



Department of English and Humanities

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

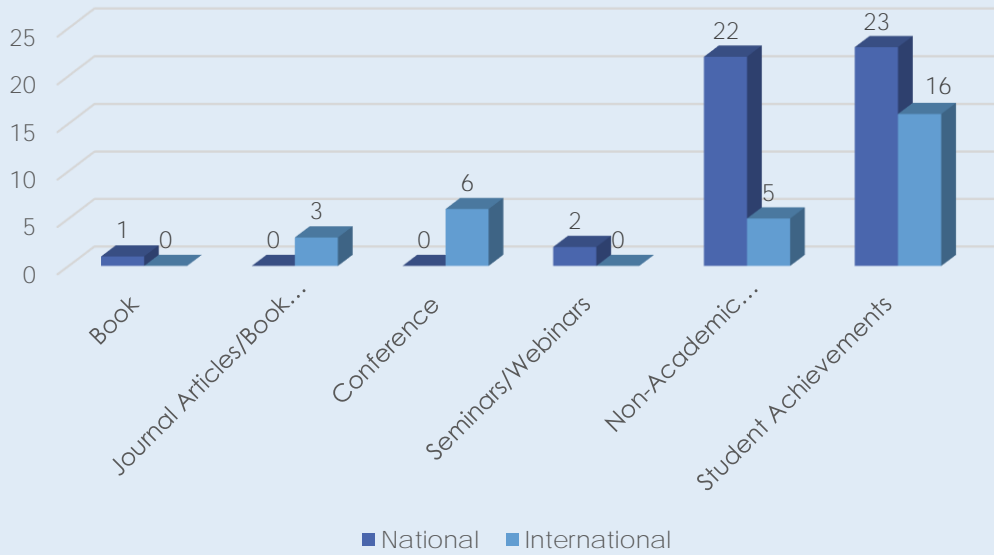
Publications and Events Report

Spring 2023

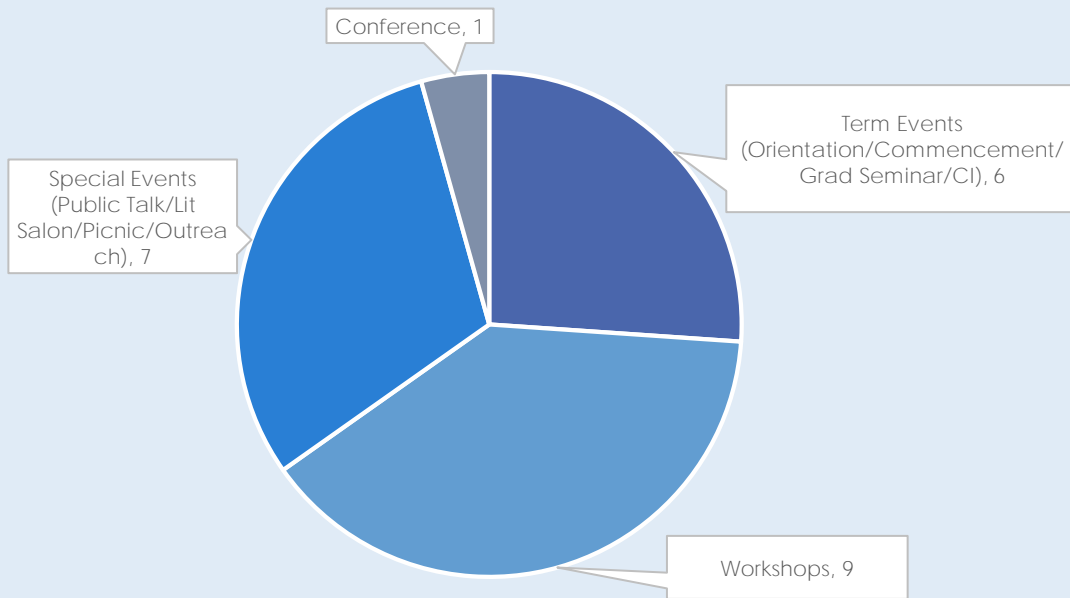
Table of Contents

Publications and Events Summary	2
Publications	
Book	4
Journal Articles/Book Chapters	4
Conferences	4
Seminars/Webinars	5
Non-Academic and Creative Publications	5
Student/Alumni Publications, Presentations, and Achievements	7
Events Report	
Event 1: International Conference on English Pronunciation in Bangladesh	12
Event 2: Career Talk – English Major: Friend or Foe	14
Event 3: CCI Program Information Session	15
Event 4: Orientation Spring 2023	16
Event 5: DEH Picnic	19
Event 6: 7 th ULAB Literary Salon with Durreen Shahnaz	21
Event 7: Graduate Student Seminar Spring 2023	23
Event 8: DEH Student Workshops	25
Event 9: Curriculum Integration SP23: First Forum	32
Event 10: Workshop on Researching WITH Children, Not ON Children	34
Event 11: DEH Represented at Gulshan Society Book Fair 3	35
Event 12: Curriculum Integration SP23: Second Forum	37
Event 13: 8 th ULAB Literary Salon with Ghazala Wahab	39
Event 14: Teachers’ Professional Development Program	40
Event 15: 9 th ULAB Literary Salon with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee	43
Event 16: Physical Wounds in Literature: A Talk and Workshop on Critical Medical Humanities in 21st Century Bangladesh	46
Event 17: Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration Showcasing	49
Event 18: Commencement Spring 2023	53
Event 19: So, What’s Next? A Guidance Session for Spring 2023 Graduates	56

Summary of Publications



Summary of Events



Publications

Book

National

Mortuza, Shamsad. *Blowin' in the Wind*. Dhaka: ULAB Press, 2023.

Journal Articles/Book Chapters

International

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "The Mythical, the Real, and the Imagined: Padma in the Literature and Culture of Bangladesh." *The Great Padma: The Epic River that Made the Bengal Delta*, edited by Kazi Khaleed Ashraf. **San Francisco: ORO Editions** and Dhaka: Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscape and Settlement, 2023, pp 297-306.

Rafi, Abu Saleh Mohammad. "Students' Uptake of Translanguaging Pedagogies and Translanguaging-oriented Assessment in an ELT Classroom at a Bangladeshi University." In R. Khan, A. Bashir, L. B. Basu, & E. Uddin (Eds.), *Local Research and Glocal Perspectives in English Language Teaching: Teaching in Changing Times*. **Springer Nature**, 2023.

Karim, A., Kabilan, M.K., Sultana, S., Amin, E.U., and **Rahman, Mohammad Mosiur**. "Reflecting on Reflections Concerning Critical Incidents in Developing Pre-Service Teachers' Professional Identity: Evidence from a TESOL Education Project." *English Teaching & Learning*. February 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42321-023-00140-1>. **[SCOPUS-indexed]**

Conferences

International

Rafi, Abu Saleh Mohammad. "Translanguaging in Writing Instruction: What Works and What Doesn't?" Presenter. *American Association of Applied Linguistics Conference*. Portland, Oregon, USA. March 18-21, 2023.

Mahmud, Abdullah Al and Sheikh Nahiyah. "Teacher Reflection Strategies in ELT: Three Case Studies." Presenters. *Humanities, Social and Education Sciences (IHSES) 2023*, Denver, CO, USA. April 13-16, 2023.

Mahmud, Abdullah Al and **Sheikh Nahiyah**. "Teacher Reflection Strategies in ELT: Three Case Studies." Presenters. *Humanities, Social and Education Sciences (IHSES) 2023*, Denver, CO, USA. April 13-16, 2023.

Mahmud, Abdullah Al. "Influence of Authentic Materials in ELT on the Writing Proficiency of High School Students." Presenter. *Humanities, Social and Education Sciences (IHSES) 2023*, Denver, CO, USA. April 13-16, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Good Feminist vs. Bad Feminist: Margaret Atwood's Take on the #MeToo Movement." Presenter. *Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture*. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 4-5, 2023.

Tabassum, Samirah. "Cross-dressing and Performativity: (De/ Re)constructing Polymorphous Techniques of Power and Heterosexual Matrix." Presenter. *Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture*. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 4-5, 2023.

Seminars/Webinars

National

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Difficulties in Academic Writing: An Investigation for Developing Writing Skills of English Department Students of SUST." Facilitator. Organized by the Department of English, SUST. May 13, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. Masterclass. Facilitator. Organized by the Department of English, SUST. May 14, 2023.

Non-Academic and Creative Publications

International

Haq, Kaiser. Two Poems. *Voices Now: World Poetry Today*. Edited by Braja K Sorkar and Binay Laha. Tristoop Books, India. 2022, pp. 116-120. (available in 2023).

Haq, Kaiser. "Two Poems by Kaiser Haq." *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, vol. 58, no. 6, 2022, pp. 817-819. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17449855.2022.2156712>. (Published online on January 10, 2023).

Manzoor, Sohana "A Fairy from London." *Two Thirds North*. March 2023, pp. 159-170.

Manzoor, Sohana. "The Housemaid." *Apple Valley Review*. April 2023.

