

DEPARTMENT
OF
ENGLISH



CHRIST
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Volume 3, Issue 2

Quill's Will

An online Creative platform

AN INITIATIVE OF M.A. ENGLISH WITH COMMUNICATION STUDIES

From the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are happy to have received so many entries for the Quill's Will Young Writer of the Year Contest.

We greatly enjoyed reading all your work, and were pleurably surprised to discover a lot of literary talent on our campus. We had a hard time choosing the contest winner. In this issue, we present the contest entries, and announce the Young Writer of the Year!

Quill's Will hopes that you will enjoy reading this collection of poems as much as we did.

The Winner

The Quill's Will Young Writer of the Year is

Aumorto Chaudhury

III B.A. P S Economics

We are happy to present Aumorto's winning entry.

Other great entries follow!

It

Empty heart, crowded room.

I can feel a poem coming,

Waiting

To be thought.

To be said.

To be written.

Is it you?

Is it me?

Is it in the air?

Is it on the cards?

Is it love?

It never is, for me.

Maybe someday...

Aumorto Chaudhary|III B.A. PSEco

Things are going right

My friend
got
a job.

He's out
there,
celebrating.

I got up
to
shut the door
as he
left.
Behind it,
a golden light

Is
streaming in
rom
the balcony,

From
a rare and beautiful
afternoon
sun.

Maybe he's
right...
Things are going right
after all.

**Aumorto Chaudhary | III
B.A. PSEco**



Blind-Sided

Sitting in the first row
keeps me
out of trouble,

But
my shirt's been
ruined
by an ink stain.

I noticed it when I
turned

It over
this morning,
I can't tell when
it could've
happened,
or
how long
it's been there,

though -
I've been
dressing in the dark
lately.

**Aumorto Chaudhary | III
B.A. PSEco**

Anticipation

On the pavement
around
the corner, there's

a step

That's always
longer
than it seems.

I keep thinking,
today,
I'll
match it, but

It takes me
by

surprise,
every time.

**Aumorto Chaudhary|III
B.A. PSEco**

One-Way

The flower
blooms
for itself
and doesn't know it.

The water
flows
for itself
and doesn't know it.

The sun
shines
for itself
and doesn't know it.

Like an echo,
this
poem, and me.

**Aumorto Chaudhary | III B.A.
PSEco**



Stranger than I am

The water tickles my
face
as it
evaporates,

Leaving behind
a residue

Which seems
to me
stranger than I am.

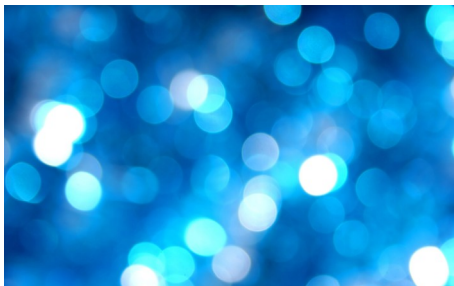
It lives on the other side
of mirrors

And glass eyes,
reassuring us
that we
aren't

Passive reflections -
the ghosts of yesterday.

But I wonder...
is anyone even looking?

**Aumorto Chaudhary | III
B.A. PSEco**



Letter

Do you remember
the time
when we were
in
the playground
of the old world
and
the runner
kept time for us?

I'd just said
"I need more time"
because
I couldn't
find the right
words,
caught up
in an
anime love story,

But I want you to know
that I
can't picture you...
lying in the garden,
with the sun
glistening
on your skin

For more than an instant
because the vines
and
the earth devour
you,

And I sit gazing at
where
you were, without
any desire, or
remorse,

As if it was inevitable,
and turn

to stone,
because they
will not have me.

And this is what
I sense
to be
the experience
of truth,
that will endure

When
the moment passes,
the day breaks,
and
the runner stops.

Aumorto Chaudhary|III B.A. PSEco



Closure

A glance at the orange sky,
realize you are gone.
A void beside me,
I know you are gone,
but the anxious heart
seeks solace.
Green, everywhere
no sign of you.

I guess it's
gone now.
You are gone.

