

ECHOES

Department of English, AIUB



English in Action 2012 in AIUB: Inter College Public Speaking Competition

With the motto of promoting English through Speaking, Department of English of AIUB under the banner of 'English in Action 2012' organized an Inter College Public Speaking Competition in English, integrating different top ranking colleges on 22 November 2012 (Thursday) in the AIUB auditorium. 44 participants from different colleges: Notre Dame College, Viqarunnisa Noon College, Dhaka Imperial College, Rajuk Uttara Model College, St. Joseph School & College participated in this contest. Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, MP, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Education graced the occasion as Honorable Chief Guest. He highly appreciated the initiative and emphasized on organizing such competition regularly to enhance the English language skills of the young learners.

Vice President of Academics, Prof. Tofazzal Hossain, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean of Faculty of Business Administration, Dr. Charles Villanueva, Head of the Department of English Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed along with the teachers and the students from the Department of English were also present to enjoy the competition.

After the contest, one minute's silence was observed in tribute of our late honorable Chairman and Founder of AIUB Dr. Anwarul Abedin. The winner are as follows:

| | IMPROMPTU SPEECH | PUBLIC SPEAKING (ORATION) | TURN THE COAT SPEECH |
|--------------------|---|---|--|
| Champion | Nusarat Jahan (Rajuk Uttara) | Zeba Farah Haque (Viqarunnissa Noon) | Jannatul Ferdous Dola (Viqarunnissa Noon) |
| Runner up-1 | Tajkia Mustafa Khadem (Rajuk Uttara) | Luzain (Rajuk Uttara) | Sadman Adib (St. Joseph) |
| Runner up-2 | Atanu Roy Choudury (St. Joseph) | Mahmud Hossain (St. Joseph) | Rayhan Rahman (Rajuk Uttara) |

Grand Finale of "Spelling Bee" in English Department

Department of English of AIUB held the Finals of first ever Spelling Bee on the 9th of May 2012 in the Media Studio; Level 13, Campus 7 at 3:00 pm. The judges of the competition were Dr. Charles Villanueva, Dean of Faculty of Business Administration; Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of the English Department, and Ms. Shaila Ahmed, Faculty, Department of English. The occasion started with the welcoming speech of Dr. Tazul Islam, and ended with result declaration and vote of thanks by Charles Villanueva. Dr. Silverine de Silva conducted the event. At the end of the competition the winners were awarded with Certificates, Crests and Prizes.

In fact, the first round of this competition started back in the first week of April and consecutively there were second round held on April 12th and the semi-final on April 19th. The participants of this

competition were all the students of courses: *English Reading Skills* and *Public Speaking*, *English Writing Skills* and *Communication*, *Business Communication* and *Writing for Arts and Social Sciences* from different departments of AIUB.

Teachers and students of English and other departments attended and enjoyed the program. The program was telecast live via the AIUB website. After getting a good response from AIUBians the Department is thinking of organizing inter-university spelling contest in future. Teachers of English Department worked hard to make this first-ever event--particularly Dr. Silverine, Mr. Hamidul Haque and Mr. Asif Kamal deserve special thanks for their laudable effort.



Seminar on Teaching Practicum by Prof. Dr. Dil Afroze Quader

Department of English, American International University-Bangladesh arranged an Interactive Seminar on "Teaching Practicum" on 12 November 2012 at 3:30pm at the Department's Seminar Room at Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences. Professor Dr. Dil Afroze Quader from BRAC University was the Guest Speaker in the seminar. The Faculty members of Department of English, along with the Head of the Department; Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science; Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, and the students of English department attended the seminar.



English Department teachers present in Jahangirnagar University International Conference 2012

Three of the Faculties of the Department of English of AIUB, Mr. Asif Kamal, Ms. Anindita Roy and Ms. Jannatul Farhana, presented their scholarly papers in the two day long INT'L POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE 2012 titled "Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies in the 21st Century: Translocating/Transgressing Boundaries" held on 25 & 26 May 2012 in the Department of English, Jahangirnagar University. The Key Note speaker of the conference was Prof. Prafulla Kar, Director, Centre for Contemporary Theory, Baroda, India.