Manzoor, Sohana. "Hena" (A translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's short story "Hena"). *Borderless Journal*. May 2023. <https://borderlessjournal.com/2023/05/25/hena-a-short-story-by-nazrul/>.

National

Manzoor, Sohana. "Peripheral." *Six Seasons Review*. January 2023.

- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Afterthoughts on Dhaka Lit Fest." *The Daily Star*. January 13, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/afterthoughts-dhaka-lit-fest-3220141>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Welcome to the Machine." *The Daily Star*. January 20, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/welcome-the-machine-3226156>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Ghosts in Bangla Literature and Culture." *The Daily Star*. January 21, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/ghosts-bangla-literature-and-culture-3226356>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Ideological Elephant in the NCTB Textbooks." *The Daily Star*. January 27, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/the-ideological-elephant-the-nctb-textbooks-3232161>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Shaking of the Ground." *The Daily Star*. February 10, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/shaking-the-ground-3244131>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Sari—the Changing Tale of Draping." *The Daily Star*. February 16, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/32nd-anniversary/the-new-lifestyle-chronicles/news/sari-the-changing-tale-draping-3248856>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Appearance and Disappearance of Tagore." *The Daily Star*. February 17, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/the-appearance-and-disappearance-tagore-3250636>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Does a Degree in Bangla Have No Value?" *The Daily Star*. February 24, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/does-degree-bangla-have-no-value-3256356>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Shrinkflation: Downsizing in the Time of Inflation." *The Daily Star*. March 4, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/shrinkflation-downsizing-the-time-inflation-3262311>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Lives Cheapened by Negligence." *The Daily Star*. March 10, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/lives-cheapened-negligence-3267876>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Do We Need Branches of Foreign Universities?" *The Daily Star*. March 18, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/do-we-need-branches-foreign-universities-3274416>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "For Whom the Titles Toll." *The Daily Star*. March 25, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/whom-the-titles-toll-3279741>.

- Haq, Kaiser. “For Your Sake, O Freedom?: 1971 and Bangladeshi Poetry.” *The Daily Star*. March 26, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/independence-day-special-2023/news/your-sake-o-freedom-1971-and-bangladeshi-poetry-3280541>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. “Before Trashing the Trash Culture....” *The Daily Star*. April 1, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/10-things-i-hate-about-dhaka-3291411>.
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- Mortuza, Shamsad. “Tiptoeing through the Minefield.” *The Daily Star*. April 28, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/tiptoeing-through-the-minefield-3306506>
- Haq, Kaiser. “Alternative Routes.” *The Daily Star*. April 29, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/alternative-routes-3306906>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. “The Heat is On.” *The Daily Star*. May 5, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/the-heat-3311916>.
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- Mortuza, Shamsad. “Bracing for Another Storm.” *The Daily Star*. May 20, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/bracing-another-storm-3324271>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. “A Fair Warning against a Foul Conduct.” *The Daily Star*. May 27, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/fair-warning-against-foul-conduct-3330821>.

Student/Alumni Publications, Presentations, and Achievements

International

- Osman, Khan Touseef, **Marjuque Ul Haque**, and Md. Masud Parvez Rubel. “Migrant Imaginations of Italy in Amitav Ghosh’s Works: Neo-liberal Modernity, Neo-colonial “Worlds.” Presenter. **International Conference.** *Geographies of the Present. Spaces and Places of the Anthropocene in Italy.* University College Cork, Ireland. February 24-25, 2023.
- Anika, Fairoz, Mst Manjuma Ferdoushi, Sadia Tabassum. “The language movement did not reject the importance of dialects?: Syed Manzoorul Islam.” Interview. *The Daily Star*. February 25,

2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/the-language-movement-did-not-reject-the-importance-dialects-syed-manzoorul-islam-3256631>.
- Mortuza, Arshi. "The Cigarette." *Voices Now: World Poetry Today*. Edited by Braja K Sorkar and Binay Laha. Tristoop Books, **India**, 2022, p. 202 (available in 2023).
- Mortuza, Arshi. "Poe-try." *Voices Now: World Poetry Today*. Edited by Braja K Sorkar and Binay Laha. Tristoop Books, **India**, 2022, p. 203 (available in 2023).
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Now Celie Speaks: Reclaiming Selfhood in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*". *Researcher: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, vol. XVIII, no. 2. **University of Jammu, India**. March 2023.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Claiming Our Space: Cyber Misogyny and Digital Feminist Activism in Bangladesh Context." Presenter. **International Conference**. Asian Studies Conference IV: Gender, Communication and Development (Hybrid). South Asian Foundation for Academic Research-SAFAR, Kathmandu, Nepal. April 22, 2023.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Using Four Picture Books to Promote Self-Worth in Black Children in Post-BLM Period." Presenter. Art About Writing | Writing About Art. University of St. Thomas Graduate Art History, Museum Studies, and English Conference. **University of St. Thomas**. April 28, 2023.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. The 2023 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. Department of English. North Dakota State University. April 2023.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. Received the Richard L. Johnson Scholarship, North Dakota State University for 2023-2024 (\$1001.10). April 2023.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. Awarded Summer Teaching Assistantship, Department of English. North Dakota State University. April 2023.
- Ullah, Hossain Mahmud Arafat. "Exploring the Depiction of Women in RK Narayan's *Ramayana*: Patriarchy in Ancient India." Presenter. *Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture*. **International Conference**. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 4-5, 2023.
- Shams, Ahmed Tahsin and **Sanjida Akter**. "Glorifying Ecocide in Mainstream Cinema: A Cross-cultural Comparative Analysis of Selected Films in Hollywood and Bollywood." Presenter. *Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture*. **International Conference**. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 4-5, 2023.
- Anika, Fairoz. "Exploration of Catherine Earnshaw's identity in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*." Poster Presenter. *Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture*. **International Conference**. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 4-5, 2023. [**Runner Up Prize**].
- Mottakin, Imamul. "Representation of Subaltern Women in Shahidul Zahir's Short Stories." Presenter. *Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture*. **International Conference**. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 4-5, 2023.

Ferdoushi, Mst. Manjuma. "The Scarlet Letters from Puritan Days to Presents Days." Presenter. *Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture*. **International Conference**. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 4-5, 2023.

Shetu, Shahriyer Hossain. "The First Time Their Eyes Met." *Borderless Journal*. May 15, 2023. <https://borderlessjournal.com/2023/05/15/the-first-time-their-eyes-met>.

National

Tasnim, Zarin. "'White Noise': Noah Baumbach Filmed the Most Unfilmable Book." *The Daily Star*. January 20, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/white-noise-noah-baumbach-filmed-the-most-unfilmable-book-3226081>.

Tasnim, Zarin. "'Passing on the Tradition': A Tribute to the Maestros." *The Daily Star*, January 22, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/music/news/passing-the-tradition-tribute-the-maestros-3227461>.

Tasnim, Zarin. "Compact Art: Exploring Wes Anderson's Short Films." *The Daily Star*, January 27, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/compact-art-exploring-wes-andersons-short-films-3232016>.

Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Book Review: Egle Jubak O Kalantorer Kabya." *Daily Sun*. February 23, 2023. <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/675531/%E2%80%9CEgle-Jubak-O-Kalantorer-Kabya%E2%80%9D>.

Tasnim, Zarin. "Sanjay Leela Bhansali: The Master of Grandeur." *The Daily Star*. February 24, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/sanjay-leela-bhansali-the-master-grandeur-3255556>.

Sarawat, Siham. *Roses and Thorns*. Worthy Publications. February 2023.

Ahmmed, SM Toukir. *Ondhokare Kannar Abhash (অন্ধকারে কান্নার আভাস)*. Envelop Publications, Dhaka. 2023.

Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Book Review: Shahnaz Shithy's Monokoitab." *Daily Sun*. March 2, 2023. <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/676879/Shahnaz-Shithy%E2%80%99s-Monokoitab>.

Tasnim, Zarin. "'The Last of Us': A Gripping Game to TV Adaptation." *The Daily Star*, 16 Mar. 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/the-last-us-gripping-game-tv-adaptation-3272906>.

Tasnim, Zarin. "Pedro Pascal: A Father Figure for Film-Generations to Follow." *The Daily Star*. April 2, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/pedro-pascal-father-figure-film-generations-follow-3286881>.