Aaheli Dasgupta | II PSEco

Live to see Another Day

A life that's spent in anger,
another that's almost too frail
to last for even a single day
past a moment of torture.
Efforts to toil and persevere
may sometimes go in vain
wither and dry and fall they
may but never to cost a future
why then must one be so in
haste

to tie a throat, to slit a vein
to pop some pills, and run
from pain
a life of chase is but a waste!
When the world is harsh and
full of sin;
When sorrow's great and trou-
bles thicken...
When the lights dim and hope
runs thin.

you tune it all out, and look
within.
Empty your minds, open your
hearts!
Gather your strength, fight ever
so hard!
Never succumb, don't surren-
der!
Live another day, if not forever.

Deeksha Hegde

My Teacher— my Guide!

I learnt to live my life
When I got you by my side,
Whenever I needed
strength,
You were always there to
guide.

You taught me what love is,
And touched my inner soul,
You always showed me the
path,
Whenever I lost control!
You told me to have
faith, And believe com-
pletely in myself,

You taught me values of life
And motivated me in every
step.

Thanks a lot for your guid-
ance,
Thanks for showing me true
light,
You have a special place in my
heart,
Because of you I am shining
bright.

**Salma Begum | II Masters in
Applied Economics**

Through Her Eyes, Windows of Despair

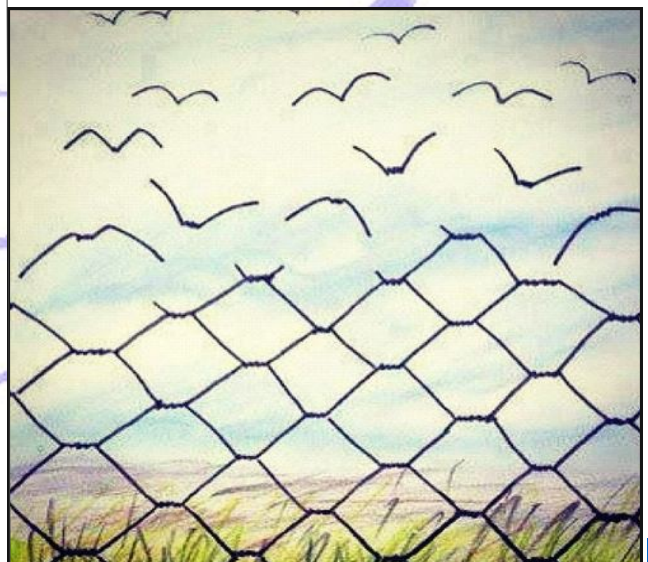
Her *Sari* knots join at her hips,
Her saucers, disdainful of the frying ghee, smoke
the kitchen.
Backyard gusts breeze inside to console,
Nonchalantly toppling the dinner candles,
Wild-fire screams across the table drapes,
Cremating her hopes of ever loving another.
Her little *rajas* upstairs in their sweet dreams,
The ashen wood was a sight as gray as my
smoky past.
Drowned in a quagmire of debt, owing to her Ex
-
Husband, who lay inebriated by his self-pitying
festivities.
Head-over-heels fallen in a window of despairs,
Her love questioned itself.
Her innocent *rajas* tottered around their
'molehill castles',
She loved them alone.
Nine years long, from dawn's decision to dusk's
declaration.
She muttered the last rites of my divorce.

Suraj V. Ayyappan | II PSEco

Dawn Birds

Upside down ocean, Are the skies
Cranky fledglings, early morning, Arise __
Lazily, to swim through pondy clouds
A punctual chirper Conquers the worm, its
premier prize
Vigilant mothers Orbit the aerial ocean, al-
ready proud.

Suraj V. Ayyappan | II PSEco



A Love

I know i get a place in your heart
 can see it in your eyes.

The words you say, the look that you give
 Nothing is lies.

The trust i put forth in you
 It never breaks, it never dies.

Those light moments spark a smile
 whenever you're missed, your phone i dial

Those tender hands feel the tickle
 when love touches them.

Those 'Smile please' moments, once taken last
 forever

Harm you; I would never.

Mid night talks, those silent walks
 Dreams of the future, Incredible thoughts

This very moment i can see you blush
 With that wide smile, and never to forget face

Lots to talk on, lots to fight
 But the trust never breaks , I won't let you out
 of my sight.

