

EVENTS

ORIENTATION LECTURE SERIES

The Department of English organizes lecture series and talks by eminent academics, every academic session, for English Honours students. These are deemed beneficial for all, especially, the many students enrolled in the English Honours course who come from a non-Humanities background.

(2014-15)

Prof. Tapan Basu (Dept. of English, University of Delhi), Dr. B. Mangalam (Associate Professor, Ramlal Anand College) and Ms. Ruchi Mundeja (Associate Professor, Lakshmbai College) were the invited speakers who addressed the students on the topics related to their course and its challenges.

(2015-16)

The department organised a lecture by Dr. Namita Sethi (Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi) entitled “Social Concerns in the Literature of Eighteenth Century”. The objective behind organizing this talk was to ground the students of all years, the precise emphasis being on the first year CBCS learners, with the social context of the age and to introduce them to a disquisition of reason, rationale and introspection.

(2016-17)

The department organised an orientation-cum-lecture session in September, 2016. The department had opted for internal speakers, who had a better comprehension of the mettle of our students. The presentations were on the key theoretical concepts of feminism, Marxism and Post colonialism.

(2017-18)

The orientation program at the onset of the academic year was organized keeping in mind a subject-oriented interaction between the students of all the three years, so that the newly admitted first year students are able to adapt to the methodology of studying literature. Teacher-in-charge Dr. Anju Dahiya set the tone by introducing the objective behind it and the Principal, Dr. Pratyush Vatsala, asked pertinent questions on the nature of literature and culture.

A Week long lecture series was conducted with internal speakers focusing on Indian Theatre and Western Classical Theatre.

(2018-19)

A one day orientation programme, held in September 2018, was conceptualized keeping in mind all the three year Honours students. The scope of the lectures covered a diverse spectrum from the pedagogical analysis of Literary Theory to the methodological aspects of theatrical production. The two chief Speakers for the day were, Prof Simi Malhotra (Jamia Milia Islamia ; Director, Centre for North-East Studies and Policy Research) , and Dr. Sanjay Kumar (Associate Professor, Hansraj College, University of Delhi; Co-founder of “Pandies”, a Delhi-based theatre group). Dr. Simi Malhotra’s lecture entitled “From Theory to Post-theory” seamlessly brought together the abstractions of theory and the classroom interventions into these areas. The second session of the orientation programme was more in the nature of an Interactive Workshop facilitated by Dr. Sanjay Kumar wherein he stressed on the need for community building and the role that the theatrical space can play in breaking social binds.

(2019-20)

At “Narratives”, the Orientation Lecture Series this year, Prof. Udaya Kumar (Jawaharlal Nehru university) and Dr. Ira Raja (University of Delhi) were invited, who presented papers on “Narratives, Thoughts and Emotions” and “Life as Text: Narratives of Age in Indian Fiction” respectively.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SOCIETY- ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

The creative spirit of the department finds its fullest expression in the wide array of events organized during its Annual Literary Fest. “Literaria”- Annual Literary Fest was organised during the year (2014-15) and (2015-16). The highlights of the fest were a range of inter-college events such as Literary quiz, Debate Competition, Film Review, amongst others, that saw huge participation from students across the University of Delhi and other prestigious institutions. In the year (2016-17), the English department society was christened as “Rhetoricians”. Under the aegis of Rhetoricians, Annual Literary Fest- “Epiphany” was organised in January 2017, where Dr. Tarannum Riyaz, eminent Urdu poet, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She interspersed her address to the gathering with some of her poetry, immediately striking a chord with the audience. The highlights of the Literary

Festival of the department were out of the box events such as **Crossword, Crossover, Crossfire and Book Art**. Subsequently, in the year (2017-18), Mr. Adreesh Chakraborty, an eminent architect who has just begun his writing career with his book *The Adventure of Inchy Slim*, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He interspersed the address to the gathering with some interesting excerpts from his book, immediately striking a chord with the audience. The highlights of the Literary Festival were stimulating events such as **‘Quiz’zically Yours, Crossfire, Mind to Mic, and Canvas stories**. Winners were felicitated with certificates and cash prizes.

ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS

The Department of English constantly tries to push the boundaries of the teaching-learning process, beyond the classroom, by conducting stimulating activities and workshops that encourage a dialogue with the creative and performing arts.

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP (2017- 18)

The Department organized a Poetry Writing Workshop for students and faculty members, which was conducted by Dr. Anjana Neira Dev (Associate Professor, Gargi College) on 16th March 2018.