Tasnim, Zarin. "A Journey of Poetry and Music: In Conversation with Ahmed Hasan Sunny." *The Daily Star*. April 18,

2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/music/news/journey-poetry-and-music-conversation-ahmed-hasan-sunny-3300051>.
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- Tasnim, Zarin. "Irrfan Khan: Remembering the 'Ordinary' Hero." *The Daily Star*. April 29, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/irrfan-khan-remembering-the-ordinary-hero-3307116>.
- Tasnim, Zarin. "'The Song of Scorpions': Irrfan Khan's Swansong." *The Daily Star*. April 29, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/the-song-scorpions-irrfan-khans-swansong-3307166>.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Let's Dress to Express (Not to Impress)." *Eid Magazine*. *Daily Sun*. April 29, 2023. <https://www.daily-sun.com/magazine/details/686766/Let%E2%80%99s-Dress-to-Express-Not-to-Impress>.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Enhance Digital Literacy for Research-based Writing." *Pounopounik: PUDS Magazine*, Premier University. April 2023.
- Tasnim, Zarin. "Revisiting 'The Grand Budapest Hotel.'" *The Daily Star*. May 1, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/revisiting-the-the-grand-budapest-hotel-3308826>.
- Tasnim, Zarin. "'Say Hello to My Little Friend!': Exploring Al Pacino and His Troubled Characters." *The Daily Star*. May 5, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/say-hello-my-little-friend-exploring-al-pacino-and-his-troubled-characters-3311711>.
- Chowdhury, Salwah. "Tagore's *Shesher Kobita*. A Timeless Exploration of Love and Freedom." *The Daily Star*. May 7, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/tagores-shesher-kobita-timeless-exploration-love-and-freedom-3313221>.
- Tasnim, Zarin. "Mrinal Sen: A Look Back at Excellence." *The Daily Star*. May 14, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/mrinal-sen-look-back-excellence-3319671>.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "Cuteness, Desire and Consumerism." *Daily Sun*. May 20, 2023. <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/690329/Cuteness-Desire-and-Consumerism>.
- Tasnim, Zarin. "'The Great' Season 3 Is a Mix of Wit, Drama, Delight." *The Daily Star*. May 22, 2023. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/the-great-season-3-mix-wit-drama-delight-3326121>.
- Banu, Jainab Tabassum. "One Marriage and Many Headaches." *Daily Sun*. May 27, 2023. <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/691572/One-Marriage-and-Many-Headaches>.

Event Reports

Event 1: International Conference on English Pronunciation in Bangladesh



On January 13, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities and the Center for Language Studies (CLS) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) co-hosted the Third Conference on English Pronunciation in Bangladesh (EPIB3): Issues and Practices, co-organized with Professor Amin Rahman, CEO, ZAMOSC, and Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB).

The Chief Guest, Professor Md. Farhadul Islam, Chairman, National Curriculum Textbook Board, declared the inaugural of the Conference. During his speech, Prof. Islam spoke about his intention to implement and support programs to improve English language learning from the primary level.

The Keynote Speaker of the Conference was Dr. Andy Kirkpatrick, Professor Emeritus, Griffith University, Australia. His keynote address, “English as a Language of Asia: Implications for the Teaching of English in Asia,” focused on the many current uses of English in Asia. He concluded that “English is an Asian language and its primary use is as a lingua franca [which] means that English should be taught *not* as a language spoken and owned by native speakers of English, but as an Asian language and as a lingua franca.”

The first plenary was given by Prof. AMM Hamidur Rahman, Daffodil International University, who spoke about “Overcoming Problems of Pronunciation for Bangladeshi Learners of English.” This was followed by a workshop on “Teaching the Pronunciation of English through Entertainment,” conducted by Muhammad Yeasir.

The next plenary speaker, Dr. Raqib Chowdhury, spoke on “Contesting Linguistic Identities and the Persistence of Standardized Pronunciation.” Dr. Urme Chakma followed this with her talk, “Learning English as a Third Language – Challenges of a Linguistic Minority Speaker in Bangladesh.” Next, Prof. M. Maniruzzaman delivered his plenary speech on “English Pronunciation of Bengali Speaking Persons: Exploring Typical and Atypical Attributes.” The final plenary was delivered by Dr. Azizul Hoque on “Chittagonian Influence on English Pronunciation: A Critical Insight.”

Parallel sessions followed the plenaries where paper presenters engaged the audience with their profound ideas.

The program was also graced by the presence of Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB; Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB; Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Director, Center for Language Studies (CLS), ULAB; Mr. Amin Rahman, CEO, ZAMOSC, Mr. Masum Billah, Country Director, VAB, as well as faculty members, participants, and students.

The day-long conference was brought to its conclusion with closing remarks by Mr. Amin Rahman, and a shout out to the student volunteers from the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB.



Report by Ereti Rhydil Rahman (193013068) and Salman Al Farsy (222013053)

Event 2: Career Talk – English Major: Friend or Foe



Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

Career Talk
"English Major: Friend or Foe?"

Monday, January 16, 2023
Time: 2.40 pm
Venue: PD 309

Speaker:
Sumaiya Binte Sarwar
Business Consultant & Researcher

About the Speaker:
Sumaiya Binte Sarwar completed her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in English Literature from the University of Dhaka, and is currently pursuing a Masters in Communication degree at the Business School, King's College, University of Aberdeen. She has worked on several research projects and published in different journals, like Dhaka University English Department's Spectrum and EDAS Chronicle, and Women in Leadership (WIL) magazine, published by Bangladesh Brand Forum. She has now ventured in to the paradigm of communication. With a long career in the corporate world, Sumaiya recently completed an assignment as Head of Business & Media of the Dhaka Lit Fest.



On January 16, 2023, DEH organized a career talk titled "English Major: Friend or Foe." Ms. Sumaiya Binte Sarwar, Business Consultant and Researcher, was invited as the speaker for the session to share her insights and experience as an English major excelling in the corporate world.

Ms. Sarwar initiated the session by briefly discussing the diverse nature of English as a discipline and how it aids the students to approach a situation from different perspectives. She specifically focused on learning from literature which, according to her, cultivates analytical and critical thinking in an individual, helping them resolve the problems encountered in the professional domain much more effectively.

Contrary to popular belief, she shared that the business world needs individuals who are creative, innovative, as well as empathetic, and hence English graduates get the upper hand as their curriculum instigates them to exercise and adopt these qualities.

Furthermore, she added that English being the international language keeps the graduates a step ahead in their linguistic proficiency acquired from their academics. The capability to communicate with professionals from both home and abroad effectively is a key to striving in the highly competitive fields, and she suggested that the students from English, therefore, can utilize their communication skills in this area.

Being an example of making a successful career as a corporate professional herself, she believes that English graduates should not limit themselves to the career stereotypes, such as a teacher or BCS candidate. She advised that they should explore different fields and step into one that aligns with their passion, allowing them to incorporate their academic learning and acquired skills in the respective sector.

Finally, she shared some of her fond memories as a student of English Literature at the University of Dhaka. Then she proceeded to address the participants' concerns and queries.

The event was coordinated and hosted by Arifa Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, and ended with a vote of thanks by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees.



Report by Isra Tabiya Islam (202013007)

Event 3: CCI Program Information Session

 Department of English and Humanities
 UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
 BANGLADESH

Information Session

CCI Program: Your Opportunity to Build an International Network

Date: January 19, 2023
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Venue: Google Meet


Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia
 Assistant Director, English Zone, ULAB, and CCI Alum

What to Expect:

The session will be divided into two segments. In the first segment, the speaker will introduce the program, share how CCI will contribute to students' professional development, and opportunities they will receive as US Exchange Alumni.

The second section will focus more on the application writing process and what to expect in the interview. There will be a brief Q/A session at the end.



The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, arranged an Information Session on the CCI Program offered by the US Department of State on January 19, 2023, titled, “CCI Program: Your Opportunity to Build an International Network.” Facilitated by Ms. Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia, Assistant Director, English Zone, and CCI Alumna, this session focused on giving the students information about the Community College Initiative Program, to encourage them to apply for it.

The session started with Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, introducing Ms. Tasmia, following which the facilitator discussed what the CCI Program is, the five pillars of the program, the opportunities that CCI Program students and alumni receive, and

how to fill up the application form. Ms. Tasmia began with what the CCI Program is and gave the students an understanding of how community colleges work in the US, and what activities the program includes to help their students give back to their communities. Following this, she discussed the five pillars of the program which extended to a discussion on the fields of study that the program offers, as well as the benefits and international networking opportunities that alumni receive. Ms. Tasmia also shared details on the application process where she mentioned some of the common mistakes that applicants make, shared tips on how to connect their ideas and goals to the five pillars in the application, and also gave the students ideas on how the selection process works and what to expect at the interview if they get selected.

Additionally, Ms. Tasmia also showed the students some important websites, such as the website of the US Embassy in Bangladesh, so that they can use them during the application process.

At the end of the workshop, students had the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns, following which, Ms. Rahman shared some tips and words of encouragement, bringing the session to a conclusion.

Report by Ereti Rhidil Rahman (193013068)

Event 4: Orientation Spring 2023



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held its Spring 2023 Orientation program on January 28, 2023 to welcome the new students of Batch 231. The program was held at the ULAB Permanent Campus.

The Orientation Speaker for Spring 2023 was Mr. Mohammad Raselul Kader, Deputy Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Secretariat, who shared some anecdotes from his life signifying the importance of gaining knowledge outside of coursework and concentrating on other fields of interest. Also, while talking about skill development, he emphasized that every student should pay special attention to developing communication,

analytical, and IT skills. In his final remarks, he motivated the freshers to always strive for victory but remain humble and respectful to others.

