the University, CEA Executive Director Teresa O'Donnell, QU VP and Chief Academic Officer Dr Sheikha bint Jabor Al-Thani, Dr Khalid Al-Ali the Foundation Program Director, Mr Robert Kennedy the Head of the Foundation Program Department of English, Community College of Qatar Dean Dr Judith Hansen, FP faculty and staff, and guests from academic institutions and programs in Doha.



EXCERPTS FROM SPEECHES AT THE EVENT

Stephanie Pinnacle, the Foundation English Department Faculty Development and Accreditation Coordinator and Master of Ceremony welcomed guests and introduced the speakers:

Welcome to the Foundation Program Department of English Accreditation. We are gathered today to celebrate the accreditation of the Foundation English Program by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation, for 5 years from April 2010 through April 2015.



Professor Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad

We are here today to celebrate the Foundation Program Department of English achievement of 5-year accreditation awarded by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation. Today, CEA Executive Director Theresa O'Donnell is here to present the certificate of accreditation to the Foundation English Program. We are grateful that Terry is able to be here today. On behalf of Qatar University, we recognize the hard work and efforts of Dr. Khalid Al-Ali and his faculty and staff over the last 3 years and congratulate them on this success. This is, indeed, a great accomplishment. Accreditation is critical to educational

reform in Qatar as it will provide a stronger foundation for the success of our future generations in the global arena. The Foundation English Program is now part of a growing number of programs that have achieved accreditation at Qatar University. This is a major milestone in Qatar University's endeavor to achieve international accreditation for all of its programs. We are proud of the Foundation Program team and confident that they will provide an increasingly positive experience for our students.

Justin Richards

A lot of people outside and without the department worked extremely hard for a considerable period of time. They worked on committees, participated in focus groups, responded to surveys and contributed to a successful site visit by CEA. Coupled with this, program appraisal provided a road map for considered, organized and substantive improvement to the Program as a whole. The Program now has a completely revised curriculum, outcomes-based assessment and planning, clear policies and procedures and greater standardization. However, most importantly, all of this has made the Program more effective in meeting the needs of the students, and, consequently, in fulfilling the Program's mission to prepare students for entry to the colleges at QU. Accreditation is, in fact, a continuous process. The key aim of the program now will be to ensure we maintain, or even improve upon, the standards of best practice set out by CEA. In this way, students will continue to benefit from the cycle of self appraisal and development that is the cornerstone of accreditation.



Teresa O'Donnell



It is a great pleasure to be with you tonight to celebrate the accomplishment of the Foundation Program English Department in gaining accreditation by CEA.

In seeking accreditation, the English Department faculty and staff became involved in a rigorous process of internal and external review, which included

- an internal audit and submission of a self-study report based on the CEA standards in 10 areas, including those such as curriculum, administration, and student services,
- a 3-day site visit by a CEA trained peer review team, and
- a decision by the Commission, which granted 5-year accreditation, the longest period granted for initial accreditation.

The English Department conducted an exemplary self study in which most faculty and staff were involved in some way. Because the self-study report is posted on the Qatar University web site, I often direct new applicants to look at it as an example.

Program improvement and changes take place as a result of accreditation activities, but they are the beginning of a process of on-going and continuous improvement that is never over. I was pleased to hear that the English Department already has in place a system for an internal on-going review of its instructional activities and services based on the CEA standards. This will serve the program well in its annual reporting and eventual application for re-accreditation.

I have made several trips here to the University, the first of which was a workshop to help put the program on track for eventual accreditation. Many of you were here at that time. It is such a pleasure to be able to come back now at this time to celebrate and pay tribute to all of you who worked so hard to achieve CEA accreditation for the Foundation Program English Department.

Dr. Khalid Al-Ali

It is with great honor that I accept this accreditation award on behalf of Qatar University, the Program and our faculty, staff and students. The Foundation English Program is privileged to be among the most recent CEA accredited institutions worldwide. I would like to thank Ms. Teresa O'Donnell, CEA Executive Director, for her commitment to the success of this Program and appreciate her continued support.



Our program benefited immensely from the changes made to our curriculum, administration, facilities and student services to meet CEA standards. This accreditation reflects the continuing effort to raise the education level in the Foundation Program. It also reflects the importance of the English language and up-to-date resources and information for university students.

Obtaining accreditation confirms our commitment to follow the highest standards in teaching and to achieve Qatar's 2030 Vision by providing our future generations with quality education and the necessary skills.

I would like to acknowledge the support of other QU departments who provided information for our report. These involve the President's Office, the Vice President's Offices, Finance, Housing, Human Resources, Admissions and Students Affairs.

I would also like to thank the Head of the Foundation Program Department of English, Mr Robert Kennedy, Project Coordinator Justin Richards and the Accreditation Committee members, faculty and staff for their commitment and hard work. Last, but not least, I would like to give a big thank you to External Relations and our Foundation staff and students who are helping us tonight, for putting together such a wonderful event.

Today, we close one chapter, however, there are a lot of challenges ahead of us and further developments that we hope to achieve in the coming years to fulfill QU's Strategic Plan.

Congratulations to all QU & Foundation English faculty and staff for this great achievement and as the logo says "WE DID IT".

A Student's View of the Accreditation

Foundation Program student, Taimaa Janat, said to the Gulf Times Daily that accreditation means that the English courses have become more effective. "The students' English has improved and they have become confident and ready to start at their colleges."

Dr. Khalid Al-Ali presents gifts of appreciation to FP Department of English Faculty



Robert Kennedy



Justin Richards



Mark Watson



Kira Litvin



Roger Barlow



Pavel Tzenkov



David Ingels

The President of Qatar University and the Director of the Foundation Program present a gift to CEA Executive Director Teresa O'Donnell.



Stephanie Pinnacle



Amr Salah

The ACCREDITATION DINNER



at the SHERATON DOHA HOTEL



The ACCREDITATION DINNER at the SHERATON DOHA HOTEL



PROFESSOR SHEIKHA APPOINTED MINISTER

CONGRATULATIONS to Professor Sheikha bint Abdulla Al-Misnad, President of the University of Qatar, on the occasion of her appointment Minister, by HH the Emir. It is a well-deserved honor for Professor Sheikha, who assumed the presidency of the University since 2003. Since then she has been thoughtfully and diligently implementing an ambitious Reform Plan to innovate and develop the University. The University can now safely boast an international status for its solid and high-quality infrastructure, high caliber faculty and staff, innovated curricular and the use of the state-of-the-art technology, not to mention the tangible development of its students in achieving success both academically and in the workplace. The University has, so far, obtained accreditation from renowned international organizations, for many of its colleges, departments and programs, of which the most recent is the accreditation awarded the Foundation Program Department of English by CEA. Under Professor Sheikha's wise leadership, based on a culture of democracy, transparency, trust and accountability, the University has now become an institution of outstanding academic merit. Professor Sheikha is a pioneer of educational progress, and we are sure to witness more cycles of growth and development at the University in the forthcoming years.



