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Department of English, AIUB

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ECHOES

Dr. Faheem delivers keynote address in Indonesia



Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of the English Department of AIUB, participated as a Keynote Speaker in the 2-day "International Conference on Education" at Universitas Negeri Makassar (State University of Makassar) in Makassar city, Indonesia, on 22-23 July 2011. The theme of his keynote speech was English Language Education in Bangladesh where he dealt with multidimensional ramifications of this issue from historical past to present stature. Dignitaries from various local and foreign universities, academics and scholars attended his plenary session. His speech was followed by a lively 40-minute question-answer session and open discussion.

Apart from this, Dr. Faheem was also invited by the Director of Graduate Programs of the University to deliver a 2-hour public lecture on 'Second Language Acquisition Theories and Practices—with Specific Focus on Bangladeshi Realities' for Masters & Ph.D. students, as well as for faculty members. Similar lively question-answer session followed his presentation. Academics and dignitaries of Makassar University showed keen interest in AIUB and subsequently, Dr. Faheem narrated AIUB's academic structure in details. Later, the university's Rector had a separate meeting with Dr. Faheem to discuss the possibilities of future academic collaborations and exchange programs with AIUB.

In the closing ceremony, Dr. Faheem was presented with a specially designed memento of the State University of Makassar logo by the Assistant Rector. He also performed some propelling Bangladeshi songs in the official dinner hosted by the Rector's Office in honor of all the conference delegates.

Colorado University students visit English Department

A group of eight American students from the University of Colorado paid a visit to Campus-7 on 6 June 2011 to share interactive moments with the students of English Department. Robby, Mary, Ananda, Dani, Sherin, Erik, Ryan and Louie, led by Mr. Zach (an enthusiastic Dhaka-based educational activist), were from mixed academic disciplines: Liberal Arts, Engineering, and Business studies. Besides, they were also engaged in hiking, soccer, wrestling, fishing and rafting. In all sense, they comprised an adventurous group of modern young Americans.



After their meeting Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean of FASS and Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of English Department they joined Dr. Faheem's 'English Reading Skills and Public Speaking' class. They participated in the regular class proceedings and also engaged in dynamic group activities with students. Both the visitors and the locals shared lots of cultural, societal and academic information with each other that benefited all. The visitors were particularly keen to know more about Bangladesh. Finally, they sang three wonderful songs for the class which enthralled everyone.

Dr. Faustus by English students

Students of the department of English performed a Scene of Dr. Faustus by Christopher Marlowe which was taken from their course curriculum of Introduction to Drama. Directed by the course instructor Md. Asif Kamal the scene was performed by Haroon, Hida, Ashrafunnahar, Tonnima, Negar, Reaz, Burak, Atmaca, Rubya and Anupa. Dean of Arts & Social Sciences Dr. Tazul Islam, Head of the Department Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, faculties and students of the Department watched and enjoyed the performance. The performance was shot in the Media Studio of AIUB.

English department students participate in important events outside AIUB

Nuzhat Mariam, student of Major in Language & Linguistics, participated in the Daily Sun Roundtable titled 'Role of Private Universities in Higher Education' held on 26 November 2011 at the Bashundhara premises of the newspaper. Attended by academics, intellectuals and Vice Chancellors including AIUB's VC Dr. Carmen Zita Lamagna, the roundtable also featured a selected group of promising students of various private universities. Nuzhat represented AIUB and actively took part in discussions.

Fariah Amin, student of Major in Language & Linguistics and a promising public speaker and writer, participated in a Workshop on Communication, Speech and Rhetoric organized by North South University Debating Club on 5-6 December 2011 at the NSU campus, Bashundhara. She received training under Lucinda David (a three time public speaking national champion from Philippine), Sharmila Parmanad (an international award winner in public speaking and world's debate from India), and Suthen Thomas (a winner in Berlin world's and an internationally acclaimed adjudicator).