The Orientation program was commenced by the Head of the Department, Associate Professor, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. She warmly welcomed the freshers and delivered a speech filled with words of wisdom and hope. She advised the students to come out of their shells and encouraged them to actively participate in extracurricular activities alongside their academics. Stressing on the orientation theme “Time to Grow,” she inspired the students to take ownership of their lives and consider every challenge as an opportunity to grow. She also gave a shout out to the volunteers who helped in arranging the event and ended her speech by introducing the faculty members of DEH.



Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, also gave an inspirational speech to the freshers. He urged all the new students to make the most of their time at ULAB and utilize everything the university has to offer. He ended his speech by expressing how he looks forward to seeing his students flourish and accomplish great things ahead.



After the speeches, the cultural segment of the program began. The first performance was by Oriha Shouptik, Batch 221, who beautifully sang a cover of Ed Sheeran’s “I See Fire” which was followed by a poem recited by Fahmida Akter, from MA program, Batch 223. Nusrat Jahan Esha from Batch 221 gave a mesmerizing dance performance on “Esho Shyamolo Shundoro.”



The cultural performances continued with Mustafa Zahir and Akib Mostafa of Batch 192 singing “Jocchona Snan” by Bay of Bengal, and Mithila Akter Trisha, Batch 223, dancing gracefully to the song “Mayabono Biharini.” Later, Anjum Azaz Opa spoke on behalf of the newbies of Batch 231, detailing her excitement at starting a new campus life, while Sumiya Nawshin spoke on behalf of the MA 231 freshers, sharing her experiences so far at DEH as well as reminiscing on her journey in the BA program that gave her the confidence to continue in the MA program.



The final performers of the event were Alen Henry Costa, Batch 211, and Bimurta Binyas, Batch 193. They captivated the audience with their rendition of the song “Dukkho Bilash” by Artcell. The showstopper signalled an exciting and energetic ending to the event.

The program was hosted by Adrita Chowdhury from Batch 223, and the volunteers from Batch 221, 222 and 223 helped to organise the event, which was coordinated by the TAs of DEH. The entire orientation program was overseen and directed by Ms. Nusrat Tajkia, BA Coordinator, and Ms. Nadia Rahman, MA Coordinator.





Report by Saad Muhammad Rafi (223013001)

Event 5: DEH Picnic



The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB held a picnic on February 9, 2023 at Nokkhotrobari Resort for its faculty members, staff, students, and alumni.

The picnic was organized with the goal of increasing the bond between all members of the department. It was a day of fun and relaxation, away from the stress of work and study.

The journey began early in the morning in four buses. Students and teachers sang and danced to set the mood. Upon arrival at the picnic venue, the students enjoyed swimming in the pool after a hearty breakfast while the faculty members played Frisbee. Everyone took advantage of the playground equipped with swings and see-saws. The venue was picturesque and

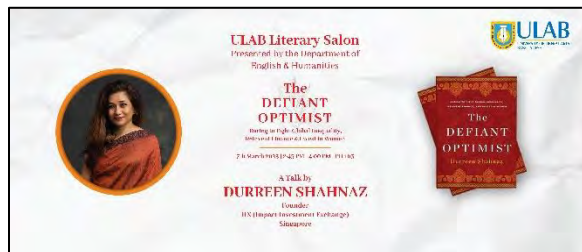
the environment relaxing. Towards the end of the day, after lunch, a game of pass the ball was played by everyone. Prizes were given away for a raffle draw.

The picnic was organized by Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professor, DEH, with the help of the Teaching Assistants, Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, Sanzida Alam, and Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury as well as Md. Sahedul Islam Hira, Sanjida Akter, and Isra Tahiya Islam.





Event 6: 7th ULAB Literary Salon with Durreen Shahnaz



The 7th ULAB Lit Salon, organized by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, was held on March 7, 2023. Moderated by ULAB Visiting Faculty, Sudeep Chakravarti, this Lit Salon showcased a conversation with Professor Durreen Shahnaz, and a poetry recitation by Ms. Sadaf Saaz.

Sudeep Chakravarti began the conversation with Prof. Shahnaz and delved into her personal experiences and stories, enchanting the audience with insights on her sources of inspiration for her upcoming book, *The Defiant Optimist*. With the objective of giving women a voice and of fueling change, Prof. Shahnaz shared what it means to be a defiant optimist and break free from social norms often imposed upon women. Being an investment banker and the founder of IIX (Impact Investment Exchange), Singapore, she further talked about her being a part of the finance industry that helped her curate the book.





Ms. Sadaf Saaz was also invited to come forth, where, not only did she uphold the grassroots problems of women that persist, but she also recited her poem. “I was born into a body” is Ms. Saaz’s poem featured at the beginning of *The Defiant Optimist*, which talks about the woes of being a woman in a patriarchal society that objectifies their bodies.



The program was graced by the presence of Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB; Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB; Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, DEH, ULAB; Ms. Nadia Rahman, Associate Lecturer, DEH, ULAB; as well as other faculty members and students of ULAB. The event wrapped up with some final remarks from Sudeep Chakravarti, and a token of appreciation for the guests, Professor Durreen Shahnaz and Ms. Sadaf Saaz.

Report by Ereti Rhidil Rahman (193013068)

Event 7: Graduate Student Seminar Spring 2023



The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held the Spring 2023 Graduate Student Seminar on March 7, 2023, to provide the MA students with a platform to present their research papers which they had produced as a part of their course work in the previous semester. The paper presentations were showcased in the presence of the Dean, the Head of Department, faculty members and students.

Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, and MA Coordinator, welcomed the audience and invited the first presenter, Khondokar Shahad Muktaadir (Batch 222). Shahad presented his paper on “Books and Bookstores: Examining the Interrelationship between Cultural Capital, Cultural Space, and Consumer Behavior.” He called attention to how spaces such as bookstores have diminished into becoming backgrounds in people’s photos as fewer people visit them today to actually read or buy books.

The next paper was presented by Sejuti Islam Prama (Batch 222). Her paper, “Creativity and Fiction Writing,” showcased her own experience with literature and writing. She spoke about the authors and books that inspired her, and shared what she learned from Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam while attending his course on fiction writing. She concluded with her short story, “A ‘Mundane’ Day with the Weighing Scales,” which she had written for the course, using a photograph as a prompt.

The third paper presenter, Fahmida Akter (Batch 223), presented on how Bangladeshi media uses slang and abusive language, influenced by the western culture, in her presentation, “Adaptation of Slang and Western Culture in Recent Bangladeshi Dramas and Web Series: Cultural Degradation or Trend?” She argued that the modern dramas and web series of Bangladesh are losing their personhood in the process of adapting to the western culture in attempts to cater to a younger audience.

The final presenter, Arohe Roy Lazz (Batch 223), presented “Syllabus Design Theories in a Real World Context: Current Situation and Future Directions.” She discussed how schools in Bangladesh use a Grammatical Syllabus which includes memorization, GTM method, emphasis on writing, no oral communication, and deductive method, and suggested improvements that can be implemented.

The Spring 2023 Graduate Student Seminar concluded with some words of wisdom from Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities.



Report by Ereti Rhidil Rahman (193013068)

Event 8: DEH Student Workshops



Every term, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, conducts six mandatory workshops for the final term students to equip them for their future lives in higher studies or careers. The workshops are conducted by faculty members of the department and the reports for each follow.

DEH Student Workshop: Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules

A promotional poster for a workshop. At the top left is the logo of the Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. The main text reads: 'Workshop on Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules For ENG413/499/498 students only'. Below this, it specifies the date and time: 'Thursday, 9 March 2023 Time: 11:30 am PD 209'. The facilitator's name, 'Arifa Ghani Rahman', is prominently displayed in a circular portrait, with her title 'Associate Professor and Head, Department of English and Humanities' listed below. The poster also includes the name of the photographer, 'PC: Md. Sahedul Islam Hira', at the bottom.

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop on "Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules" on March 9, 2023. Mohammad Zaki Rezwan, Senior Lecturer, DEH, facilitated the workshop instead of Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman as originally intended. The workshop was specifically designed for ENG 413, 499, and 498 students.

The workshop's objective was to give the students proper knowledge about recommendation letters. Mohammad Zaki Rezwan started the workshop with a brief introduction about recommendation letters, giving an overview of what a recommendation letter is, why it is required, from whom the students should get them, and where they will be needed.

The facilitator then asked the students questions about recommendation letters, to which the students responded from their own viewpoints. Following that, the facilitator explained what to include in the letter when preparing a draft of the recommendation letter.

Mohammad Rezwan advised students to offer as much information about themselves as possible, as well as a brief summary of their achievements and skills, and clarified what should be highlighted when drafting the recommendation letter. The facilitator clearly explained to the students what they should and should not do while drafting the recommendation letter.

By the end of the workshop, Mohammed Rezwan gave a few more suggestions and added a question about what they should do if their recommendation letter request is refused. He advised students to always keep a backup choice in hand and to remember that once the letter is completed, students should always be grateful and thank their referee for the effective usage of the letter. The facilitator answered the students' queries and concerns during a question and answer session that took place towards the end of the workshop.

