



The CORE CORNER

Department of Core Humanities and Social Sciences -Female Campus
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From the Desk of the Chair



Spring Semester 2015 was exceptionally successful. The Core Faculty not only focused on academic services rendered to the students of all degree programs at PMU, but also concentrated to target the goals set in the strategic plan of the University. Enterprising and industrious members of six committees worked diligently throughout the semester to attain their desired objectives and are utterly motivated to continue their future endeavors.

Dr. Deborah Read is departing. She joined the newly born Law Department at PMU in 2013. The knowledgeable, full of energy and stylish lawyer played noteworthy role in establishing a unique Law Department in the Kingdom at PMU. With her undoubted intelligence and brilliant creative ideas along with her team she paved the way for program accreditation and put it on the right track of success. Darling of students and dependable colleague, Dr. Read

will be fondly remembered and the vacuum created by her departure would for sure take some time to be filled.

Our young vibrant native Arab faculty member Ms. Zahra Mustafa is also saying good bye. As an inspiring role model for young Saudi students, her compatriot fellows, she stimulated and persuaded them in a highly professional demeanor. Zahra will be deeply missed by co-workers and her pupils.

Ghadah Al-Ajmi, our first teacher assistant, is completing her internship. Her talent, personality, teaching skills, and cultural competences highlighted her outstanding work during the spring 2015. Her willingness and eagerness to support the faculty and students will be missed. We wish her the best of luck on her route toward success.

As the fruitful Spring Semester 2015 is near its end I wish all my precious and valued colleagues a joyful and delightful Summer Break and a safe journey as some of you fly back to your countries of origin, with the pledge that the forthcoming fall semester will be even more

BREAKING NEWS

Dr. Muhammad Waqar Ashraf, Dean of the College of Core Curriculum, obtained the highest h-index (13) at PMU with an overall citations of 730 since 2010 while serving PMU. Our sincere congratulations for the exceptional work of Dr. Ashraf, our Dean.

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Faculty News

Lalla Khadija Fritsch delivered the lecture “Reading as a Form of Blindness” at PMU on March 12, 2015. The lecture addressed reading from an Islamic perspective and its vitality in a knowledge-based society. She warned about the dominance of a Eurocentric narrative in our world today as one of the dangers of limiting oneself to only one and same story. Dr. Fritsch-Alaoui emphasized the need to become literate in several stories to appreciate several ways of being in the world: “reading as safar” (travel). The use of the Arabic term here is pertinent as its literary meaning includes “reveal, expose, and enlighten.” In the talk, students were reminded of the much needed task of embracing reading as safar and making it an essential part of their everyday life, yet without surrendering their critical faculties.

Dr. Huda Al-Mulhem joined Dr. Lalla Khadija Fritsch in a conversation on How Islam shaped scientific mind/spirit. The conversation included some examples of past and current scientists and thinkers in the Muslim world. Dr. Fritsch focused on the part of Arabic science’s connections with the Renaissance. Dr. Huda provided examples from our times. The speakers told stories about the values embraced by knowledge-seekers as well as the skills they should aspire to acquire. This May 4th-talk was conducted in Arabic.

Ana Gil Garcia received the “Distinguished Woman in Education 2015” award conferred by the oldest United States bilingual newspaper La Raza. The award highlighted the outstanding work of women in the fields of health, community leadership, education, business and technology and arts and culture. The award process differed from previous years in the voting system. Nominations and votes were received and supported worldwide. On April 07, 2015 Dr. Ana sent her

acceptance speech to be read at the event. Past recipients of the award have been Hillary Clinton, Sonia Sotomayor (the first female of Hispanic origin in the Supreme Court of the United States) among other distinguished women.

Fouzia Latif attended the 8th Annual Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Association of Language Teachers (KSAALT) Conference held in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia on 2nd may 2015. In addition, she was certified after participating in the Propell® Workshop for the TOEFL iBT® Test, a one-day professional development program.

Julie Ann Nash, Principal Investigator of the research group formed by Dr. Siddiqua Aamir and Dr. Runna Alghazo, submitted a research proposal called “Critical thinking and the Arab college student: A quantitative study in Saudi Arabia” to the University Research Council for the 2015-2016 Internal Grant Competition. The study will investigate the difference between two groups of Saudi Arabian College students at PMU. One group will receive the English version of the Cornell Conditional Reasoning Test and the other group will receive the Arabic version of the same test. The researchers expect the group receiving the Arabic version to score significantly higher than the group receiving the English version. They also hypothesized that when comparing the scores from the Arabic test group to the previously published US scores the gap between the two groups will be closed. The outcomes of this study will be to fill a gap in the literature on learning and Arab college students in particular, Saudi Arabian college students. This study will also serve to improve the academic persona of the Arab student and this institution (PMU) as well as the KSA.