JoseDominic | III CEP

To Eli

Running around like a tiny ant
 Claiming to be weird

But i can understand
 Against books she has no fear

For she has a talent, in her words you can hear.
 You can see her round eyes

Trying to explore what is truth and what are
 lies.

The world might seem to be on her shoulders
 But she fears not, day by day she's getting
 bolder

Terror does not give notice before it strikes
 Her works are amazing, so many likes

A terror haunts her
 It ruins her day,
 that's all that terror does or says

But she's ready to fight it with all her might
 Because she eats a lot, but looks thin in spite.

JoseDominic | III CEP

What If?

What if you had a dog named Grief?
A snake named Happiness?
A cat named Jealousy?
A lion named Depression?
A flu named Love?
Well you'd be overcome by Grief
When you came home from school
Happiness would spring out of a bush
And make you lose your cool
Jealousy would glower in the dark
When you crept downstairs for a midnight
snack.
Depression would attack you
And in fear, you would quake.
Love would make you sick.
The cold you'd get would be gigantic.
So don't ever name your pets this way
Or this poem would be a replay.

Praveen Kasmus

The Last

The sunlight streamed into the prison.
Illuminating the room,
Filling it with an eerie golden,
Suiting my mood.
The golden shaft of light, the only light left in
my life.
Tomorrow I would be hanged.
This was the last sun I'd ever see.
Knowing I'd treasure this moment
For all the lives to come,
I reached out to it
And grasped it with hand and heart,
Relishing the warm glow,
Storing it away secretly.
I sat all day holding onto that beam.
When evening came, I sighed.
Reliving my life,
Regretting my birth.

Praveen Kasmus

Mr. Biswas

Chipped, uneven steps to a decrepit apartment.

Damp and soot-gilded walls.

A life of mottled existence,
that pour into his dreams even as the night falls.

Every morning at ten, he catches the Shantipur local to work.

Through the cacophony of ware-sellers and fish mongers, men in starched shirts and a blind beggar

He yearns to be a sun beam dappling from a telephone pole.

Sometimes on winter evenings,
he wraps a frayed shawl around himself and makes his way to the ferry ghat.

Once upon a time their favorite haunt.

The sound of her conch shell bangles and untamed laugh, still trapped somewhere in the glow-worm living under, the rotten plank.

Tonight Mr. Biswas will take the glow-worm to the moon.

Perhaps everything then, will change.

Sandeepa Majumdar | I MA English

Find Me

If colors can vary, dark or dull

Thoughts can ponder, to the extent of infinite or null

See those shining stars standing out at dark

A hope is looking forward, to a far-away journey

There is always a stutter, when about to embark

The bruises and pain will always be a thorn

It will in the end last in our memory, leaving a forever mark.

JoseDominic | III CEP



DEPARTMENTAL DIARY

Chautauqua- a Poetry Reading

Four Chautauquas, poetry readings, were held by the M.A. English students this year. We welcome students from all over the campus to showcase their talent at our monthly poetry readings.

Our first *Chautauqua* was held at 'Darshana Theeram', the amphitheatre near the Dharmaram Grounds, on January 22, from 4pm – 5 pm. Eleven students shared their poetry with fellow students and English Department faculty. This month's participants were from the Deaneries of Arts, Science and Commerce.

Students Shyam Nair, Rony Joe, Isaac Nico, Meghana Ravichandran, Sheetal Nagesh, Sarabdeep Bhorjee, Nandhini Mani, Pradhyumna A.K., Tarun Surya, Yukta and Priya Narayan recited their poetry. Their poems were based on different themes: religion, love, femininity, nostalgia for home, and childhood. Some poets, like Rony Joe and Tarun Surya, were very expressive while they were reading. Rony even recited his “experimental poetry”, where the words were not in a rhythmic order. Their body language showed confi-

An attempt to bring together and encourage the lyrical minds of the young and budding poets of Christ University to come and share their poetry at a casual meet held every month
–Chautauqua.

Photo: Rony Joe, reciting his poem to the eager audience.



dence, and the tone and clarity of their voices was remarkable.