This workshop is one of a series of workshops created for students in their last semester to provide them with essential knowledge regarding their professional life.



Report by Nazmunnaab Usha (192013049)

DEH Student Workshop: CV and Cover Letter Writing

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

**Workshop on
Writing CVs and Cover
Letters**

For ENG413/498/499 students only

Facilitator

Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia
Assistant Director, English Zone

Thursday, 16 March 2023
Time: 11:30 am; Room: PD 209

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, a mandatory student workshop was held on Writing CVs and Cover Letters for the final semester students in ENG413/ENG498/ENG499 at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia, Assistant Director, English Zone, ULAB, and attended by approximately 35 students. The objective of the workshop was to guide the students on how to write an effective CV and cover letter to increase their chances of getting a job.

The workshop began with a brief introduction of Ms. Tasmia and her experience in the field of professional writing. She then discussed the importance of a CV and cover letter and their role in securing a job. She also explained the difference between a CV and a resume, and the various components of a CV such as personal information, educational qualifications, work experience, skills, and achievements. Ms. Tasmia then moved on to the purpose of cover letters in job applications. She explained how to write an effective cover letter by highlighting one's skills and experience, and showing how they align with the

requirements of the job. She further provided tips on how to make the cover letter stand out and impress the employer.

The workshop ended with a Q&A session where students were given the opportunity to ask Ms. Tasmia any questions they had regarding CVs and cover letters.

The student workshop on Writing CVs and Cover Letters was very informative and beneficial for the students. The students left the workshop with a better understanding of how to write an effective CV and cover letter, with increased confidence in their job application process.



Report by Syed Masudur Rahman Siam (191013073)

DEH Student Workshop on Job Hunting and Networking

A promotional poster for a workshop. At the top left is the logo of the Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. The main title is "Workshop on Job Hunting and Networking" in bold black text. Below it, in smaller text, it says "For ENG413/498/499 students only". The facilitator's name, "Arifa Ghani Rahman", is written in a large, bold font, with a circular portrait of her below it. Underneath her name, it says "Associate Professor and Head, Department of English and Humanities". The date and time are listed as "Thursday, 23 March 2023" and "Time: 9:40 am; Room: PD 209". At the bottom right, there is a small credit line: "PC: Md. Saheul Islam Hira".

On March 30, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), hosted a workshop on “Job Hunting and Networking.” The workshop facilitator was Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the department.

The workshop is one of the six mandatory workshops for final term students from the courses ENG413/ENG498/ENG499. The workshop aimed to provide students with insights into the job market, strategies for job hunting, and techniques for building effective networks.

Ms. Rahman began the session by highlighting the value of self-belief and the relevance of confidence in achieving success in any vocation. Following this, the discussion moved on to the benefit of developing a personal website as a tool for exhibiting one's abilities to prospective employers.

Next, the facilitator emphasized the necessity for students to be open-minded and consider several career paths, even if they are not directly related to their field of study. She urged students to begin developing their network by joining professional associations and connecting with industry experts on social networking sites like Bdjobs.com, LinkedIn, etc. Ms. Arifa Rahman reiterated the value of volunteering as a way to gain practical experience and develop transferable skills. She advised the students to look for volunteering opportunities in their communities actively and to think about how volunteering could improve their chances of landing a job in the future.

Furthermore, the speaker provided some guidance on how to get ready for job interviews, such as doing background research on the organization and the role, dressing appropriately, and practicing answers to typical interview questions. She, additionally, stressed the significance of highlighting abilities and experiences that align with the demands of the position and the company's ideals. Writing strong resumes and cover letters was another major topic in the session. Samples of resumes and cover letters with skill, experience, and accomplishment highlights were provided by Arifa Rahman. Additionally, she underlined how crucial it is to personalize each job application's cover letter and CV.

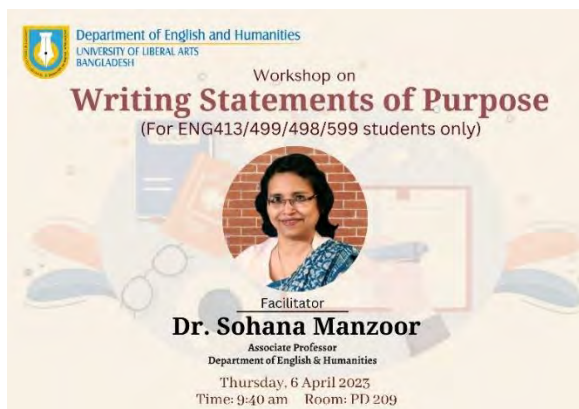
The workshop came to an end with a question-and-answer session where the participants could speak with Ms. Arifa Rahman and get any of their questions answered. The students were appreciative of the opportunity to learn from a seasoned professional like Ms. Arifa Rahman, who presented useful information about the job market and networking techniques.

In conclusion, Ms. Rahman's workshop on "Job Hunting and Networking" was extremely successful. The students departed with a better awareness of networking techniques and the job market, as well as useful tools and knowledge that could help them improve their professional prospects.



Report by Afia Ebnat Rubi (192013026)

DEH Student Workshop on Writing Statements of Purpose



On April 6, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a student workshop titled “Writing Statements of Purpose.” This session was part of a series of mandatory workshops arranged specifically for ENG413/498/499 students. The workshop's goal, which was organized for the Spring of 2023 term’s DEH thesis/internship/non-thesis students, was to instruct the attendees on the critical elements of creating a strong Statement of

Purpose (SoP).

Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH, was in charge of the workshop and started by reviewing the significance of a Statement of Purpose and its function in the graduate school admission procedure. She underlined the necessity of a great initial appearance, and setting oneself apart from other applicants through an outstanding Statement of Purpose. An SoP, according to Dr. Manzoor, is a personal essay that describes a student’s academic and professional aspirations, their drive to enroll in a specific course or program, and how that program will help them advance their careers.

Following this, the main components of a Statement of Purpose, such as the introduction, academic background, professional experience, research interests, and future objectives, were covered in the workshop. Dr. Manzoor offered illustrations and pointers on how to plan and arrange each component properly. In addition, she stressed the importance of understanding one’s audience and adjusting the SoP to meet the particular needs of the program or institution. Students discussed their encounters with and worries about drafting an SoP during the interactive session. Dr. Manzoor offered insightful criticism and pointers for enhancing their writing abilities. She recommended pupils be explicit about their accomplishments and long-term objectives and avoid clichés. She emphasized the necessity of displaying a sincere interest in the subject and emphasizing one’s special skills and expertise.

Dr. Manzoor finally discussed students' typical errors when creating an SoP and how to avoid them. Students had the chance to query Dr. Manzoor about the SoP writing process during the question and answer session that followed the workshop. She gave thoughtful responses to their inquiries and insightful advice that would help the students create effective SoPs.



Report by Afia Ebnat Rubi (192013026)

DEH Student Workshops: Interview and Presentation Skills

On Thursday, April 13, 2023, a workshop was held for ENG413/498/499 students on interview and presentation skills. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities, at the ULAB Research Building.

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

Workshop on
Interview and Presentation Skills
(For 413/498/499 students)

Facilitator



Nadia Rahman
Assistant Professor
Department of English & Humanities

Thursday, 13 April 2023
Time 9:40 am Room No. 209

Typically, the workshops are held separately but this time, one workshop in two parts was held. The first part of the workshop focused on interview skills and the second part on presentation skills. Ms. Rahman provided a comprehensive overview of what employers look for during interviews and how to prepare for the different types of interview formats. She also discussed common interview questions and how to answer them effectively, as well as techniques for controlling nerves and projecting confidence during the interview process.

During the second part of the workshop, Ms. Rahman covered the key elements of effective presentations, including how to structure a

presentation, how to use visual aids, and how to engage the audience. She also provided tips on how to overcome nervousness and deliver a well-prepared and professional presentation.

The workshop was mandatory for students of ENG413/498/499 of Spring 2023. There were approximately 30 students present and they actively participated in the workshop by asking questions and engaging in discussions.

Ms. Nadia Rahman presented the materials in a clear and concise manner which provided students with the necessary skills to prepare for job interviews and give them the confidence to perform well in the future. She also addressed each student's concerns and provided valuable feedback on their questions.

Overall, the workshop was a success, and students found it to be very informative and helpful. They were provided with the tools they needed for effective and engaging interviews and presentations. The facilitator, Ms. Nadia Rahman's guidance was greatly appreciated by all attendees.



Report by Syed Masudur Rahman Siam (191013073)

Event 9: Curriculum Integration SP23: First Forum



The Department of English and Humanities (DEH), at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized the first forum of its Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration (CI) program on March 9, 2023. This program enables the students to make real life connections between their course materials and a specified theme based on real-world

significance. This semester the theme is “The Production, Representation and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature.” Two forums, with expert speakers on the subject, are organized to help students understand the concept and how it may be related to their courses. The speaker of Forum One was Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor, DEH, who discussed the concepts of space in literature.

The program began with a welcome note and comments on the CI and the chosen theme by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees. The Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Kaiser Haq spoke about the term space itself and the history of poetry.