CONGRATULATIONS!

DR. KHALID APPOINTED MEMBER OF COMEST FOR A SECOND TERM



In her letter to Dr Khalid, the Director of the University of Qatar Foundation Program, Ms Irina Bokova, Director General of the World Commission on Ethics of scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), said:

"Conscious of the valuable contributions you have made to COMEST's work, I am very pleased to invite you to serve for a second term of office of four years as a member of the commission.

I do hope that COMEST will be able to continue to benefit from your recognized competence and invaluable experience in the promotion of the international debate on the ethical issues raised by scientific knowledge and its uses. I look forward to receiving your positive response to my invitation."

DR KHALID THANKED THE COMEST DIRECTOR GENERAL for extending the invitation to serve for a second term: *"I would like to say that I am honored and would graciously accept this offer. I take pride in being a part of COMEST and very much look forward to working with such an esteemed organization and a dedicated group of people ready to take on these challenges for the good of humanity and mankind. Thanks once again for giving me this opportunity."*

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Qatar University Debate Club

Since its inception at the hands of a few dedicated former Foundation and Post-Foundation students, the QU Debate Club has represented Qatar University at local, national and international competitions. Under the supervision of their Faculty Advisors, Patrick Murphy and Ahmad Hazratzad, in the last 12 months, QU Debaters have participated in an international competition in Turkey, held two public debates for the benefit of Foundation students, participated in the Qatar University Debate League,

National Championship Competition, as well as in numerous local workshops and competitions. 2010 has been a special year for debates held in Qatar, as Qatar Debate hosted the World Schools Completion. Patrick Murphy and Ahmad Hazratzad were recognized with special plaques for their judging and volunteer contributions. Congratulations to Foundation Peer Tutor Bisher Al-Homsi who was placed among the ten best debaters in Qatar at the QUDL National Championship during his first ever competition. Following the QUDL national competition, the QU Debate Club has seen renewed focus under the direction of former foundation students and peer tutors Vahid Suljic and Jihad Labar, as well as the appointment of female officers Maheen Hyder and



Ahmad Hazratzad and Patrick Murphy with students at the 'Debates'

Natasha Niveditha, who are working hard involving more women in the Debate Club. We look forward to great events to come.



STUDENT TRIPS

Carmel Underwood, SS Student Trips Coordinator

It's been an exciting year for FPDE Student Services which experienced an increase in Student Trips offered this Spring 2010 term.



In March, we offered three trips. The first on

March 10th was a trip to Aspire Active Women's Fitness program. Thirty-three Foundation English students were taken on a tour of the Aspire Women's Ladies Club facilities and learned about the Gym Fitness Program, the BEAUTYFULL program, and a whole range of classes offered to members for improving fitness and health - classes such as Step Conditioning, Lift and Burn weight conditioning, Pilates, Yoga and more. Students saw the room where Pre and Post Natal education courses are held, as well as the Children Classes for mothers and children from infants through age 5. All of the students and their teachers had the opportunity

to participate in an aerobics class to experience the fitness benefits Aspire has to offer.



The second trip, on March 15, took a bus load of women students to Souk Wagif where students viewed a photography exhibition called, "My Father's House" organized by the British Council and the Qatar Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage and displayed at the Wagif

Art Center. The collection of photos and other artistic works by UK and regional artists focused on the architecture of the Gulf to show how this art form reflects the region's culture and heritage. Students received bags with tee-shirts and other memorabilia commemorating the exhibition.

The last March trip was an excursion to the Doha Zoo on March 22. Students took part in an information hunt competition. After choosing teammates, each team set out to be the first to find all of the information on the Doha Zoo Hunt form. Students had to search throughout the Zoo to find the answers to such questions as "How many toes does an ostrich have?" and "What is one example of an endangered species that lives in the zoo" Prizes were awarded to the teams who came in first and second.



AL JAZEERA FILM FESTIVAL

The annual Al Jazeera International Documentary Film Festival occurred during the week after our Spring break. Two trips were planned, one for the Men's Campus students and one for the Women's campus students. Participants had the opportunity to see documentary films in English produced by filmmakers from around the world. One remarkable film we saw called "The Sand and the Rain," is an independently produced film which chronicled the experiences of three Qatari men living among the native people in the Amazon rainforest in Columbia and three Columbians from this community returning a visit to Qatar.



PEARL EXHIBITION at the MUSEUM of ISLAMIC ART

The last student trips of the Spring 2010 term took the women's campus students to see the spectacular Pearl Exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art. Two trips, a morning trip on May 17 and afternoon trip on May 19 were arranged. Like the Doha Zoo competition, students formed teams and competed to be the first to return a Pearl Exhibition information sheet with correct answers. Challenging questions for these teams included finding the name of the "King of Pearls" and the country in which cultured pearls were first made. First place winners won a picture frame for their own memorable photos.

We have more ideas for an exciting itinerary of trips for the Fall 2010 term. Be sure to check the Student Service Blackboard in the Fall for the new FPDE Student Services Trips.



Calligraphy Activity

Students' Testimonials

Heshmi Hamadi

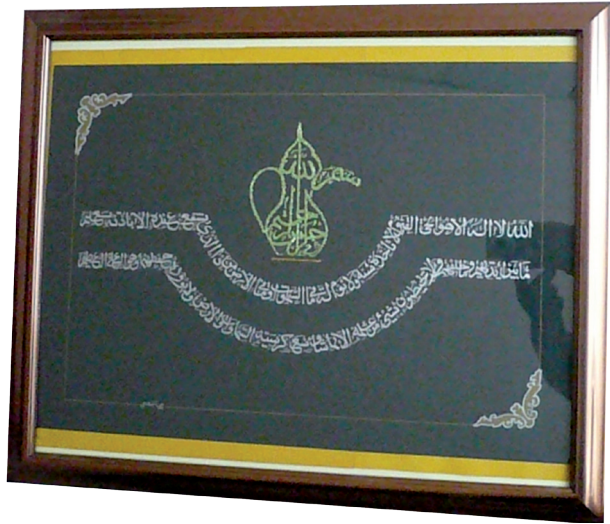
I love this activity because it is useful and it trains us to write in a better way. In my opinion, I prefer to continue this activity, because it gives me a lot of knowledge about the Arabic Calligraphy.

Mouna Fadel Abdulla (Level 2)

The word calligraphy literally means beautiful writing, but according to me it's not just beautiful. It's the way that I express myself. The calligraphy group in Qatar University is a place where the highest art form takes place... a place where you can find the magnificence of Islamic art...

I hope that this activity will continue and also expand so it can reach all the students.

Amena Rahma Hussein (Post foundation)



I was one of the students who joined the calligraphy group since it was started. Ever since I tried not to miss any session or lesson. Therefore I feel I have learned a lot about this extraordinary kind of art. It is so magnificent and it is so much tied to our Islamic culture. I think it is part of our culture and identity. I feel it is an activity that should not only continue but supported and consolidated.