After the performance, the audience expressed their views on the recitation. They pointed out their favourite pieces of writing. Ms Shobhana Mathews, Department of English, and Fr. Joseph, Head, Department of Mathematics, commented on the performances of all the students. They appreciated each and every student who performed, individually, for having taken a step forward to express their thoughts, feelings, emotions and ideas through poetry. They encouraged them to write more, and also suggested ways writers could improve their work. Fr. Joseph remarked at the wide variety of talent in the campus. He was also amazed by the combination of Mathematics and Poetry in some of the poems that were recited. He appreciated the use of numbers in poems, intentional or accidental.

About the experience of reciting her poetry, Yukta from II MA English said, "It was a bit embarrassing for me as it is the first time I am reciting a poem like this, in public. I was really nervous. But now I feel elevated, as I could stand in front of such a big audience and recite my poem. I feel proud of myself."

Rose of I MA English, a part of the audience, said, "It is really nice of the faculty of the Department of English to provide such a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their talents. The teachers' critical comments help them to improve themselves and their friends' appreciation encourages them to do well in the future." Haripriya, of I MA English, said, "Darshana Theeram' is an apt venue for recitations of poetry to be held due to the ambience of the place. The beautiful green water of the pond and the natural scenic beauty of the surroundings give a truly soothing experience to the senses."

The year's second Chautauqua was held on February the 18th, at Bird's Park, from 4-5 p.m. There were six presenters this time, namely, Yukta, Sarabdeep Bhorjee, Avrina Joslin, Tarun Surya, Radhika Chandrasekharan and Abhineeta Raghunath. Prashant Parvataneni, from 3 JPEng, was the emcee of the event.

There were more varieties of poems this time. There were themes like separation in marriage and learning to adjust with it; joint families; funny but relatable situations like the fear of being caught by the teacher for using cell-phone in the class; insomnia; interesting themes like empathizing with the playground where people play various games but do not care for the playground, and how love described in books is different from love in real-life. Finally, at the end of the program, there was a great show of talent by a student named Rahul Acharya who amazed the audience with a rap about teenage romance which he had written. This was the icing on the cake.

After the recitation by the students, there was a recitation of love poems by Ms Shobana Mathews and Prasant Parvataneni. Ms Mathews talked about truth and beauty in Walt Whitman's love poems. She also recited "Dallions of the Eagles" and Allen Ginsberg's "Supermarket of California". Later, students and teachers discussed the poems over coffee and tea.

The last Chautauqua for the semester was held on the 7th of March, 2013, at a totally new venue, much to the excitement of the students. It was held on the flight of stairs leading to the Dept of Media Studies, in Block 1. Pradyumna A.K. was the emcee of the event. He started off the session by admiring the cool weather with a soothing breeze which he remarked was very apt for the poetry reading.

Mrs Shobhana Mathews declared that this Chautauqua was specially dedicated to all the final-year poets. There were twelve presenters in total, this time, namely, Isaac Nico, Tarun Surya, Abhineeta Raghunath, Michael A. Varghese, Anshuman Manur, Prashant Parvataneni, Maheshwari Sangolli, Sarabdeep Bhorjee, Shyam Nair, Pradyumna A.K., Joe Christopher and the winner of the Quill's Will Young Writer of the Year Contest, Aumorto Chaudhury.

The different kinds of themes evoked in the poems this time were memories of friendship, loneliness, a call for the autumn season, learning to adjust with the mistakes we make in our lives, learning to cope with failure in love and a soldier's last words. There were also two other poems with innovative, interesting themes – in the first, a Valentine's Day poem, a cat falls in love with a dove and is jilted; rejection doesn't go down too well with the cat, but the dove goes down very well indeed - the poem ends with the cat licking feathers off his paws. In the second, a buried man digs himself out of the earth, only to find that there isn't much worth looking at in the world outside - the sad zombie climbs back into his grave.