Student's presentation at the 5th BELTA Conference



On May 21st, 2011 English Department's very own, Masudul Huq, presented a paper at the 5th BELTA (Bangladesh English Language Teacher Association) International Conference. His paper entitled, "English-medium Students Behavioral Implications" confirmed that through the English-medium education and the growing forces of globalization, a distinct cultural shift has taken place among English-medium students. The presentation was followed by an interactive question-answer session. Masudul was grateful for the positive feedback that the audience members conveyed and also appreciated constructive criticism from more expert researchers. He enjoyed the experience and was happy that his parents could see him in such a sophisticated venue. Masudul is very thankful to all his teachers for the continuous inspiration that allows him to do great things. Masudul promises to continue to work hard and use the guidance and support he has received to reach his potential.

My remarkable journey through TESOL in Thailand by Nur Wahida Zuchrifah (Indonesian student) BA in English; Language & Linguistics

My experience in TEFL International TESOL Certificate Course in Thailand was awesome, so to speak. Having completed my graduation in Language and Linguistics from AIUB, I decided to enroll in the TESOL course in Ban Phe, Thailand to enhance my credentials in the field of ELT. For my fellow students who may be wondering what it is all about, it is a four-week intensive course including almost 120 hours of study and 8 hours of Observed Teaching Practice. What I enjoyed most is the Teaching Practice! I had to go to a Thai local school and taught English to a class of 30 Thai students!



My knowledge of Linguistics acquired from my academic journey in AIUB has proved to be very useful and helpful during my TESOL course completion. I was able to compete with other trainees who were mostly native speakers of English and I eventually scored the second highest result on the final test! One of the trainees from the USA once asked me, 'How do you know so much, Hida?' I just smiled and immediately remembered all my awesome teachers in AIUB's English Department who motivated and taught me a lot throughout my entire academic program. I am not going to add or subtract my story at this point; I am going to tell you all what I experienced! During my TESOL course, I received training on English grammar and phonology. My linguistic background knowledge was relatively strong that my trainer was impressed and had to stop me in answering all the questions (well, I had to give opportunities to other too). It shows that AIUB's English Department does not only provide friendly faculties but also a significant amount of useful knowledge! We, English graduates and students, should believe that we are capable to compete in this challenging world armed with the knowledge we obtained from AIUB!

The 2nd THT-BELTA-AIUB Conference A Saga of Sweet Success

After a tremendously successful 'BELTA-AIUB-THT English Language Teaching Seminar 2009', AIUB's Department of English organized it for the second consecutive time on 2-3 July, 2010, jointly with Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA). THT, the Japan-based forum called 'Teachers Helping Teachers', provided two eminent resource persons Dr. Patrick Dougherty, a Dubai-based English language trainer, and Dr. Steve Cornwell, an Osaka-based linguist.

Seventy (70) English teachers from schools, colleges and universities participated in various multidimensional workshops and roundtable sessions. The preparations were supervised by Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean of AIUB's Arts & Social Science Faculty.

The theme of this mega event was *Bringing Innovations into the ELT Classrooms*. Topics of some interesting sessions were: 'Student Heritage in the EFL Classroom', 'Grammar Dictation and Other Grammar Fun', 'Vocabulary Learning: Theory and Techniques', 'Using the Native Culture to Teach the Target Language', 'Preparing Students for Exams', 'Classroom Assessment Techniques: CATs', 'Classroom Management: A Velvet Approach' etc.



A lively certificate-awarding ceremony was held for distributing certificates among the participants and the volunteers. The program also featured a multicultural event performed by university students from USA. Dr. Charles Villanueva and English faculties Ms. Soheli Akter and Debasish Biswas graced the ceremony with their fascinating songs. Department of English renders massive thanks to the AIUB management, especially to the Vice Chancellor Dr. Carmen Zita Lamagna, for her unique, relentless support for making this entire event a grand success. The participants rightly echoed their appreciation towards AIUB for managing such a big event in a flawless, professional manner.

News Bullets

• Syeda Farzana Sultana, Assistant Professor of the English Department, is currently pursuing her PhD at the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester, USA.

• The first batch of BA in English, Major in Language & Linguistics and Major in Literature, under the Department of English passed out with great success.

English in Action – Having Fun with English

English in Action the popular literary contest was once again held in all its pomp and grandeur with enthusiastic students and teachers pulling themselves together to make it a success... and a success it was! Time was limited, holidays between, yet teachers and students worked day and night, not just to win, but to participate collectively.