POETRY READING AND SOLILOQUY COMPETITION: INTRA-COLLEGE (2018-19)

The intra-college Poetry reading and Soliloquy competition, held on 31.10.2018, saw a good turnout of students, across disciplines, eager to demonstrate their zest for recitation and elocution. The poem entitled “Telephone Conversation”, composed by Wole Soyinka, was given to them half an hour prior to the commencement and they were judged on the basis of their pronunciation, intonation and presentation skills. For the “soliloquy” the students were given the choice to perform a soliloquy from any fictional work of their choice.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (2018-19)

The Creative Writing Workshop, held on 02.11.2018, was led ably and dynamically by Dr. Anuradha Marwah Roy (Associate Professor, Zakir Hussain College, University of Delhi). Being an author to works like *Idol Love* and *Dirty Picture, Sarkari Feminism, A Pipe Dream*

in Delhi, she read excerpts from her work and asked the students to interpret it in a medium of their choice. She set interesting writing exercises for the students and encouraged them to peer review their write-ups. The lively, emphatic and bold expression of ideas that took place in the course of the workshop was a measure of its success.

ONLINE INTERACTIVE SESSION ON CREATIVE WRITING, EDITING AND PUBLISHING (2019-20)

An online interactive session on creative writing, editing and publishing was organised in May 2020 by the Department of English for the Creative Writing students of English honours, under the constraints imposed due to COVID-19. Niyati Bhat (Westland Publications- Amazon India) was the guest speaker who discussed the art and essentials of writing, editing your own work and preparing it for pitches to agents and publishing houses.

THEATRE WORKSHOPS

The Department organised a Theatre workshop in college, in collaboration with Pandies' Theatre during the academic session (2013-14). Under the training of experts and the English faculty, the students performed the play "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" by Dario FO.

Under the aegis of Rhetoricians, another theatre workshop was organized in November 2019, conducted by Kuljeet Singh, the Creative Head of Atelier Theatre.

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION – "MAMMA MIA"- (2014-15)

On 17-09-2015, the department staged a spectacular theatrical production called 'Mamma Mia' based on a major Hollywood musical bearing the same title.

CINAESTHESIA

The Film Club, of the Department of English, arranges several film screenings throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT LIBRARY

The Department is working towards establishing a small library. Students and faculty members can contribute books and journals and place them into circulation.

WALL MAGAZINE- *Words Unlimited*

Under the aegis of the Department of English, a Wall Magazine called “Words Unlimited” was launched on 30th October 2014. An enthusiastic team of students, comprising of editors and illustrators have taken the initiative to run this wall magazine under the able guidance of their teachers. It is a monthly magazine with a particular theme for every issue. With the inaugural issue titled “Stereotypes”, the WU team has curated many subsequent features on thought provoking themes since its inception.

The WU team organized its first inter college fest called “NOVARTIS” (2016-17) and subsequently in (2017-18). As the name suggested, it showcased an amalgamation of many novel creative genres. Three competitions were organized — “Compressed Ideas” for Flash Fiction, “Unheard Voices” for Slam Poetry and “The Better Half” for making an illustration using their imagination. All three events were a runaway success, were well attended and substantiated the students’ creative flair.

The WU team is now part of the Literary and Publication Committee of the college.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Inter College Students’ Conference: “Speaking of Silence: Speaking From the Silence” (2018-19)

In its first foray into the world of students’ conferences, the Department of English organized on 8th of March, 2019 an Inter College Students’ Conference on the theme of Silence, “Speaking of Silence: Speaking From the Silence”, the subtopics ranging from the literary to cultural. Professor Saikat Majumdar, Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at Ashoka University, was the Keynote Speaker. Critic, scholar and novelist, *The Firebird* and *The Scent of God* being among his notable works of fiction, Prof Majumdar offered a persuasive thesis in his talk entitled “Literature as Sin.” Moving between the provincial and the cosmopolitan, between narrative and literature, he urged for a recovery of the traces of the non- or the pre- modern, amongst myriad other philosophical ruminations. His address received a good number of critical observations and questions.

The selected papers were divided into four panels —Panel 1, entitled “ Alternate Idioms” ;Panel 2, entitled “From Silence to Voice: From Voice to Silence”; Panel 3, entitled “ Between Absence and Presence” ; and Panel 4 , entitled “ The Sound of Silence”. The fluid

and inclusive scope of the conference was borne out by the wide range of papers, moving from confessional poetry to the rasas to silenced narratives of partition.

UGC sponsored National Seminar titled “Speaking Silence: History, Politics and Psychology” (2019-20)

A Two day UGC Sponsored seminar titled “Speaking Silence: History, Literature and Psychology” was organised by the Department of English on 23-24th October 2019. It witnessed a footfall of young researchers, scholars, professors and students from all across the country viz Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Assam, Jharkhand, and Delhi. There were 113 participants along with 39 paper presenters. The topic was well received by the audience attending the seminar.