The poetry reading was followed by comments and discussions from the students and faculty. Ms Mathews concluded the last poetry reading for the semester by remarking how meaningful Chautauqua was in the sense that it definitely gave an amazing platform for students to showcase their talents in poetry writing. She awarded Aumorto Chaudhury, Shyam Nair, Abhineeta Raghunath and Prashant Parvatneni with Chautauqua certificates for their sincere and enthusiastic effort and participation in the event. She also specially thanked Anshuman Manur of 2nd MA English who coordinated the event.

Finally, Aumorto Chaudhury was announced winner of the Quill's Will Young Writer of the Year Contest! He was awarded the annual Quill's Will prize, a book voucher from Landmark Bookstore, by Fr. Joseph, Head, Department of Mathematics.

Uma Purayannur | I M.A. English

Chautauqua– A Glimpse

Sad Bob

Unbidden, the ashen hand rose out the ground
Its crumbling crusty flesh cracking
Revealing bone and dust and hollow holes
Where once were muscle and blood
The reanimated corpse pushed itself up
Rising at its own pace
It had nothing to do
Nowhere to go
And no life to lose
So it waited patiently
Inch by inch dug itself out
Once above ground he viewed his body
It had changed a lot since he last saw it
Though he remembered not how long ago that
was
He looked around to find that he was alone
In the grave yard
It seems that destiny only wished for one deathless
minion
For those whose souls had been buried in the
ground
Were nowhere to be seen,
Nor any efforts to follow him to the world of the
living
The air to him was no longer sweet
The breeze stale and raspy
The ground, a muddy brown with patches of dirty
green

Puddles of brown scattered from the rain the
night before
Nothing had remained as when he had died
Seeing nothing of value or of worth
Bob returned to his grave

Michael A Varghese

I PSEng

Loneliness

Loneliness
sits
like a bird
with wings
clipped.

Prashant Parvataneni

Leaves

a leaf
falls
falling leaf
falls
fallen leaf
flies
finally.

Prashant Parvataneni

Daksh: Unlocking Our Future

Christ University had its very first education exploratory fest on the 23rd of January, 2013! The event aimed at creating awareness amongst Christites and everybody else who took interest about the existing educational opportunities here. The student council members had sent all the departments invitations on behalf of the Management. Rev. Dr. Fr. Thomas C Mathew was the prestigious guest of honour at this amazing gathering. The day of the education festival was buzzing with the initial under-current of arrangement and presentation jitters. Soon the contagious excitement and curiosity of the fellow students and visitors seemed to have filled each and every individual stall that was setup for the various courses Christ University has to offer. Two separate stalls were arranged for both the English

*To identify the talent and potentials in you!
Daksh.. A display of all the courses offered by the
university.*

*Photo: Prof. Padmakumar at the UG stall for
English, talking to enthusiastic students.*



undergraduates and post-graduate programs. The stalls were brightly lined up on the walk-way, with displays of all interesting facts and figures about the department and all the awards it had achieved over the years. Everybody who was interested in exploring and experiencing English with Communication Studies was warmly welcomed and explained about the multi-faceted, engaging and enriching aspects that our MA course has to offer. Both the Department of English stalls were amongst the most outstanding, inspiring and informative stalls as ever!

Trisha Chatterjee | I M.A. English

One-day National Workshop : 'Literature and Ethics'

A one-day national workshop on 'Literature and Ethics' was held on Saturday, the 2nd of March at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram.

The workshop consisted of paper presentations by a number of eminent speakers. There were three sessions, moderated by Prof. Vagishwari S.P., Prof. Sushma Murthy and Prof. Saju Chackalackal, in that order. The participants were warmly welcomed by Dr. Jose Nandhikkara and Dr. Fr. Saju Chackalackal with a few words of wisdom and encouragement.

Opening the first session, Dr. Etienne Rassendran of St. Joseph's College presented his paper titled 'The Secular Ethic and Pitfalls of V.S. Naipaul's Non-Fiction'. Dr. Etienne argued that Naipaul's works of non-fiction are quite Islamophobic and anti-secular. He problematized the opposition between free speech and censorship, and touched upon the relations between secularism and nationalism, and the ethical and the ideological.