The Speaker of Forum One, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam began by giving students a background history of how space is relevant to literature. He shed light on how space is not just a physical entity, but is also cultural, political, economic, industrial, psychological, emotional, and geographic. He also discussed examples from different writers, philosophers, and even architects to give a clear picture of

space and its usage from every sector of life. He reflected on the loss of personal space, and how its definition and idea changes with time and modernization. The relationship between literary geography and topography, postmodern play of places in the era of globalization, national/supranational and border space, space and power, emancipation of space, space vs place, etc., were some of the ideas Prof. Islam shared that the students could relate to their course materials and establish a project on.

Subsequent to Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam's elaborate discussion, the floor was opened up for a round of questions. The program ended with a vote of thanks by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. The program was organized by Ms. Mehek Chowdhury and Sheikh Nahiyah, Lecturers, DEH. The volunteers and students actively participated and contributed to the event.

The lecture is available for viewing at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_FIT1qqUPU.



Report by Kifayat Jahan Zerín (222013018)

Event 10: Workshop on Researching WITH Children, Not ON Children



The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, organized the Workshop on “Researching WITH Children, Not ON Children” on March 10, 2023. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Arifa Rahman of Dhaka University, Prof. Sue Garton of Aston University, UK, and Dr. Aileen Ireland of University of Stirling, UK, and Prof. Rahman's research assistant, Ms. Syeda Tasnima Tasnin, Senior Specialist, HCMP, BRAC.

Prof. Arifa Rahman introduced their research on learning English as a second language that was conducted by Dr. Aileen Ireland, Prof. Sue Garton, and Ms. Tasnin, in the context of Bangladesh through students of government funded primary schools. Following this, Dr. Ireland began the discussion of the subject matter by explaining why and how the research was conducted. She mentioned how they helped students become enthusiastic about the research by giving them art books which they could use to answer their research questions. She then called upon Ms. Tasnin to talk about her experience in selecting each of the three schools included, and about conducting the research with children. Ms. Tasnin discussed how she had built rapport with them, and the students themselves conducted portions of the research, for instance, by interviewing their peers and parents.



The next part of the workshop was conducted with insights from both Prof. Ireland and Prof. Garton, where they spoke about the results of the research which was conducted in a total of four countries. The research concluded that children are more insightful than they get credit for. This is exhibited through their adaptation to the research methods, and their competence in developing their own research questions, thus making them capable of being researched with.

Towards the conclusion of the workshop, Dr. Ireland asked the audience to come up with their own research questions that they would like to have answered for the research, following which a brief

question and answer session was held. The program concluded with some final remarks from Prof. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Language Studies, ULAB.



Report by Ereti Rbidil Rahman (193013068)

Event 11: DEH Represented at Gulshan Society Book Fair 3



The Gulshan Society Book Fair 3 took place from March 9 to 11 at Gulshan Society Lake Park, Gulshan 2. Organized by Shayaan Seraj, the Convener of Gulshan Society, the fair included book stalls by ULAB Press, The University Press Limited (UPL), Bookworm Bangladesh, Baatighar, Prothoma, Nympha Publications, among others.

On the second day of the event, readers were treated to short story, poetry and creative nonfiction readings by Tashfia Ahamed, Sumaya

Mashrufa, and Kazi Mahdi Amin, regular contributors of Daily Star Books and Star Literature. The session was moderated by Sarah Anjum Bari, Books & Literary Editor of *The Daily Star*.

This was followed by a session with Professor Shamsad Mortuza and Professor Kaiser Haq, Professors at the Department of English & Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), who discussed the journey of ULAB Press transitioning from Bengal Lights Books into the only academic press at a private university.

Afterwards, renowned author Sudeep Chakravarti hosted a conversation on Poetry in the Park with Professor Kaiser Haq and poet, writer, and Dhaka Lit Fest Co-Director and Producer Sadaf Saaz. Professor Haq recited his longest poem ever written, "The New Frontier", which deals with themes of climate change and its possible impacts on the Global South while Sadaf Saaz recited her poems about women's rights and the Rana Plaza incident. The session ended with Professor Haq's recitation of his poem "How Many Buddhas Can They Destroy", which was written after the 2012 Ramu communal violence.

The highlight of the Book Fair was a discussion at 4 PM on Saturday, titled Institutionalization of Creative Writing: A Session with DEH Alumni and Students, that tackled issues related to the impacts of teaching creative writing in a classroom. Can creative writing be nurtured or shaped through institutional set ups? How can teachers contribute to developing new writers? Moderated by Sheikh Musharrat Jahan (Aanchal), a recent graduate of the MA in Literature and Creative Writing, ULAB, the session focused on these topics with students and alumni of Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Other participants were Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury, Risalat Rahman Hridoy, Khadija Begum Atia, Maliha Huq, and Sejuti Islam Proma. The students were guided by Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH.

An excerpt of the discussion is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/WOgooBQIU7Q>.





Event 12: Curriculum Integration SP23: Second Forum

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LAHORE
RAHIMYAR

Curriculum Integration
Spring 2023
Second Forum

The Production, Representation and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature

Saturday, 11 March 2023, 11:30 am
Auditorium, ULAB Research Building

Guest Speaker



Dr. Shaila Sultana
Professor, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka

About the Speaker:
Shaila Sultana, PhD is a professor and the former Head of Department of English Language Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She has been educated at Jahangirnagar University (Dhaka), Massey University (Melbourne), King's College London and the University of Toronto (Dhaka). She has published extensively in a different top-level peer-reviewed international journals. Her recent publications include a co-authored book Popular Culture, Value and Language Diversity (Macmillan, Palgrave, USA) and a translated textbook titled Knowledge Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh (ULAB) and a special issue of Australian Review of Applied Linguistics titled 'Theoretical researches emerged with unexamined space and time: the case on related issues of Language in Society (Cambridge University Press), Journal of English-medium instruction (John Benjamins, Amsterdam (Elsevier), Journal of Asia Pacific Linguistics, Journal of IJL, and so on.



On March 11, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, organized the second forum of its Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration (CI) program at the ULAB Research Building. Every term the Department holds the Curriculum Integration Program for students to compete and show off their creativity by connecting a specific chosen theme to the contents of their courses. The theme for the Spring 2023 term is “The Production, Representation, and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature.” Prior to the group projects, two forums, featuring speakers who are experts in the field, are held to help students understand the

theme and how to relate it to their courses. The first forum featured Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam who spoke about the theme in relation to literary studies. The second forum featured Dr. Shaila Sultana, Professor, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, who made connections between the theme and language/linguistics and identity.

Professor Shaila Sultana talked about the spaces that connect an individual with their language and identity, and how important each different space is in regard to this. Professor Sultana further shared anecdotes from various students, a general overview of the lack or presence of certain spaces and how they are created, how spaces affect the mindset of pupils and teachers, and especially her overall take on Language, Space, and Identity.



After her talk, a Q&A session commenced for students and teachers to clear any confusion or quench their curiosity related to the topic which led to the conclusion of the 2nd CI forum for the term. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Mehek Chowdhury, Lecturer, DEH, who is one of the event coordinators this term along with Sheikh Nahiyah, Lecturer, DEH.

The lecture is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/wH0M170fAHw>.

Report by Sajia Afroza Khan (201013057)

Event 13: 8th ULAB Literary Salon with Ghazala Wahab



The ULAB Lit Salon, organized by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held its 8th Literary Salon on March 14, 2023 at the premises of its co-organizer, The Bookworm at Shahabuddin Park, Gulshan 2. Moderated by ULAB Visiting Faculty, Sudeep Chakravarti, this Lit Salon showcased a conversation with the award-winning author

Ghazala Wahab.

In conversation with Ms. Wahab, the session delved into her personal experiences and stories, wherein she discussed her latest non-fiction, *Born a Muslim: Some Truth about Islam in India*.

Ms. Wahab started with a thought-provoking discussion, drawn from events she has experienced in her lifetime while living in India. She talked about how communal violence is not innate but is rather instigated and often veiled under the same label as patriotism, mostly to favor the benefactors. Next, she spoke about the treatment of Muslims in India and her family's experience with prejudiced ideology aided by the insurgence of terrorism. This discussion led to a discourse on the political strife between Hindus and Muslims in both India and Bangladesh.



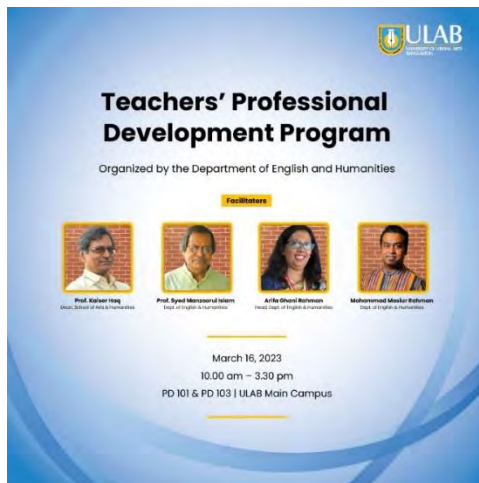
Following this, Ms. Wahab talked about how she addressed these topics in her book. She mentioned that, in her book, she wrote about the history of Islam in India and the socio-economic factors that have led the people of the country to be so skeptical of them. Moreover, she also talked about some of the political uprisings discussed in her book and how they affected Indian Muslims. She spoke of how this contributed to her sense of insecurity in the country as a Muslim.