Committee News

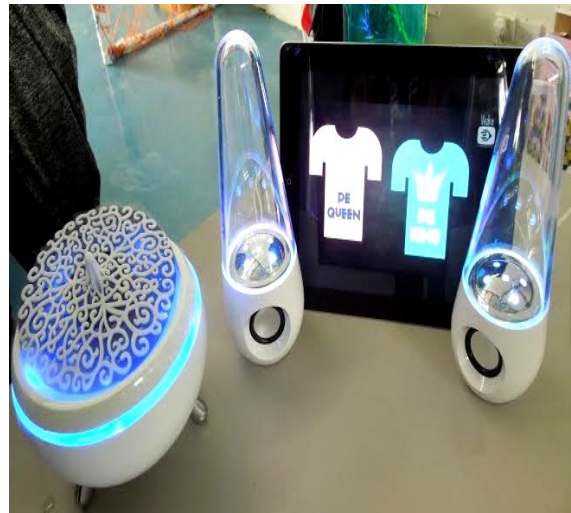
Student Affairs Islamic Project



Under the leadership of the Student Affairs Committee, Mrs. Reem Fahad Alghaslan organized the Islamic Project exhibition and presentations last April 19 to 21, 2015. More than 240 PMU students from different colleges displayed 44 Islamic projects to showcase the importance of social responsibility by addressing issues related to the university community. Two general themes led the projects: *Integrity* and *Let's Prosper and Rise*. From an Islamic viewpoint, the students were encouraged to think critically, solve problems, conduct research, and work in teams. The Islamic project emphasized on the PMU six competencies. The evaluation of the projects combined an oral presentation and a practical display of the work done for each project. The project outcomes were measured by having students utilize communication, technological, teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, and problem solving skills in delivering their projects, while promoting social awareness on the topics chosen from an Islamic point of view.

Student Affairs Physical Education Projects

Wellness, Nutrition, Physical Fitness and Stress and Mental Health were the topics of an Awareness Campaign organized by the Physical Education instructors Ms. Ebtesam Tallouzi and Ms. Lisa M. Hibbard. More than 60 different projects created by hundreds of students raised public awareness and influenced lifestyle behavior changes in Saudi Arabia. Participants infused technology in their projects by creating QR codes which led to online resource related to their topics, Instagram accounts, Google interactive map, and website or video. For three consecutive semesters, under Ms. Hibbard's leadership,



students applied the scientific method guidelines and relevant technology to, for example, surveying student attitudes about gastric band procedures and/or osteoporosis awareness to assessing individual fitness levels, among a wide variety of projects essential to the PMU female student population. On the other hand, under the guidance of Ms. Ebtesam, the student projects related to common health problems such as sunshine vitamin, kidney issues, and breast cancer among others. The fall enrollment expects more students; therefore look for more projects and participation in November 2015!

Distinguished Guest



Hanadi M. AbdelSalam holds a PhD in Astrophysics from Oxford University, UK. She teaches Physics and Mathematics courses. Prior to joining PMU,

she taught in Netherlands, UK, USA, Canada and Sudan where she held several academic and administrative positions. Her research interests include cosmology and gravitational lensing as well as techniques and enhancement of general sciences education. She served as the Director of the Female Campus at PMU for six consecutive years.

Her leadership practices involve getting the best from all the employees by working as one team and at the same time nurturing the collegial relationship between them. To get the best from them, she adopted two roles: social and professional development to make them work as a team together. “I don’t tell them what they did wrong, I told them how things can be done in another

way. So this way, they don’t feel bad that their moral or work is being diminished”, she said.

In terms of followership, she refers to her intention on not having people follow her, but to work together. “I am one of them and we are all part of the team so, I just have to be a person that was giving the role to help them develop that. I consider myself as one of them, move along with them to discuss every single bit, but I do not expect them all to follow”, she said.

Her leadership behaviors are reinforced when she said: “I don’t look at titles, I don’t let my workers see me as their boss but as a colleague. We are all humans, we can make a small mistake and other people can help them clear it out. As a leader I talked to people about their mistakes”. For her management style, she used incentives—material things. “In my role as a Director of Female Campus, I used an appreciation incentive. I brought all colleagues together to have a free lunch weekly. It served as a platform where people came and chatted, recognized and met their colleagues”.

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