Dana Al Saada (Post Foundation Program)

IELTS Practice Exams

Zain Al Moumen & Khalid Noamen

As part of the Student Services Committee's drive to assist our students to gain the language competency required for the appropriate IELTS score, IELTS Practice Exams play an important role. These exams have been running for four years now, trusted by our students as shown by their feedback. Students show up in big numbers to take the test, and keep coming back. The exam is administered in a test setting where students sit for nearly two hours answering questions similar to those of the real IELTS test. At the end of it, they are given the answer key to check their answers. It gives them a sense of direction to what their weaknesses and strengths are and what to do next.

Over the past two semesters, both Khalid Noman and I have been privileged to work with other teachers who supported our goal, and assisted us in running the tests. A very big thank you must go to the Student Services Committee coordinator Kira Litvin who supported us a lot. Another word of thanks goes to Lulwa and Mariam for booking the test rooms.

ASPIRE PRESENTATIONS

Victoria Howard

In March 2010, four representatives from Aspire visited Qatar University and delivered two 1-hour presentations on health and fitness to over 60-male and 50-female students who were in attendance.

The aim of each presentation was to instill the importance of attaining and maintaining good health with correct nutrition and exercise.

The presenters re-iterated the importance of cutting out foods containing fat and sugar from our daily diet and replacing them with fruit and vegetables and the importance of daily exercise.

Students viewed graphs with statistics indicating how obesity and one of its associated disease diabetes, was affecting people today, especially in the Gulf Region. The students were also informed of how they can become members of Aspire and of membership benefits.

Overall, the presentations were very educational and according to the positive feedback, were enjoyed by all.

LUNCHTIME CAREER TALKS

This semester student services held its first "Lunchtime Career Talk" on the 16th May.

The talk was given by Dr. Kerry Wilber from the Pharmacy Department, mostly to students who were either thinking of, or already preparing for, a career in Pharmacy.

Dr. Wilber explained the benefits of becoming a pharmacist and the countless number of career paths to be had from studying pharmacy; for example dispensing medication in a hospital or working in a clinic.

At the conclusion of the presentation, a question and answer session followed. Many of the questions were related to the actual study track for Pharmacy, which Dr. Wilber provided answers for, along with plenty of professional advice and guidance to assist the students in making informed career decisions.

QU Launches Paper Recycling Project

Gulf Times - 10/02/2010,
22:45

The Materials Technology Unit (MTU) of Qatar University (QU) has launched a paper recycling project as part of its goal to promote "sustainable protection of the environment".

[From campus Life]



THE MOVIE CLUB

Mary Lanaghan



Movie-Related Teaching Websites of Interest

- <http://www.teflclips.com/> - Lessons with YouTube clips
- <http://moviesegmentstoassessgrammargoals.blogspot.com/> - grammar using clips (from Ana Didovic)
- <http://www.eslnotes.com/> - detailed ESL materials for dozens of films
- <http://www.eslpartyland.com/teachers/nov/film.htm> - Teach with video & film
- <http://iteslj.org/Lessons/Tatsuki-Movie/index.html> - ESL/EFL lessons using film

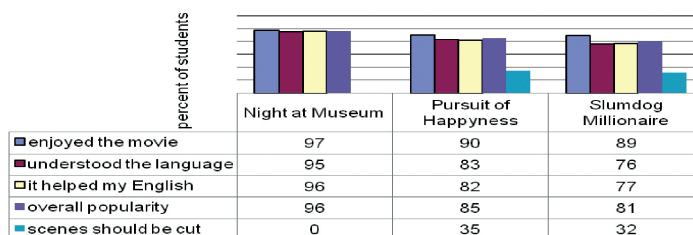
Movies are something people see all over the world because there is a certain need for it. -- Wim Wenders (1945-)

The men's movie lab showcased three films, each presented in two parts.

- **Slumdog Millionaire** is the 2008 award winner from Director Danny Boyle, who participated in the 2009 Doha Tribeca Film festival.
- **Pursuit of Happyness** (2006) inspires us with the true story of Chris Gardner and his son.
- **Night at the Museum** (2005) – When everything comes to life -- is a modern classic comedy with Ben Stiller.

According to the survey data, as shown, the overall favorite among students (once again!) appeared to be Night at the Museum.

Movie Lab Feedback Surveys
Men's Campus, Spring 2010



Suggestions for next year include **Cinderella Man** and **Collateral** – stay tuned!

Movie Teaching Tip: Pre-view with a YouTube cloze

WHAT: Watch a "trailer" of the film and complete a cloze worksheet, before watching the whole movie

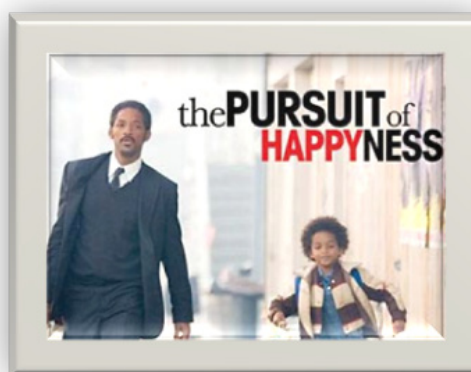
WHY: Trailers give key ideas and vocabulary for the film.

HOW: Trailers for many films are located at YouTube.com

Directions for students: Play the trailer for "Pursuit of Happyness." Complete the text and answer the questions. Play the trailer again to understand more and more.

Location of "Pursuit" clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xcZTtlGweQ

The worksheet and other movie-related teaching materials are located on the English Department Blackboard Community (Admin & Facilities/Teacher Resource Centre).



CLASS TRIP: MY FATHER'S HOUSE

Mahmoud Yacoub

Photos by Mohammed Alhajri

Teachers: Mary Lanaghan, Ali Ahmed Hussein, James Fitzgibbon



It was 9:30am on Monday 15-March-2010 when we met Dr. Ali and Ms. Mary at the QU Men's Foundation Building, and they told us we would go with our class along with Mr. James' class to "My Father's House" in Souq Waqif. From the first moment that we arrived, it was clear that we were facing a cultural revolution.

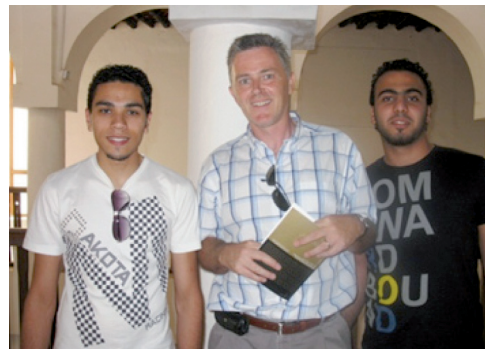


"My Father's House" is a major new British Council photographic project that has been travelling the Middle East during 2009 and 2010. It uses architecture as a theme to explore cultural heritage (history), and the photos show how buildings develop a nation's culture.