The next paper was by Dr. Vincent Shekhar of the Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Traditions, who spoke about 'Jaina Ethical Insights in the Ancient Tamil Literary Traditions'. Presenting samples from important Jain Tamil works such as *Thirukkul*, *Naladiyar*, *Pazhamozhi Nonooru*, *Sirupanchamoolam* and *Elathi*, Dr. Vincent described the origin of these works in a migrant community of Jain monks and their impact on the Tamil literary tradition. These works advocated ideal codes of social conduct, including concepts such as the ideal householder, ascetic, sovereign and statesman.

After a refreshing tea break, the second session began with Dr. Jose Nandhikkara of DVK, who presented his thoughts on 'Language and Truth of Aesthetical and Ethical Discourses and Practices: Philosophical Investigations after Wittgenstein'. His view was that truth in ethics and aesthetics cannot fully be encompassed by the language of philosophy or science.

Following Dr. Jose, Dr. Abhaya N.B. of Christ University spoke to the audience on 'Unheard Thoughts: Examining Feminist Ethics in Sara Joseph's Select Short Stories'. Dr. Abhaya explained how certain texts, such as the Ramayana and other epics, are used to establish ethical frames, political ideals and social behaviour. Hence, questioning the interpretation of these epics becomes important. She focussed on Sara Joseph's *Black Holes* and *Ashoka*, bringing out some interesting interpretations of the Ramayana from the points of view of Manthara and Sita.

Denny Mathew of DVK was next to present his paper, on ‘Tragic Catharsis: Aesthetic Experience for Moral Edification’. His argument was that Aristotle’s idea of catharsis, as an aesthetic experience, opens the road to moral edification of the spectator through emotional purgation.

On returning from lunch, the third session opened with a paper titled ‘Negotiating Text and Context: Ethical Perspectives on Girish Karnad’s Dramatic Craft’, by Dr. Anil Pinto of Christ University. Dr. Pinto spoke of Karnad’s works and their main themes, in the light of their subsequent translation from Kannada into English by Karnad himself. The newer versions were not simply translations, but had incorporated significant changes - in keeping with the times, the changing contexts of the audience, and the changing ethics of the author.

Prof Naureen Aziz of Jyothi Nivas College presented the next paper, on ‘Literature and Ethics in Political, Social and Personal Conflicts: Change and Conflict are the only Constants’. She focused her talk on *The Bridges of Madison County* and the various issues that the novel evokes in classroom discussions. She was interested in the ethical dilemmas faced by readers and protagonists in conflicts - political, social or individual - which are a constant element of life. The paper also examined the continuous conflict between individual ethics and social morality as seen in literature.

The last paper of the day was by Prof. Padmakumar M.M. of Christ University, on ‘Reflections and Refractions: Debating Ethics of Dalit Personal Narratives’.

Prof. Padmakumar examined the ethics of choosing the personal narrative over other literary genres, ethics of pre-critical solidarity—where there is a choice between either encouraging all Dalit narratives as such, or guarding the standards of mainstream literature—and the ethics of speaking ‘as’, speaking ‘for’ and speaking ‘to’ members of a certain community.

The workshop came to an end with concluding remarks by Prof. Suma Kodandaram, Mr. Kevin Fernandes, a student at Christ University, and Fr. Davies Vithayathil from Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram.

The National Seminar: Learner Centred Approaches

The National seminar on *English in Higher Education: Exploring Learner Centred Approaches* held on the 29th and 30th of January was a great success.

On the first day of the seminar, the welcome address was delivered by Prof. Abhaya NB (Department Coordinator). The first session of the seminar was a panel discussion moderated by Prof. John Joseph Kennedy (Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences and Head, Department of English, Christ University). The panellists were Dr. Rajagopal (EFLU, Hyderabad), Dr. Harold Patrick (School of Management Studies, CU), Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas (CEDBEC, CU) Mr. Ashok Emmanuel (Dept. of Computer Science, CU) Dr. Jyothi Kumar (Dept. of BBA, CU) Prof. Shobhana P. Mathews (Dept. of English, CU).