Professor Chandrakala Padia (erstwhile Chairperson of IAS, ex – Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Ganga Singh University) was the Chief Guest and delivered the Inaugural address wherein she talked about two aspects of silence—to be silent and to be silenced. Referring to Edward Said and Foucault’s idea of power, cultural silence, and identity, she stressed upon the need to give voice to the marginal silences. Professor Nandini Sahu (Professor of English, IGNOU) was the Keynote speaker. Professor Sahu, in her Keynote address, drew attention towards marginal subjects and voices, both in the domain of academics and outside of it. She urged on bringing partially silenced topics like Folklore to the forefront by positive discourses and gave a clarion call to writers to write about underpinnings of silent voices. The two-day seminar opened up crucial space of discussion on the discursive possibilities of silence with the presence of eminent academics- Prof. Girishwar Mishra (Ex Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Retd. Prof. Psychology), Dr. Nilofer Kaul (Practising Psychoanalyst), Dr Arjun Ghosh (Associate Professor. IIT Delhi), Professor Jayanti Chattopadhyay, (retd. Professor at the Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, University of Delhi), Dr. Sanjay Kumar (Associate Professor, Hansraj college) , Professor Anil Aneja (Department of English, University of Delhi), Professor Raj Kumar, Head at Department of English, University of Delhi, Professor H. S. Prasad, Former Head at the Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi, Professor Aruna Broota, Retired Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Delhi, Dr. Vibha Chauhan (Principal, Kirorimal college, University of Delhi), Dr. Joy L. K. Pachau, Professor at Centre for Historical Studies in School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University).

The conference concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi (Associate Professor, Lakshmbai College) that brought together pioneers from diverse walks of life to deliberate and expand upon the social and cultural dimensions of silence and its pragmatic politics. The panel constituted of eminent film director Mr. Rahul Rawail, former IPS officer Vimla Mehra and two times Rajya Sabha member and managing director of The Pioneer, Dr. Chandan Mitra.

UGC sponsored International Seminar and Workshop on “Innovative Teaching, Learning and Evaluation in English: Harmonious Transition from School to University” (2019-20)

A Three day UGC sponsored International Seminar and Workshop titled “Innovative Teaching, Learning and Evaluation in English: Harmonious Transition from School to University” was organized from 23rd to 25th January 2020, in collaboration with Trinity College London by the Department of English, Lakshmbai College under the guidance of its Principal Dr. Pratyush Vatsala. Dr. Elaine Boyd (Associate Academic, University College, London) and Mrs. Neelima Sharma (Associate Vice- President, Asia–English, Trinity College London) were key contributors in the seminar and workshop. Dr. Kavita Sharma (Former President, South Asian University) delivered the inaugural address and Prof. C. B. Sharma (Chairman, NIOS) was the Keynote Speaker who argued that English should be taught in India but the contextualised within the ethos of India. The Chief Guest Mr. Vineet Joshi (IAS, Director General of NTA), in his address, spoke about the prioritising the Nation above the individual. He advocated the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation from school level onwards to ensure the constant assessment of students and not just a blinkered focus onto the end-semester exams. Prof. Kapil Kapoor (Chairman, IAS) in his address drew upon the rich Indian linguistic heritage and highlighted the need to revisit the works of native scholars and theorists such as Patanjali, Panini etc.

The three day seminar and workshop consisted of riveting panel discussions and sessions on how to bring innovation and enrich the prevalent structure of education and to introduce within it the useful modalities of western education and aspects of traditional learning. The emphasis on the role language studies and literature in the education system was an important point of discussion across the sessions. The seminar and workshop consisted of talks, addresses and contributions from eminent academicians and educators - Major Harsh Kumar (Secretary, NCERT), Prof. Sandhya Sahoo (English, NCERT), Dr.

Geeta Rai (Assistant Professor at CIE, University of Delhi), Ms. Alka Rai (Ex-HOD English, Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute), Mr. Khaleeq Ahmeed (Principal, DOE), Dr. Sanjay Verma (Assistant Professor, Kirorimal College, University of Delhi), Dr. Mukti Sanyal (Officiating Principal at Bharti College, University of Delhi), Dr. Vinod Kumar Singh (Assistant Professor at Department of English, University of Delhi), Dr. Sharavan Kumar (Associate Professor, Amity Institute of English Studies and Research & National Vice-President, ELTAI).

The valedictory session consisted of the Presentation of the First draft of the Synthesized Report of the findings of the fruitful workshop. This session comprised of an exhaustive and elaborate presentation made by esteemed Principal, Dr. Pratyush Vatsala.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PRE -ENTRANCE COACHING CLASSES FOR MA ENGLISH (2016-17)

Before the beginning of the session in July, the Department of English conducted the first ever Masters in English Pre-entrance Coaching Classes, which took place in the college premises from 19th to 30th June 2017. These classes were open to all Lakshmibai College students and girls from Economically Weaker Section (EWS/BPL), SC, ST, OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and economically backward Minorities, Pwd, Kashmiri Migrants, Wards / War –Widows / Ex-servicemen (Defense) from other colleges also.