As we moved through the exhibition, the photos asked us: "How do we see where we live?" One of the attractive photos stopped me. This photo was by an artist, Boushra Almutawakil, from Yemen. Some of her photos showed old houses where she lived with her





family before. One of the pictures had a small kitchen with old equipment, and I wondered with my friend Yasser how poor people can live in a place like that. Camille Zachariah's section had beautiful pictures of Bahrain. His photos express the changing social and physical

landscapes of that island. My classmates, Khalid Mohamed and Mohamed AlHajiri shared their opinions about these pictures. One photo was of a doll in the desert. Khalid asked how the doll came to be in the desert. Mohamed replied, "Maybe there were children playing there." While we were moving through the pictures interestedly, the artist himself, Camille Zachariah, came in. He was generous and spoke with us about his pictures, and we took some pictures with him.

Then we asked about the artists, and the manager invited us upstairs. It was a surprise when we saw the artist Boushra Almutawakil and the other artists in their workshop. Every artist showed us how their work was done. After that, we were very happy and took pictures with all the artists.

Finally, we went down and filled in a survey, and they gave us beautiful gifts. It was indeed a wonderful visit and we thank the British Council as well as teachers Dr. Ali Ahmed Hussein and Ms. Mary Lanaghan, who arranged this wonderful and useful visit.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Presentation & Workshop by Fredricka L. Stoller and William Grabe

In February 2010, Dr. Fredricka Stoller and Dr. William Grabe from the University of Northern Arizona, USA, gave a presentation on L2 Reading and Reading instruction & Project-Based Learning.

The main target of the workshop was to provide a rationale for incorporating project-based learning into EAP classrooms, summarize the benefits of project work, outline different types of project work, and present an easy-to-use 10-step process for implementing project-based learning in classrooms for students at varying proficiency levels. Particular attention was paid to the steps in which attention to language is most appropriate for (and appreciated by) students. Specific examples of tried and true projects were reported. Throughout the workshop, participants will (a) reflected on the current



The Editor with Fredricka and William

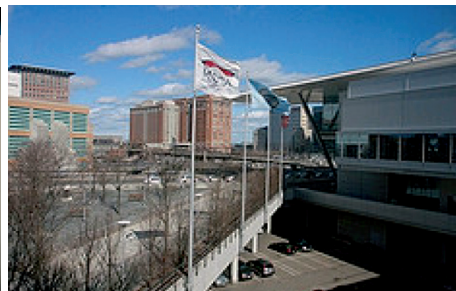
role of project work in the Foundation Program, (b) considered new ways of conceptualizing project work for their classes, and (c) generated ideas for enhancing their students' experiences with project work to better prepare them for the demands of future academic work.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Eileen Plumb

The theme of the 44th Annual TESOL Convention & Exhibition was Re-imagining TESOL. It took place in Boston, Massachusetts from March 24 – 27, 2010. Below are the descriptions of the experiences of some Foundation Program faculty who represented the QUFPDE there for the first time.



Tips for Using Social Networking Sites in the Classroom

Mary Whisenhunt

The first presentation at TESOL was Tips for Using Social Networking Sites in the Classroom. It was a short 20 minute talk on ideas for using Facebook, Twitter and various language exchange sites for academic and non-academic curricula. Sarah Martin and I conducted a follow up to this for a conference in May in Lebanon. This will be a workshop specifically designed for teachers in all sorts of language teaching settings throughout the Middle East. Hopefully, we were able to present a similar workshop geared for Qatar University English Foundation teachers in June that inspired them to use these sites in their classrooms.



The second presentation summarized the results of a year-long needs assessment survey of TESOL graduate professors and their students, from several universities in the United States. My colleagues from California State University and I compared and contrasted responses between native and non-native students as well as between professors and their native and non-native students. This study has implications for QU Foundation Department of English instructors as well as for Qatar University undergraduate and graduate students who wish to study in a university in the United States. The session concluded with a discussion about American university course requirements and the lack of preparation of many non-native students in meeting these.

Don't Wing It, Ning It!

Crystal Young

TESOL 2010 in Boston, Massachusetts, was a mix of professional development, idea sharing and networking. After I was selected to present at TESOL I decided to make the most of my time there, so I signed up for the Leadership Development Certificate Program (LDCP). TESOL offers some classes online, but the LDCP is a specific series of workshops devoted to one of two strands about leadership.

The first strand is called Leadership in Professional Organizations and is for TESOL members who want to become more involved in TESOL, whether that is at the local, regional, national, or international level. The second strand is called Leadership Development for Professional Growth for those who are interested in how to be a better leader in the workplace while in positions such as supervisor. TESOL members earn the LDCP certificate after completing 9 hours of workshops, 2 workshops of which are elective. In my strand of workshops I was able to network with fellow (previously unknown) English teachers living in Doha.



Because I was busy starting and completing the LDCP, I had little time to attend sessions. However, I did manage to attend a session about Voicethread, using blogs for reflective teaching, and ways to engage students in the pre-writing process. Toward the end of the week I gave my own presentation, which I had given at the January ELF. I was happy to also meet former colleagues and former graduate school classmates. It was a good week and I hope more of our teachers present and attend TESOL in the near future.

Arab EFL Learners: Making Reading Their Cup of Tea

Maggie Mieske

I was very proud to be a part of the delegation of colleagues who trekked off to Boston to represent Qatar University. Not only was it my first TESOL; it was also my first TESOL presentation. I couldn't have done it without the encouragement and support of my fellow action researchers: Joan Birrell-Bertrand, and Bob & Carmel Underwood, as well as the rest of the QU crew. I think we made quite an impression on the conference, with a large number of presenters, and a large number of would-be QU teachers stopping at the QU table to ask questions about the university and living in Qatar. Nettie Boivin and I had a great time volunteering at the table, meeting new people, and introducing them to "our" place.



Nettie Boivin

There is plenty to do at TESOL even if you aren't presenting. While not every presentation is of the same quality we have come to expect from our QU colleagues, there was much to learn from dozens of presentations, many books to carry home and many friends to be made. Joan, Bob, Carmel and I were very concerned about our late time slot on the last day of the conference.



Joan Birrell-Bertrand

I am happy to report that nearly 50 people showed up to see what we had to say about our reading action research. It is definitely a hot topic and many stopped us afterward to talk to us and ask for more information. I'm sure our other colleagues had similar experiences. TESOLers are a special breed of teacher and inquiring minds definitely want to know.

If you have never presented at or attended a TESOL (or any other kind of) conference, I encourage you to give it a shot. It is an experience that will help you grow personally and professionally. It was a long trip to Boston, but I wouldn't have given it up for anything! This quote by George Zalucki is what kept me focused on the research and the presentation: "Commitment is doing what you said you would long after the mood in which you said it has passe."

Social Responsibility: What & Why?