The titles of their papers were as follows:

"Postmodern Dilemma in Don DeLillo's White Noise" by Asif Kamal

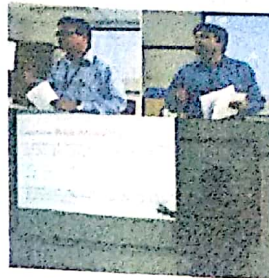
"Embodied Silence: Phenomenological Approach to Dead/Bodies in William Faulkner As I Lay Dying and Selim Al Deen's Chaaka" by Anindita Roy

"From Pain to Gain: A Study of Diasporic Dislocation in Kiran Desai's The Inheritance of Loss" by Jannatul Farhana

A bit more to mention, Department of English of AIUB participated in the previous international JU conference held last year with three individual paper presentations and one plenary discussion. The presenters were Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, M. Hamidul Haque, Borendra Lal Tripura, Asif Kamal, Sayeeda Rahman and Mehedi Kayser Pabitra.



Attended by the Dean Prof. Tazul Islam, the Associate Dean Dr. A K M Matiu Rahman, the Head of the Department Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed and faculty members Mr. M Hamidul Haque, Ms. Rezwana Liana, Ms. Shaila Ahmed, Ms. Sabrina Rahman, as well as the Teaching Practicum students, the workshop gave a thorough overview of the detailed formalities regarding Teaching Practicum.



It needs to be mentioned that after completing the coursework, BA English students need to attend EFL classrooms in different educational institutions at primary/secondary level. By observing students and classroom dynamics, and working with students one-on-one and in small groups, practicum students acquire knowledge and skills about the teaching context. The practicum offers students the opportunities to practice, enhance and reflect upon the teaching skills under classroom conditions and is also offers opportunities to put into practice theories and approaches explored the coursework as well as identify areas for further exploration. As part of the practicum, students need to produce a report under the supervision of respective course teachers.



American undergrad students spent a vibrant day in English Department

A nine-member group of American students—Louie, Caleb, Paul, Mia, Krista, Bethany, Erin, Kaylynne and Cumeron—from University of Colorado and Colorado State University paid a lively visit to English Department on 3 June 2012. These students, studying in different disciplines like Sociology, Communication, Education, Biology, Business, Chemistry etc., have come to Bangladesh on their summer holiday tour in order to learn about local culture, language and society. They were greeted by the Department Head Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed along with faculty members Ms. Shaila Ahmed, M. Hamidul Haque and Ms. Sabrina Rahman. Professor Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean of FASS and Dr. A B M Rahmantullah, Head of Economics, also extended their cordial welcome toward the visitors.

Later, they participated in the class proceedings of English Reading Skills & Public Speaking (E2) and English Writing Skills (P)—both taken by Dr. Faheem—and got themselves engaged in lively group work with the AIUBians. The English Reading section, which comprises freshmen students of BSS in Economics, BA in MMC and BA in English, witnessed a massive enthusiastic interaction between both parties where the AIUBians learned the American techniques of public speaking while the Americans learned about Tagore, Nazrul and Lal Shah. The English Writing section, consisting students from EEE and CSE departments, witnessed a more writing-oriented discussion between both sides and eventually turned out interesting with the discussion of Bangladeshi delicious summer fruits like mangoes, jackfruits and black berries.



The visitors finally sang some beautiful American love and spiritual songs with guitar and percussions which in turn was reciprocated by the local students' rendering of Lalongeeits.

Teaching Practicum Workshop for BA English Students

Students of BA English—majoring in 'Language & Linguistics' and in 'TEFL'—participated in a Teaching Practicum (the counterpart of Internship) workshop given by the Assistant professor of the Department of English Mr. M Hamidul Haque on Thursday, 14 June 2012 at the seminar room of Campus-7.

In this connection, this workshop was a very useful event for both the students and their supervisors. By the way, it has been a matter of pride for the English Department that BA English graduates won the 'Best Teaching Practicum/Internship Report' awards from Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences in the last two successive Convocations.

USA Regional English Language Officer's official visit to English Department

Fife MacDuff, the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) of USA in charge of Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, paid an official visit to the Department of English at Campus-7 on 19 June 2012. Accompanied by Ms. Raihana Sultans, the Cultural Affairs Assistant of The American Center, Mr. MacDuff was warmly received by Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of the English Department. The delegate was then introduced to Dr. Tazul Islam (Dean of FASS), Dr. Charles Villanueva (Dean of FBA), Mr. M Hamidul Haque and Mr. Asif Kamal (faculty members of English Department).



