

In Memoriam: Robert Kennedy 1958 - 2018

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This past year, our former Head of the English Department (HoD), Robert Kennedy, would have turned 61. While to his colleagues he was simply Bob, to his students, he was always "Mr. Bob". After completing an MA in Educational Leadership, Bob became a dedicated and life-long educator.

In 1988, Bob joined the recently established English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) as one of the very first American language instructors. He left a few years later and returned in 1994.

In the autumn of 2004, the Foundation Program (FP) was inaugurated. The Foundation Program Department of English (FPDE) offered a two-year, four-level skills-based general English language program. A year later, Bob was appointed assistant to Dr. Madani Osman. In the autumn of 2006, Bob replaced Dr. Madani as the HoD.

Bob was the HoD of FPDE for six years, from 2006 to 2012. A staunch advocate of new technology, he encouraged everyone to explore its potential and was the main backer of Blackboard, which had been piloted and pioneered by FPDE in 2005. During Bob's tenure as HoD, the program changed several times, yet the transition



Robert Kennedy: Photograph courtesy of Stephanie Barbara Pinnacle

was always smooth and seamless.

While Bob helmed the department, there were some notable high points, for example, the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) and the establishment of The Writing Centre as well as various student clubs like The Japanese Club and The Photography Club. In the autumn of

2012, when the FP changed to a one-year program, Bob stepped down as the HoD. However, in his new/old role, Bob remained a committed teacher, colleague and friend to many.

And so, it was with great sadness that Bob Kennedy, our respected, pragmatic, and stalwart former HoD, colleague, friend, and mentor passed

away on 25 February 2018. For close to half of his life, Bob had lived in Qatar: he was very much attached to this spectacular desert land, its people, his students, and QU. Qatar was home to him. Many of those he left behind will always remember his generosity, wit, and thoughtfulness. Bob left his mark in the hearts and minds of those who knew him best. Rest in Peace, Mr. Bob.

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