Amy Hamar

Having attended TESOL conferences in the past as a presenter, or simply someone who enjoys getting new, innovative, thought-provoking ideas about teaching and material development, I was not entirely prepared for this year's TESOL conference. The reason I underestimated my trip to Boston is this: I'm now sitting on the leadership council or one of the Interest Sections (which is exactly what it sounds like...a group of teachers who share a teaching interest), which meant that I spent all of my free time in Boston in meetings, learning about the organization, how it works, who prepares the conferences, and, most of all, what happens with the members throughout the year, between the conferences.



It was fascinating. Tiring, and mind-boggling, but fascinating nonetheless. I presented on two different panels, one regarding the what's and why's of including aspects of social responsibility in the classroom, and the other about creating materials using our students stories. I was presenting on behalf of a teacher in Palestine who could not, unfortunately, be at the conference to present her own stories and materials.

FACULTY MEMEBERS PRESENTING ABROAD

Foundation Program faculty members traveled far and wide across the globe during the 2009 – 2010 academic year, to participate in a variety of conferences, seminars and other events. Here are just a few of them.

Redefining Culture with Media and Materials

David Sallay

36th Puerto Rico TESOL Annual Convention: Ponce, Puerto Rico

After traveling all day I arrived in San Juan at 1:30 in the morning. I got a few hours of sleep before making the two hour drive to Ponce, Puerto Rico, to make it in time to give my presentation. I started by discussing the various definitions of culture, and suggested that it might be best to think of it as a spectrum, with individual interests on one end and society's interests on the other. I then briefly touched the topic of combating stereotypes, and ended with a review of different authentic materials that could be used to grab learner interest.



My session started right after that of the keynote speaker, who had run a little late, leaving me with less time, and as such my whole presentation ended up being somewhat rushed. Nonetheless, there was still a good number of people in attendance and I received several compliments. I spent the rest of the morning at the conference, but left at lunchtime, since there was a very long line and I was exhausted. I spent the rest of my free time wandering through the streets of Old Ponce and enjoying fantastic Puerto Rican cuisine, and ultimately got to spend an afternoon in the capital San Juan, before embarking on the equally exhausting trip back to Doha.



Presentation At Harvard University

Ahmad Hazratzad gave a presentation entitled "The Impact of EFL Teachers' Theoretical Knowledge" about Post-Method in their Classroom Practice at the International conference for academic disciplines, which was held at Harvard University, USA, May 31 – June 3, 2010.

Cell Phone Integration in Japanese

Schools

Fifth Annual Asia Pacific APPLE: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Nicolas Gromik

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), in collaboration with the Times Higher Education Supplement, launched the World University Ranking in 2004. QS also organizes the yearly international Asia Pacific Professional Leaders in Education Conference and Exhibition. In 2009, it was held at the Petronas Towers' Conference Center in downtown Kuala Lumpur.

The target audience for this conference was university administrators and researchers. The aim was to establish networks between universities to improve standards, cement partnership and collaboration. I was invited to present my research on technology integration in Japan. I also took this opportunity to expose some of my preliminary findings from Qatar University students' feedback. The first speaker spoke about social networking and the integration of Facebook to share university information. I followed by emphasizing the importance of social networking and the role that audio-visual resources will play in the future.



The presentation was well-received and I was able to get some suggestions for further research.

Teaching Made Simpler

Lassana Gassama



Oman ELT 10th Annual Conference: Muscat, Oman, April, 2010

My poster session was mainly directed to school teachers and new graduate teachers. It aimed to advise these teachers and make them conscious about their classroom practices, as well as highlighting seven crucial points that are simple to follow and can make teaching/learning enjoyable and rewarding for both teacher and learner. The seven points were:

- audience analysis (which helps to know the learners and thus avoid making too many assumptions as to what they know or are supposed to know)
- clarification of objectives
- preparation
- (teacher's) credibility and commitment
- building interaction
- handling questions/getting feedback
- testing and grading

From the encouraging feedback I got at the end of the 45-minute session, I feel I managed to contribute to helping the new teachers assimilate the concept of an instructor as a "reflective practitioner".

TESOL ARABIA

TESOL Arabia's 16th International Conference, Dubai from March 11 – 13, 2010.

The theme was Transformations in TESOL.

Optimum Performance in Professional Organizations: Beyond Effective

Jane Hoelker

In the discussion group that I led at TESOL Arabia in Dubai in March, we talked about inspiring optimum performance in a professional organization that is already effective, but could achieve much more. We discussed the benefit of listening to the contribution of every individual, because it takes 3,000 to 12,000 suggestions to create a successful new idea.

Next, the participants took a 45-item survey (adapted from the Coach U Organizational Development course materials)

to measure the degree to which their organization is blocked in nine performance areas, based on the principles of Organizational Development: clear objectives and goals, open confrontation, cooperation and trust, cooperation and conflict, sound working and decision-making procedures,



appropriate leadership, regular review, individual development and sound intergroup relations.

We also explored ways to leverage to the benefit of the professional organization (program, committee, chapter or affiliate) the truth that people change less because logical analysis shifts their thinking, than because they are shown a truth that influences their feelings (Kotter & Cohen, 2002). In his research, Kotter collected more than 130 narratives about successful change implementation in organizations in the workplace. We explored similar narratives from the English language teaching profession; I was amazed to discover that those from



the ELT profession matched almost exactly those Kotter described in his research in the business and manufacturing arenas. The power of these scenarios to motivate professionals (through “seeing” and then “feeling” the “urgency to change”) to do more than simply accept change - to engage in the change process offers those of us working in the educational reform area ample examples of successful actions to take.

Finally, the participants discussed ways to move past agreement or rule of the majority to the arena of cooperation, by aligning the team and integrating individual needs with its vision.

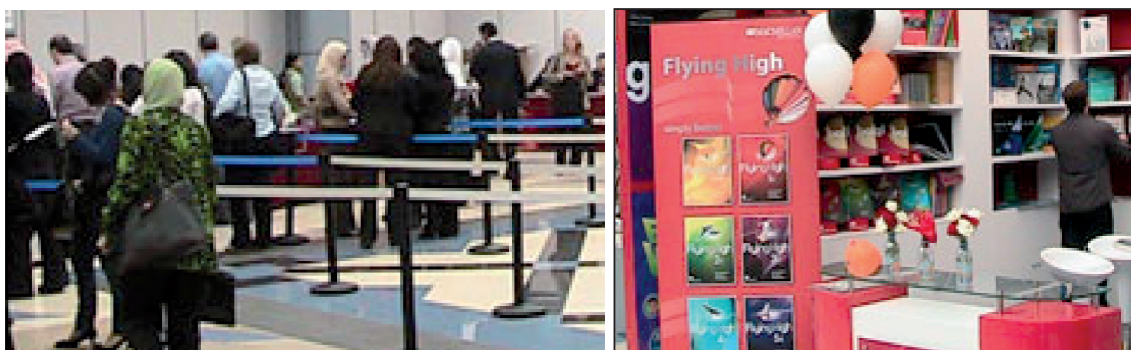
Re-fuelling the Fun in ESL/EFL Classrooms

Azlifa Ahmed

What struck me most about this year’s annual TESOL Arabia conference was the avid enthusiasm of everyone there. Indeed, only those passionate about teaching usually attend such conferences, but the atmosphere on this occasion was most remarkable. Between sessions, I had the chance to chat with many people working in different parts of the world, and it was obvious that every single one of them was most passionate about how to make TESOL more productive and interesting – not just for themselves, but for their students, too!