Mr. MacDuff, who is currently based in Nepal, came to Dhaka to discussing and finalizing a collaborative project between The American Center and AIUB. Under this project, an English Language Fellow would come from Washington D.C. and stay in AIUB for a semester to help the English Department modernize the existing syllabuses of the two basic language courses, i.e. 'English Reading Skills & Public Speaking' and 'English Writing Skills and Communication'. The Fellow would also conduct training workshops for the teachers of English Department to enable them teach these two courses more efficiently. Mr. MacDuff, after a fruitful discussion with the AIUB team, suggested several innovative English Language schemes offered by the American Center which would be made accessible to the teachers and students of English Department for their collective development.

Later, the delegates visited one English language classroom conducted by Ms. Soheli Akter where they had wonderful interaction with the students.

English Department's seminar on Liberal Humanism

As continuation of its Faculty Presentation Program, the Department of English organized a seminar on 19 July 2012 titled "Liberal Humanism and Beyond" by Mohammad Khan Firoz, Assistant Professor. Tracing the origin of humanism, the presenter narrates how Liberal Humanism formed the basis of humanistic literary criticism. He then moved on to discuss about the political implication of humanistic ideology, and subsequently, the development of critical theories with radically different approach. In this regard, he highlighted on the issue as to how linguistics underpins literary theories. All in all, the seminar presented an overview of a range of critical systems intended to be helpful particularly for the English students. The seminar was attended by Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam (Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) and Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed (Head, Department of English), along with a large number of teachers and students of English Department.



Enthralling seminar on 'Dhakaiya Kutti' language and humor

As part of the English department's faculty-presentation program (where faculty members give talks on their ongoing researches in respective areas), a seminar titled "The Dhakaiya Kutti dialect and Humor: A Brief Sociolinguistic Analysis" by the department head Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed was held on 16 July at 11 a.m. in the seminar room of Campus-7.



Dr. Faheem made a vivid presentation about the socio-historic origin of the Dhakaiya Kutti community and the evolution of their attractive language and wit. He described how since the Muslim rule in Bengal-especially after Dhaka was made the capital under Mughal rule- people from the other sides of the river Buriganga migrated to Dhaka, and consequently created a mixed colloquial Bangla. He then narrated several theories of the origin of the Kutti community who were involved in diversified low-wage jobs.

Eventually the Dhakaiya Kutti language became a dominant language for inter-maholla (locality) communication. Dr. Faheem went on to present analyses of the morphological, syntactic, semantic and phonological aspects of this interesting language which were even influenced by various North Indian languages.

In his latter half of the seminar, Dr. Faheem concentrated on the natural humor and wit of the Kutti language-which used to be created by common people out of day-to-day needs. The audience thoroughly enjoyed his verbal recital of the diversified Dhakaiya jokes and wit-and also the Dhakaiya version of the famous 'Tona-Tunir Golpo'-which signified the entire socio-cultural-political fabric of the country at that time, and are even relevant today. Describing how and why this rich linguistic heritage of our society has been on the verge of extinction, he emphasized the need of extensive research on this matter for the sake of our social, cultural and linguistic identities.

The seminar was attended by students regardless of departments and faculty members of English, Economics and MMC. Dr. A B M Rahmantullah, Head of Economics, gave the thanksgiving speech cracking a couple of famous Dhakaiya jokes as well.

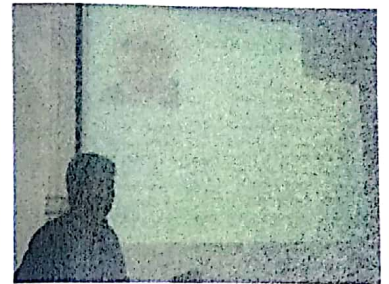
Regular Discussion of English Reading Circle

As part of the regular session, teachers and students of the department of English sat for a series of discussions on different issues like cultural, literary and language theories. The last few sessions of the English Reading Circle were very successful discussions on formalism and structuralism. The circle is planning to cover some more theories in the next sessions. The number of the participants in the Reading

Circle is increasing day by day since it is open to anyone from any Department who has interest in outer academic critical discussions on any issues of topics like movies,

Presentation on Postmodernism by Asif Kamal

An elementary presentation cum discussion on postmodernism titled "What, Why and How of Postmodernism" was held on 18th April 2012. The presentation was given by Mr. Asif Kamal, faculty in the Department of English, followed by a heated discussion on the issue. The discussion on Postmodernism which is the most term in the last few decades also helped clear the present status of the movement and comprehend and share some ideas about its position in Bangladesh.