The floor was later opened to the audience for a question and answer session.



Report by Ereti Rbidil Rahman (193013068)

Event 14: Teachers' Professional Development Program



The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized an extensive day-long Teachers' Professional Development Program on March 16, 2023 where English teachers from 16 schools and colleges of Dhaka participated. In this workshop, different teaching methods, outcomes, and their implementation were discussed. With remarks about the

importance of active and lifelong learning, Professor Imran Rahman, the Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, initiated the program and welcomed the participants. The introductory session was moderated by Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, and the participant teachers introduced themselves. Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, welcomed the participants and spoke about the need for schools/colleges and universities to collaborate to ensure the best outcome for students.



The first workshop on “Online Teaching and Student-Centered Learning” was conducted by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH. In this session, the use of different types of LMSs (Learning Management Systems) in facilitating student-centered teaching to enhance the experience of online teaching and learning process was discussed. The usefulness of a blended teaching method constituting both online and physical classes was emphasized.



The second workshop was conducted by Professor Kaiser Haq on “How to Teach Literature in the Classroom.” During the workshop, Prof. Haq emphasized the teaching of English literature through the basic features of the English language. He stressed on giving importance to internalizing literature and integrating it into the everyday life of the English language and literature learners. Finally, he shared three criteria for teaching literature in the classroom: introduce the literary background, connect the author’s biographical background, and lastly, closely read the literary text.



The third workshop, titled “Materials Development: An Introduction,” was facilitated by Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer, DEH. The workshop focused on the development of materials and their evaluation. The necessity of blending authentic text with literary texts, developing additional material for innovation, and whether to adopt and adapt materials were also discussed.



A round table discussion followed the workshops where the issues and problems concerning the current English teaching curriculum were elaborated on by the participants. Professor Kaiser Haq remarked that school teaching should be made a respectable job to attract graduates in this sector. The discussion revolved around the need for structural and cultural changes in implementing a better teaching-learning environment. Lastly, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, in a video message, suggested developing language skills as a necessary part of 21st-century skills, allowing students to relate to literature, and end education inequality in the country.



The concluding remarks were delivered at the end of the day by Arifa Ghani Rahman with the anticipation that these kinds of interactive sessions will assist in reaching the ideal phase of the

education systems in the future. The daylong training program concluded with the distribution of official certificates to the participants.



Report by Sanjida Akter (222055008)

Event 15: 9th ULAB Literary Salon with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee

1971
HERITAGE CLUB

ULAB
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGALADESH

ULAB Literary Salon
Presented by the Department of
English & Humanities
&
ULAB 1971 History Club

Present
DR. NUSRAT RABBEE
Eminent Scientist and Author of
THE SPIRIT OF 1971
A Memoir of Dr. Mohammad Faez Rabbee and Dr. Jahan Ara Rabbee

For an exclusive talk and interaction on
19th March, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
PD 105, ULAB Campus
505 Bariboad Road, Mohammadpur,
Dhaka - 1207

RSVP:
+88-02-223328001-8



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) hosted the 9th ULAB Literary Salon with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at the auditorium of the ULAB Research Building. The Literary Salon is an initiative of the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB to bring together writers, readers, thinkers, and publishers from

Bangladesh and other South Asian countries in an interactive setting. Dr. Nusrat Rabbee, daughter of martyred intellectual cardiologist Dr. Fazole Rabbee and Dr. Jahan Ara Rabbee, was here to discuss her memoir *The Spirit of 1971*.

Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, moderated the discussion with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee, an eminent scientist and author of *The Spirit of 1971: A Memoir of Dr. Mohammed Faq̃le Rabbee and Dr Jahan Ara Rabbee*. Dr. Rabbee stated that the book is divided into three parts where she captured memories starting from 1961 to the end of the war in 1971. The book is not just a memoir, however, but a roadmap of how the country “Bangladesh” was born. Dr. Rabbee advised the audience to know why the war was fought.

Dr. Nusrat Rabbee reminisced about her childhood with her parents as Prof. Mortuza requested her to share, and reconstructed her parents from her memory. With deep emotion, she described how amazing and dedicated her father was as a physician. She also shared the contribution of her mother in the health sector and population control management of East Pakistan and Bangladesh. Both of her parents had a positive influence on the people of this country.



During the discussion, Dr. Rabbee also reflected on the imbalance, discrimination and inequality that was present between West Pakistan and East Pakistan. She briefly talked about the heinous military attack that started with the mass killing on March 25, 1971, under “Operation Searchlight” and ended with the killing of the intellectuals on December 14, 1971. She also stated that Pakistan targeted the intellectuals as they were the blueprint of the nation. The intellectuals had the ability to shape the cultural, social, and political fabric of the country.

Dr. Rabbee told Prof. Mortuza that she translated the memoir into English as it was necessary to let the world know about the genocide which is still unknown to many. She empathized with the need for international recognition of the genocide that took place during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Later, students read out excerpts from the book to give the audience an idea of what the book is about. There was a question-answer session at the end of the discussion in which people actively participated.

Some people asked questions, while some shared their insights on the Liberation War. Dr. Nusrat Rabbee then requested the audience to restore and uphold the spirit of 1971.

ULAB's Board of Trustee members, the French ambassador to Bangladesh, parliamentarians Suborna Mustafa and Nahid Ezahar, students and teachers of ULAB, and the family members of the martyrs graced the event with their vivid presence. Mrs. Ameenah Ahmed, a member of the Board of Trustees, at ULAB, ended the program by thanking Dr. Nusrat Rabbee and the guests of the event. She also handed a crest and gift hamper to Dr. Nusrat Rabbee as a token of appreciation. The program ended with a Liberation war song in memory of the people who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country.

The event can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmOq22EzX4g>.



Report by Kifayat Jahan Zerin (222013018)

Event 16: Physical Wounds in Literature: A Talk and Workshop on Critical Medical Humanities in 21st Century Bangladesh



On Thursday, April 6, 2023, at its permanent campus in Mohammadpur, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, hosted a highly interactive workshop titled "Physical Wounds in Literature: A Talk and Workshop on Critical Medical Humanities in 21st Century Bangladesh." Farah Binte Bashir, a graduate student of comparative literature at the University of Hyderabad in India, facilitated the workshop.

Ms. Bashir began the session by inquiring about the participants' perceptions of what medical humanities might be. Giving the example of a cockroach, she told the participants not to think of it as an insect arousing a feeling of disgust but rather to empathize with its existence, as Gregor Samsa did in *The Metamorphosis*. "From that empathy comes medical empathy," she remarked. She described medical humanities as a field where the effects of music, frequency, paintings, etc. on the human brain as a therapeutic tool are studied, and art and literature are examined with an empathic eye. She illustrated how physical injuries affect psychological suffering in Manik Bandopadhyay's *Padma Nadir Majhi* and *Pragaitibashik*.

In the second part of the workshop, Ms. Bashir talked about how literary studies in 21st-century Bangladesh have embraced medical humanities with disability studies, memory studies, nostalgia studies, and trauma studies. She then instructed the participants to divide into groups and identify disabilities, trauma, and traumatic amnesia in "Jonakir Basha," a poem by Al Mahmud. Then she discussed *Torko Shojjay Mrittun* by Mahbub Mayukh Rishad as a consciously written medical humanities fiction.

The next part of the workshop was focused on the framing of medical humanities as a real model. To show this, she asked the participants who have chronic or autoimmune diseases to sit in a separate group. After that, she played several pieces of music at different frequencies: at 148 Hz, a pain relief instrumental and at 528 Hz, an anxiety relief instrumental, the sound of Isha, and two lyrics conveying "negative intervention" and "positive intervention." She then advised the participants to close their eyes and connect with the music. Finally, she asked the participants to share their feedback on listening to the musical tunes and lyrics to which they responded positively.



The program was attended by Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities; Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor of the department; Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH; several other faculty members and students from the Department of English and Humanities, and the Department of Bangla Language and Literature, ULAB; and guests.

The video is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/0MVqgpRmtf4>.