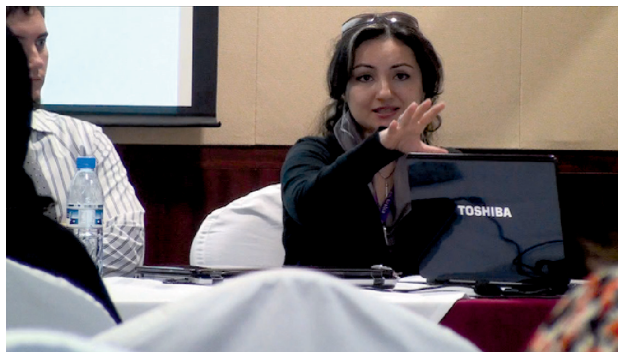
The goal of my presentation was to share some ideas about language games and activities that could make our classrooms more fun. Although I had hoped people would be interested, I was most pleasantly surprised by the keenness of the audience. Almost everyone was actively involved when I presented the games & activities, and many were eager to participate themselves. This was most heartening, especially since many of the participants were students. Overall, attending this conference was an enlightening and uplifting experience.



Writing Centres: Who, What, and Why (MENAWCA Panel Discussion)

Anita Ghajar-Selim

The Writing Lab is part of the Peer Tutoring Program housed in the Student Learning Support Center (SLSC) at Qatar University. In order to put our centre on the map and exchange ideas with the other centres in the region, we joined the Middle East North Africa Writing Centres Association (MENAWCA). MENAWCA was founded in 2007 with the purpose of promoting communication among writing centers and providing a medium for concerns for writing centers in the region. To this aim, MENAWCA organized a panel discussion at TESOL Arabia and invited me to be a panellist.



The goal of the discussion was to introduce down-to-earth guidelines that could serve as common ground for all practicing writing lab centres in the Middle East and North Africa. The session targeted not only writing lab directors, supervisors, and writing specialists, but also those considering the idea of opening a writing lab in the region. We outlined challenges, hurdles and administrative models used in different writing labs, as well as the protocols we have in place to respond to particular student needs and the different services we offer. The experience was extremely informative and the audience feedback was reaffirming.

It turns out that although our writing lab is in its infancy, we are keeping pace through our innovations with the more well-established writing centres in the region.



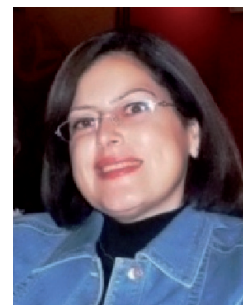
John Tribuna's presentation on 'Special Needs'

John Tribuna, a lecturer in the FP Department of English, gave a presentation in the Spring Semester meant to help students and support teachers.



Dr. Sahbi Ayari

A Letter from Dr. Maha Nabhan, Head of Math & Computer Department, Foundation Program



It is my great honor to address you in the Foundation Program Newsletter. Being part of Qatar University for the last eight years and witnessing in Fall 2004 the establishment of the Foundation Program in line with Qatar University Reform, I can assure readers that Qatar University is leading the way in providing excellent teaching and services.

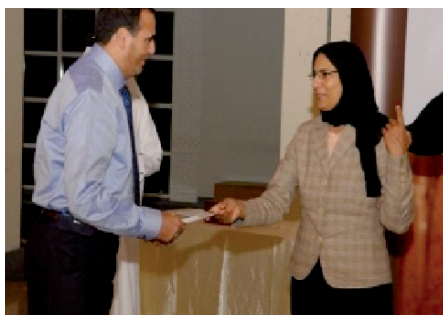
The Foundation Program administration, faculty and students are very pleased and proud that the English Program has been CEA accredited for 5 years.

The excellence, of the now officially accredited English Program, is paralleled in the outstanding accomplishments of the Math & Computer Program. Presented here are some highlights of the special achievements of the Department of Math & Computer, Foundation Program:

Leader in Using Blackboard as a Course Management System at Qatar University

Since the introduction of the Learning Management System Blackboard at QU, the department took the lead in using this system in all courses. To achieve that, the department offered intensive in-house training in Blackboard during its Professional Development Days and a weekly open lab throughout spring 2007 semester. By fall 2007, the use of blackboard for all department courses became mandatory – two years ahead of other QU departments.

The Department of Math and Computer has a bright history in teaching, as evidenced by the awarding of Qatar University Excellence in Teaching Award [theme: Exemplary Online Instruction], to two of its faculty for the last two consecutive academic years. Reference: QU Excellence in Teaching Website.



AY 2007-08 Winner - Award for Excellence in Teaching: Dr. Mohammed Ali Ayari



AY 2008-09 Winner - Award for Excellence in Teaching: Dr. Maha Nabhan

Provider of experts in Blackboard & ICDL training to Qatar University Community

Several department members, in particular, the Computer Program Coordinator Dr. M. Arslan Ayari, took the lead in providing a campus-wide training in beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of Blackboard. This training took place during the academic years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 under the auspices of OFID.

Also, the department took the initiative in the establishment of Qatar University ICDL center, which is now run under the supervision of Qatar University Continuing Education Office. Mr. Ali Izzat, the center manager and Mr. Osman Albashir, the center exam coordinator are both members of the Department of Math and Computer. In addition, many department faculty members have pioneered in teaching ICDL courses since the establishment of the center.

Innovator - Migration from Excel spreadsheet to an online class and record keeping management system

Starting Fall 2009, the department introduced the new online grade and attendance management system dubbed "E-monitoring System". The system serves as an electronic tool to record all students' data and to provide instant access online to all groups' attendance and grades record for the department administration. Reference: Mr. Fethi Ferjani.

Builder of Web Based Exams for Large Number of Students

The Department of Math and Computer provides Computer Based Exams in all Computer Foundation courses and in the Math mini-exams for Math3 & Math4 Foundation courses. The exams are running successfully and positive feedback is received from both students and faculty.



Tester: From in house placement tests to international standardized tests



The Department of Math and Computer adopted the ACT (American College Test) and the IC³ (Internet and Computing core Certification) as substitute replacements for the Qatar University MPT (Mathematics Placement Test) and CPT (Computer Placement Test). Students can prepare more readily for these universally accepted tests by accessing test prep sites on the internet, saving them time and money for their efforts. Additionally, the Department of Math and Computer offers ACT and IC³ workshops and training courses to students during the winter and summer breaks.