Organized by the Department of English, the event took a new turn with the introduction of one new category. The categories that students participated were: Oration, Impromptu Speaking, Dramatic Monologue, Choral Recitation, Manuscript reading and the new event - One-Act Play. The semi final round selected six (6) contestants for the finals in Oration, three (3) finalists in Impromptu Speaking, three (3) in Dramatic Monologue, five (5) groups in Choral Recitation, four (4) in Manuscript Reading and four (4) groups in One-Act Play.

Unlike the previous one this contest was not restricted to the students of English, but was also open to the Business Communication students. It should be noted that all the finalists for the Choral Recitation category emerged from the Business Communication sections. At the end of the day there was only one winner in each category and the winner takes it all...

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Asaduzaman Nur MP, renowned Media personality Theater Activist, and Managing Director, Desh TV Limited while the special guest was Mr. Shahnur Wahid, Associate Editor, The Daily Sun.

Welcoming the audience, Dr Faheem Hasan Shahed expressed his appreciation that the AIUB's Department of English is planning to extend this program and invite other colleges and universities to participate in the next *English in Action* events. He thanked the Offices of the Vice Chancellor and the Dean for their unstinted support in organizing such programs and all the teachers of the Department along with teachers of other departments who supported behind the scenes.

The winners were:

Oration: Kazi Afroza Mim; *Impromptu Speaking*: Hafiz Rakibul; *Dramatic Monologue*: Nur Wahida Zuchrifah; *Manuscript Reading*: Rizvi Terisa; *Choral Recitation*: Business Communication Section I; and *One-Act Play*: English Writing Skills and Communication Section B



Celebration of AIUB's 16th Foundation Day by the English Department



In observance of AIUB's 16th Foundation Day, the English Speaking Club and the English Writing Club organized two-day long 'English Public Speaking' and 'English Essay Writing' contests on 23 and 24 November. The response was tremendous. Students from Business, Science, Engineering, Arts & Social Sciences disciplines participated in large numbers with great enthusiasm. Haroon, Ashrafunnahar, Toniema and Mawla, the four dynamic club members worked with passion side-by-side the teachers to arrange things neatly side by side the faculty members.

The topics of the essay writing contest covered the broad theme 'Changes and Goals'. From sixty quality essay writers, the best three (3) were selected as the winners; they were: Fairuz Safra Ayub (BBA), Fariah Amin (English) and Rubya Ahmed (English).

The topic of the public speaking contest was 'A success is what lies beneath a failure'. After a rigorous selection round, the top 12 contested in the grand finale in two groups: seniors and juniors. The winners were: Supriti Sarkar (English) and Fariah Amin (English) from Senior Group; Julharsh Meghami (CSSE) and Afnan Islam (EEE) from Junior Group.

The entire grand finale, which was video recorded live, was attended by the Dean of Arts & Social Science Prof. Tazul Islam, faculty members from various departments, judges and guests from outside.

Internal faculty presentation



Md. Asif Kamal, faculty of English Department, gave an internal presentation on Latin America and Its Literature in the Seminar room of Campus 7 on 14 June 2011 at 3 pm. The presentation was attended by teachers and students of English and other departments. The presentation ended with a lively questionnaire session participated by the students and teachers alike.

English Department student's solo painting exhibition

The first solo painting exhibition of Farhana Islam Tani, student of BA in Literature, was held at Dhaka Art Centre in Dhanmondi. Eminent artist and Supernumerary Professor of Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University Mr. Samarjit Roy Chowdhury inaugurated the event. Farhana's prime interest lies in human figure drawing and subsequently, she uses her use of texture, rhythm, color and tone shows signs of a matured artist.

She worked in three mediums in all her paintings: charcoal, chalk pastel and acrylic. 'I follow the works of a diverse group of artists but Mexican painter Frida Kahlo inspires me the most,' Farhana said.



Shaila Ahmed participates in US State Department Program



Shaila Ahmed, Faculty, Department of English of AIUB had the privilege to participate in the program of National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) organized by the US Department of State & National Endowment for the Humanities Program through The American Center, Bangladesh. The program was from 13th July to 26th July, 2011. In the workshop, the theme of focus was on education, culture, ethical values and enlightenment of citizenships. This program has a great educational value and is also important from multicultural perspective.