Report by Mst. Manjuma Ferdoushi (222055012)

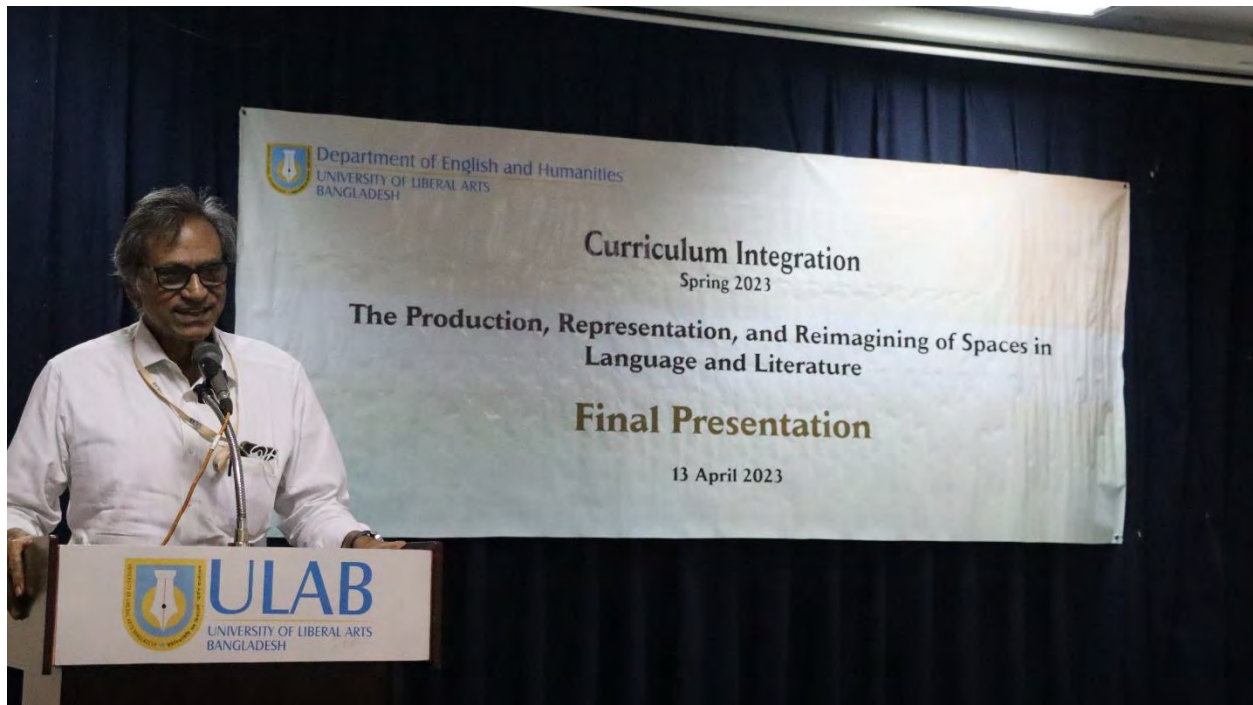
Event 17: Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration Showcasing



On April 13, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held the Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration (CI) Program Showcase. The main objective of this event was to showcase the best projects selected by the faculty members of the participating courses. These projects were thoroughly evaluated by the judges of the event, who then announced three winners towards the end of the program.



The event with welcome speeches from Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, and Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, who shared their remarkable words of experience and wisdom as encouragement to the participants. After that, all the submitted projects were showcased. The projects were quite varied in nature, from scrapbook projects and video projects to presentations and paintings. Each held excellent significance in relation to the theme of the semester, “The Production, Representation, and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature.”



The judges for the day, Professor Kaiser Haq, Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, and Mr. Sheikh Nahiyah, Lecturer, skillfully evaluated each project to shortlist the winners. As the program approached its end, the emcee invited Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department, who shared her words of appreciation for all the participants as well as the coordinators of the event, Ms. Mehek Chowdhury and Mr. Sheikh Nahiyah, Lecturers, DEH. Following this, the judges announced the winners of the Spring 2023 CI program. The winners received monetary prizes for their projects and hard work.





The winning team comprised Joye Florence Rozario (Batch 222) and Rushda Humaira (Batch 222) for their project on Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" from the course, "Introduction to Fiction and Nonfiction" (Section 2). The course teacher was Ms. Samirah Tabassum, Lecturer, DEH.



The first runner up team comprised Rowjatun Jannat (Batch 212), Rabeya Rahman (Batch 183), Faiza Imam Hridika (Batch 212), Nafisa Tasnim (Batch 212), Lamia Faiza (Batch 212), Bushra Binte Zahed (Batch 191), Roksana Akter (Batch 193), and Saika Bintey Reza (Batch 212) for their project, "Dhaka"

as a parody of Blake’s “London” from the course, “Romantic Poetry.” The course teacher was Prof. Shamsad Mortuza.

The second runner up was Md. Sorif Hossain (Batch 201) for his original research on curse words from the course “Sociolinguistics” taught by Dr. Rafi Saleh.



The event was hosted by Mubashshira Tasnim Mahmud (Batch 193).

The projects and presentations are viewable at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4HsbodE4-GFPCyb6dqldfWbGapvhchL>.



Report by Sajia Afroza Khan (201013057)

Event 18: Commencement Spring 2023



On May 13, 2023, the Spring 2023 Commencement program of ULAB's Department of English and Humanities took place in the Research Building Auditorium. The theme for the event was "The World Awaits" and Md. Talebur Islam (Rupom) joined the event as the Commencement Speaker to motivate the graduating students with his career trajectory.

Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, formally began the program. She congratulated the graduates and reminded them that DEH is a family. They will always have a place here. She also urged them to speak about DEH with respect to outsiders. Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam then offered their inspirational words to the graduates.



Following their speech, Md. Talebur Islam (Rupom), an independent researcher, columnist, development practitioner, youth leader, as well as a DEH alumnus of Batch 151, was invited on stage to address the graduates of the BA and MA programs. Mr. Islam shared his journey to success and offered motivational words to heighten the spirits of the graduates as "The World Awaits" to offer

them great experiences. He also spoke about how the Department had nurtured and prepared him to accept bigger challenges. Talebur is currently completing his MA degree in Indonesia.

After the speeches, the cultural program began with a sweet song by Hanifa Hanif (MA, Batch 223) followed by a mesmerizing dance performance by Mithila Akter Trisha (BA, Batch 223). Speeches were delivered by Rupak Saha, on behalf of the outgoing BA students, and by Umme Hani Anika on behalf of her fellow MA graduates, where they both shared their experiences at ULAB as students of DEH all these years. In the later segment, a video of the keepsake brochure and a drama about the typical yet memorable student life at ULAB were shown, much to the delight of the audience. The spectacular drama was directed by Quazi Frahina Hassan and coordinated by Mahjabeen Hassan Wretee (Batch 193) along with their classmates from Batches 193 and 201.

The final performances were rendered by Marzuk Khan Mojlish (Batch 182) and Allen Henry (Batch 221), who splendidly performed two songs for the graduates. To formally end the event, Ms. Tanzia Siddiqua, Senior Lecturer, DEH and Batch Manager of 193, offered her vote of thanks to all the graduates, faculty members, the speaker, and all the student volunteers who organized the beautiful event. The event concluded with a group photograph of the graduating students with the faculty members. The whole event was organized by the students of Batch 193 with some help from students of other batches under the supervision of Ms. Tanzia Siddiqua, Ms. Anika Tahsin (Lecturer, DEH) and Md. Sahedul Islam Hira (TA, DEH).

The event was hosted by Janie Lionita (Batch 193) and the Keepsake Brochure was designed by Salman Al Farsy (Batch 222).





Report by Sajia Afroza Khan (201013057)

Event 19: So, What's Next? A Guidance Session for Spring 2023 Graduates



A session entitled “So, What's Next: A Guidance Session for Spring 2023 Graduates” was conducted by the Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), with an emphasis on upcoming academic plans for the BA

graduating students of Spring 2023. Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, facilitated the session. The session was held online on May 18, 2023.

Ms. Nadia Rahman, MA Coordinator, set the program into motion with warm congratulations to the successful graduates. Ms. Arifa Rahman then commenced the main segment. The aim of the program was to assist the students in deciding what to do next. Ms. Rahman began with emphasizing that graduate studies was an absolute necessity in the competitive job market. She provided information on what the students could expect if they were planning to study abroad. Pointing out the importance of gaining specialization in a certain field, Ms. Rahman encouraged the students to work toward a master's degree to hone their skills further, and get an upper hand in the job market. She elaborated on the procedure of applying for higher studies abroad step-by-step, such as assembling academic documents (transcripts and certificates), recommendation letters, SoPs and other necessary essays, as well as proof of funds and language proficiency tests. She further underlined the merit of initiating contact with possible supervisors beforehand and creating a research proposal, which would increase the likelihood of the students being awarded with funding for their degree.

Since the application process and research for study abroad takes at least a year, Ms. Rahman urged the students to make use of the time by completing their Masters at ULAB in the interim in a familiar environment to get better used to the rigor of graduate school.

Following Ms. Rahman's discussions, Mr. Zamal Uddin Bhuiyan, Director, Admissions, ULAB, presented the graduating students with necessary information on graduate studies at ULAB. He prompted the students to seek the multifarious opportunities, faculty expertise, and facilities that come with the different tracks of MA in English at ULAB.

The session elicited a variety of responses from students towards the end, and was rounded up with Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman and Ms. Nadia Rahman clarifying the students' concerns and queries about studying abroad and at ULAB. Thus, the crucial session regarding the future prospects for graduating

students concluded with the students finding it extremely valuable to embark on their next academic adventure.

Report by Afreena Rahman (183013069)

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