Networker: CISCO Academic Courses

Beginning summer 2008 a group of computer instructors in the Department of Math and Computer successfully passed the theoretical and practical parts of the Information Technology Essentials CISCO courses. The skills, knowledge and



in-depth theoretical and practical know-how acquired by the participants will reflect in computer courses offered and ultimately to all Foundation students. The Foundation program is now officially nominated by CISCO as "Local Cisco Academy".

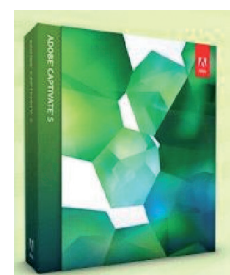
The Digital Native Student

The 'Digital Native Student' has been implemented this semester, using the latest technologies.

We are now witnessing that the pace of testing, piloting and adopting new technology-based tools are changing, if not accelerating. Adapting teaching and learning to the coming merger of phones, laptops, PCs, learning management systems, emails and all that is available in the internet is not only a must but also a challenging mission



In this context the Department of Math and Computer is constantly exploring new technologies and making the process of evaluation and implementation shorter. Programs such as QuestionMark, Captivate, Camtasia, Respondus are already integrated in different type of exams. Additional tools such as clickers and online video courses are also being tested by instructors for professional development sessions and tutorial programs.





The TESOL 44th Annual International Convention in Boston and Dinner with Howard Gardner

Jane Hoelker

On March 24th to the 27th, TESOL, Inc. held its 44th annual international convention at the Boston Convention Center. The theme was Reimagining TESOL. I was on the EFL IS Academic Session Panel entitled, Reshaping Curriculum for the 21st Century. Seven speakers formed the panel; Kathleen Graves of the University of Michigan, Zohreh Eslami of Texas A & M, Suchada Nimmanit of Chulilongkorn University, Slobodanka Dimova, East Carolina University, Rosemary Orlando, Southern New Hampshire University, Amanda Wiehl of Adam Mickiewicz University, and myself of Qatar University. This panel was the most popular academic session in its time slot, attracting 70 participants. The topic is of intense and growing interest around the globe and addressed several questions, such as what are the social and political issues in teaching the English language in diverse international locations? How do these issues impact the dynamics of learning in the classroom and, consequently, the adaptation of materials, curriculum, techniques and approaches (developed mainly in the “West”) in ways appropriate to international contexts.

In an effort to apply these questions to the Qatari context, I discussed how the Qatar University English Foundation Program was established five years ago and has been importing materials and methods from the West into the Qatari classroom. At the same time, a prescriptive curriculum has been crafted to meet the standards required to achieve Western accreditation. It has been observed that frequently activities or approaches successful in Western or even other ELL contexts are not always successful in the Qatari Gulf context. Discussion among classroom teachers reveals that the more successful activities are



Jane Hoelker with Panel Speakers

built on a cultural, pedagogical or linguistic characteristic from the students’ context such, as language, oral tradition, folklore or group dynamics. The session discussed the materials and methods employed in the Foundation Program that have been reshaped to engage students with success while still meeting the specifics and standards detailed in the curriculum.

Also, I led an Energy Breakfast called, Skills through Stories. I discussed how I used fables to scaffold mastering the abstract language of academic English and producing a summary. The group also liked a technique I use of having students write a narrative about a technical topic before writing the first draft. I saw a similar technique discussed in a session on Second Language Writing Interest Section where an English instructor had students write a dialog between the authors of two books used in their research of a term paper. The others at the Energy Breakfast shared their successful techniques.

The highlight of the convention was having dinner with Howard Gardner, Plenary Speaker and author of Multiple Intelligences and Five Minds for the Future, along with other leaders in TESOL from a variety of countries. Howard and his wife, Ellen, hired a translator some 20 years ago when working in China and the Chair of the EFL Interest Section and my friend, Ke Xu was that translator! They stayed in touch and after 20 years finally had a chance to meet once again.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWS IN BRIEF



New Faculty representatives:
Nicolas Gromik and Theresa
Mattingly

A warm welcome to Ms. Allyson
Young who returned to the
Department at the beginning of
the Spring Semester.



Azlifa Ahmed appointed L3 Supervisor and
Theresa Mattingly L4 Supervisor



Justin Richards is working on Institutional
Accreditation at the Vice President's Office of
Institutional Planning and Development.



Stephanie Pinnacle appointed Professional
Development and Accreditation Coordinator in the FP Department of
English.

Congratulations to Mrs
Suruchi and Family on the birth of their son
'Adhidaiva'

'Adhidaiva' came to the Family of Mrs Suruchi on
the 16th of March. Now he is 7 months old and is
keeping them on their toes, according to Suruchi.
May God help! His name is a Sanskrit word which
means 'divine intelligence.'





Foundation Program Academic Advising Center

Clint Mitchell and Reem Khalid



The Women's Academic Advising Center in the Foundation Program was established in the fall of 2009 in the Women's Foundation Building, by the Director of the Foundation Program, Dr. Khalid Al-Ali and is under the supervision of the Academic Advising Coordinator, Aisha Al-Mansoor. It is divided into separate sections by colleges with an advisor advising each group of students who will eventually enter their respective college. Each advisor is responsible for advising approximately 300 to 350 students. The AAC has also trained more than 20 student workers to assist the advisors in the process of advising, registration and the induction of new students.

One of the main objectives of the AAC is to raise awareness among students about the importance of advising and follow-up, in addition to helping them overcome the problems they face. Another objective is to encourage students to take advantage of the different departments in the university and familiarize themselves with all the services available.