Part of the program was held in Washington DC, where mostly, classroom teaching, interaction with students and also the use of modern technology

approaches in teaching was shown to us. The other part of the program was held in Rochester, New York. The workshop in Rochester was titled "Abolitionism, Women's Rights, and Religious Revivalism on the Rochester Reform Trail". There were three international participants from Bangladesh, India and Chile but Ms. Shaila Ahmed was given the privilege of a TV and newspaper interview.

International Conference

A group of six faculty members of the Department of English of AIUB presented their papers in the 2nd International Conference titled "Thinking Otherwise with/in English Studies" held in Jahangirnagar University on 13-14 May 2011. Among the presentations there was a panel of three consisting the Head of the Department Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, M Hamidul Huq and Borendra Lal Tripura. Among others Md. Asif Kamal, Sayeeda Rahman and Mehedi Kaysar Pabitra presented their individual papers. The titles of the papers:

- *Bilingualism in Bangladesh: Unexplored Avenues*
by Panel of Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, M Hamidul Haque and Borendra Lal Tripura
- *Pablo Neruda: Poetics and Politics* by Md. Asif Kamal
- *Trends of Nativization in Bangladeshi English* by Sayeeda Rahman
- *Writing Otherwise: Meaning Based Message and Reading Comprehension* by Mehedi Kaysar Pabitra

AIUB's English Department and Notre Dame College hold spirited public speaking contest



AIUB's Department of English and Notre Dame English Club jointly held a lively, hard-fought speaking competition named "English in Action: Public Speaking Contest" at Notre Dame College on 30 November 2011. Principal of Notre Dame College Father Benjamin Costa, CSC, and Vice Principal Father Stanislaus Bakul Rozario, CSC, welcomed the AIUB's English Department team that comprised faculty members and students.

Enjoyed by a house-full audience, 10 top public speakers of Notre Dame College displayed their outstanding skills in four different topics. It was amazing to watch how these young people exhibited their capabilities of effective public speaking—both verbally and non-verbally. This event was a part of AIUB's commitment towards fostering creative co-curricular activities and subsequently enhancing leadership abilities among the youngsters. Head of AIUB's English Department Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed and Moderator of Notre Dame English Club Father George Kamal Rozario, CSC, distributed certificates and awards to the winners.

After the contest, Mr. Debasish Biswas furthered the spirit of the house with his remarkable rendering of Shah Abdul Karim's all-time hit *Aage ki shubdor din kataitam*.

English Department's colorful speaking contest in Viqarunnisa Noon School & College

The Department of English along with Viqarunnisa English Club and Viqarunnisa Debate Club organized "English in Action: Public Speaking Contest" at the Viqarunnisa Noon School & College on 11 December 2011. The entire college put on jovial, festive attire on this occasion where the AIUB team was awarded a grand, floral hospitality by the Principal Ms. Manju Ara Begum and her team.

A house-full audience in their massive auditorium witnessed the immaculately organized event where Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed highlighted the need for upbringing and nourishing the youngsters of the colleges as professional public speakers, as well as AIUB's commitment towards this noble goal. TMs. Manju Ara Begum declared that this was the right kind of beginning of a long-term relationship between the two organizations and the noble gesture of AIUB's English Department would surely attract the admiration of Viqarunnisa's teachers and students. Moderators of the Viqarunnisa English Club Ms. Jannatul Ferdous and Viqarunnisa Debate Club Ms. Shabnam Silvia also spoke appreciating this wonderful venture and urged for diversified events in the coming years as well. This event was a sweet experience for AIUB's faculty Ms. Shaila Ahmed, former Principal of Viqarunnisa College, who happily took the responsibility of organizing all future events with the College.

10 top public speakers of the College displayed their outstanding skills in different topics. The judges had a tough time to decide the winners—so much so was the quality of rhetoric. The program was conducted by Fariah Amin, a senior student of BA English program and a Viqarunnisa graduate.

A lively musical event took place after that where Viqarunnisa students presented songs—not to mention of our faculty Mr. Debasish Biswas' awesome rendering of two classic folk numbers.



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