English Department faculty Farhat Tasannum Farah in an International Conference in Assam, India

Farhat Tasannum Farah from the Department of English, American International University-Bangladesh got the opportunity to present her paper "Salman Rushdie's Narrative Mode: Indian Oral Cum Postmodern Self-Reflexivity In Midnight's Children" in an International Conference entitled Narrativizing The Margins: Northeast India And Beyond organized by the Department of English, Assam University for the first time during January 4-6, 2012. Through this International Conference, Assam University inaugurated their Diphu Campus in the Northeast India. It was undoubtedly a grand success as many the reputed academicians from different countries as well as from India participated in this Conference. It's also an honour that as one of the faculty members; Ms. Farhat could be a part of the 3-day International Conference.



Drama Performance of Twelfth Night directed by Mr. Firoz al Mamun Khan

The students of Department of English under "Introduction to Drama" course performed the adapted version of "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare at the Media Studio. Their months-long rehearsal paid them off at last. The amateur actors with their rhythmic dialogues, nimble sword-fighting and lively acting earned huge accolades from the audience who looked quite jubilant all the way. The play was directed by Mohammad Khan Firoz, Assistant Professor, Department of English, who was also the course teacher.



Academic Poster Project by English Department students

Students of the Department of English ventured a vibrant display of poster project on 20th April 2012 in the seminar room of campus 7, level 10. The project was a part of course activities of the courses 'History of English Language' and 'Introduction to English Literature' taught by the faculty of English Md. Asif Kamal.



The Posters were evaluated by a panel of judges led by the Department Head Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed. Other teachers of English Department along with some faculties of Social Sciences and Economics departments were in the judges' panel.



The event witnessed the active presence of Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dr. Tazul Islam who talked to all the participants individually. He motivated them for their creative and academic display. Prof. Tazul also praised the teachers of English Department for conducting teaching with fun, enjoyment and variation.

Fresher's orientation

A vibrant orientation program for the newcomers in the FASS Departments was organized jointly by the Departments of English, Economics and MMC. The freshers of all the Departments were welcomed and entertained by some creative performance like Drama skid, Recitation, Mock Talk Show etc. by the students of these three Departments. The Dean of FASS Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam and Director of OSA Mr. Manzur graced the occasion with their presence.



Dr. Faheem participates at 59th TEFLIN International Conference in East Java

Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of the English Department, participated in the 59th TEFLIN International Conference held at Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia on 6 – 8 November 2012. TEFLIN, the largest association of English teachers and researchers of Indonesia, organized this year's conference with the theme 'English Language Learning and Teaching in the Digitization Era' where eminent ELT scholars and academics from all over the world attended.



Dr. Faheem gave his speech on 'Culture as a Skill in the Undergraduate EFL Classrooms: Bangladeshi Realities' where he vividly explained why 'culture' acts as the most crucial element in the ELT classrooms and subsequently highlighted the ongoing realities inside the Bangladeshi undergrad English classrooms. He finally described how Bangladeshi English teachers should deal with the cultural features of both the native and the global English varieties in their syllabuses, course materials and classroom lectures by judging 'culture' as the fifth skill vis-à-vis listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. He presented the findings of his research conducted at several top-ranking private universities in Dhaka. His presentation was followed by a lively panel discussion on Bangladeshi and Indonesian ELT scenarios, problems and prospects. Dr. Faheem was also the moderator of other international scholars' sessions.

Convocation Awards for students of English Department

Students of English Department occupied a number of awards in the 12th & 13th convocations held consecutively in February 2012 & February 2013 for outstanding performance and excellence in different categories.

12th Convocation:

The Summa Cum Laude – Nur Wahida Zuchrifah
The Magna Cum Laude – Masudul Haque & Negar Haqiqi
Vice Chancellor's Award - Masudul Haque (for best teaching practicum report)
The Chairman's Award - Nur Wahida Zuchrifah (Foreign Students' Organization)

13th Convocation

The Summa Cum Laude – Rubya Ahmed
The Magna Cum Laude – Fariah Amin
Vice Chancellor's Award - Nuzhat Marium (for best teaching practicum report)
The cum Laude- Ashrafun Nahar

ECHOES

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