Staff and Students who help the Academic Advisors

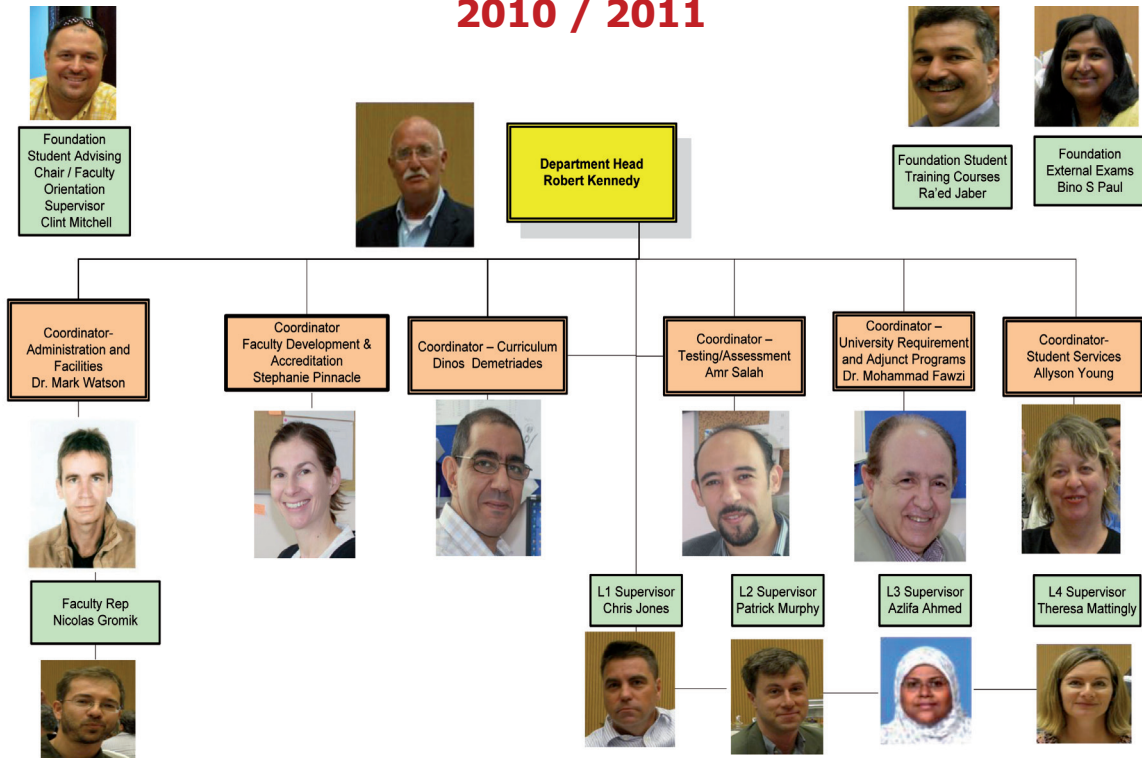
After the new Academic Advising Center was established a new committee was also created to work alongside other staff in the center, which is comprised of teachers from both the English and Math and Computer Departments. One of the purposes of the Academic Advising Committee is to help support and at times provide guidance in the development of the Academic Advising Center. Some of the ways the committee was able to do this during the 2009-10 AY were as follows:

- Create and conducted an Academic Advising Center Student Survey
- Create an Academic Advising Center Student Handbook
- Worked with the FP webmaster, et al, to update the Foundation Program Website
- Facilitate the creation of an Academic Advising Center Video
- Invite Qatar University staff to offer PD sessions for the AAC advisors
- Create a questionnaire for data collection and analysis regarding issues with the low Spring 2010 FP English student registration

Members of the Foundation Program Academic Advising Committee

- Clint Mitchell (English Dept.)
- Mohammed Chabi (Math & Computer Dept.)
- Noran Emara (Math & Computer Dept.)
- Selma Haghamed (Central Advising and Retention Unit)
- Reem Khalid (English Dept.)

Foundation Program Department of English Administration Who's Who 2010 / 2011




Faculty Development & Accreditation (FDA) Committee Structure



Foundation English Department New Staff AY 2010/2011

					
Aymen Elsheikh	David Frear	Indrit Bulku	Ismail Fayed	James Scotland	James Wilson
					
Michael McKenzie	Muhammad Syed	Ozгур Parlak	Robert Rogers	Stacey Wizner	Wendy Collins



ENGLISH
FOUNDATION
TUTORIALS

IELTS & TOEFL weekly schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:30					8:30-9:30
9:00	IELTS Speaking, Bisher, Peer Tutor		8:30-9:30 IELTS Writing, Bisher, Peer Tutor		IELTS Speaking, Bisher, Peer Tutor
9:30		9:30-10:30 IELTS Writing, Mohammed Abouir		9:30-10:30 IELTS Speaking, Mohammed Jubouri	9:00- 10:00 IELTS Writing, Sophie
10:00					10:00-11:00 IELTS Writing, Sophie
10:30					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> free </div>
11:00	11:00-12:00 IELTS Speaking, Fatma Jabala				
12:00	12:00-1:00 TOEFL, Lassana		12:00-1:00 IELTS Writing, Glenn	12:00-1:00 IELTS Speaking, Glenn	
1:00	1:00-2:00 IELTS Speaking, Govami				
1:30					

Student Learning Center open hours

Ms. Jane Tate 9:00 to 2:00
 Bappy 11:00 to 2:00
 Bappy 9:00 to 11:00

NO appointment
needed

 Come and
improve
your English!

Room 107, ground floor,
Men's Foundation Building

FP Department of English Faculty at Exeter Summer School

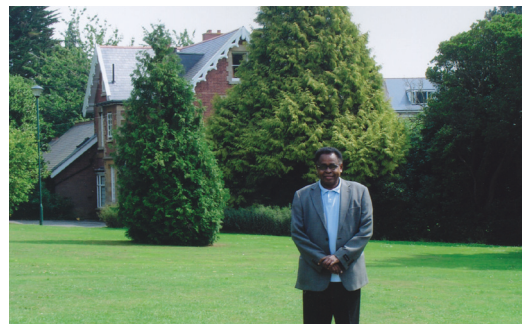
AbdulMoniem - Editor



From July 19-30th July, 2010, AbdulMoniem and Nawar of the University of Qatar, Foundation Program Department of English, attended a summer school held at St Luke's Campus, the University of Exeter, UK, organized by the University of Exeter Graduate School of Education and Life Long Learning. The Theme of the summer intensive programme was "The Nature of Educational Research and TESOL Pedagogy". The summer school was an introduction to the Graduate School's Three-Pathway EdD in TESOL, SEN and GENERIC. Approximately, 30 sessions of lectures, presentations and workshops were offered by knowledgeable and experienced teachers. The sessions were very interactive and evoked interest and lively discussions on the part of the EdD students, who represented more than 20 countries. As stated by Professor William Richardson, Director of the EdD Programme, in his letter to the students prior to the summer school, the aim of the Programme is to provide students with a course of studies and supervision that will stretch them intellectually and develop them as thoughtful and committed professionals, as well as help them enjoy working with the academic staff and their peers within their pathways and enable them to play their part in building the course culture. For detailed information about the Exeter EdD Programme, which we highly recommend, you can visit the University of Exeter Graduate School of Education website: www.exeter.ac.uk/education.



Nawar



AbdulMoniem



Curriculum Changes - Fall 2010

Dinos Demetraides, Curriculum Coordinator

Fall 2010 promises to be an exciting semester with a number of changes and major improvements to the program.

- In-house produced integrated grammar lessons taught by the R&W and the L&S teacher
- 4 new ISPs as follows:
 - Level 1 – Production of a Holiday Brochure
 - Level 2 – Production of an advertisement in MS Movie Maker & Report
 - L3 – a Movie Review based on a movie of the students' choice
 - L4 – a Research Report based on student data gathered using www.surveymonkey.com
- A new IELTS component for weeks 2-/8



- A new program structure as follows:
 - R&W 10 hours per week
 - L&S 6 hours per week
 - IELTS/ISP 4 hours per week (with 2 hours in the lab)
- A fixed vocabulary list per level based on the most frequent 2,000 words in English & common words from the Academic Word List
- A greater emphasis on writing



University of Qatar College of Science Building



University of Qatar New Engineering Building