In the second session, there was a screening of documentaries by students from Christ University, followed by a panel discussion about the films. The moderator of this discussion was Prof. Anil Joseph Pinto (Registrar, Christ University) and the panellists being Prof. Anupama Nayar, Prof. Johny G Vadakel (University of Calicut), Ms. Tara Rachel Thomas (2nd MA English, CU) and Mr. Prashant Parvatneni (3rd JP English, CU). For the third session, a paper was presented on “ELT Research: Cur-

National Seminar “English in Higher Education: Exploring Learner Centred Approaches” held in January 2013.

Participants and scholars from several universities all over the country discussed new developments in English Language Teaching.

Photo: Mr. Joseph Kennedy moderating the first panel discussion of the seminar.



rent Trends and Future perspectives” by Dr. Jayagowri Shivakumar (Head, Department of English, NMKRV College, Bangalore).

The second day of the seminar took place in three different venues, with guest speakers Dr G Rajagopal and Dr Palani Arangasamy. The sessions involved research paper presentations by students from Bangalore University, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, and Christ University. The papers explored new approaches to English Language Teaching, keeping in mind the importance of learner centred approach. The presentations were followed by questions and comments from the participants and feedback from the moderators.

Priyanka Ghosh | I MA English

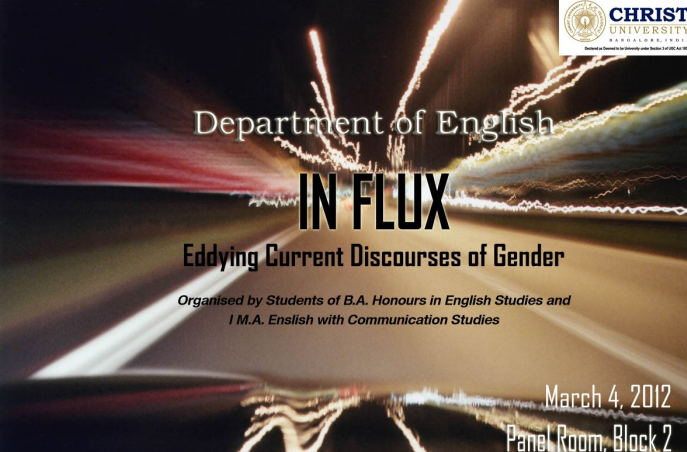
IN FLUX: EDDYING CURRENT DISCOURSES OF GENDER

Seminar on Gender Studies

A day-long seminar on changing discourses of gender and trends in gender studies was organised by Professor Sushma V Murthy of the Department of English and students of the 1 M.A. English and B.A. English (Honours) classes, on March 4. The seminar consisted of four sessions centred on gender discourses in Politics, Writing, Social Action and the Media respectively.

The panellists for the discussions included Mr Raj Iyer, gay rights activist Mr Vinay Chandran, filmmaker Ms Pavitra Chalam and scholar Ms Chandranandini, along with Professors Padmakumar MM and Anupama Nayar. The keynote speaker Ms Donna Fernandes, women's rights activist and founder of *Vimochana*, opened the seminar with a rousing speech calling for a change in attitudes and discourses of gender to free Indian women from conditions of oppression and fear.

The panel discussions included presentations by students which explored gender discourses in a broad range of areas; among their topics were: Classical dance (Bharatanatyam), Hindu scriptures and mythol-

<p><i>Gender and the Politics of Representation</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Marking Erasures: Gender and Writing</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Gender and Social Action</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Gender and Media</i></p>	
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ogy, dieting products from popular multinational companies ('WeightWatchers'), Indian politics, the online space of blogs and social networks, pride marches in Bangalore, the films of Shyam Benegal and the Chinese film 'The Red Sorghum'. Some students explored gender through creative writing; their work was read and discussed in the panels. The presentations in each session were followed by interaction between the panellists and participants.

The day-long seminar explored diverse cultural phenomena, revealing the important and often surprising role of gender discourses in shaping key aspects of our lives. The discussions deepened students' awareness of the fluidity of gender identity and performativity, and the reflection of this fluidity in the eddying nature of gender discourses which operate around us.

Final Coffee Hour

On Friday, 15 March, students of 1 M.A. English will hold the final coffee hour of the semester. This Coffee Hour is especially in honour of the graduating 2 M.A. English class and all alumni of the postgraduate English program.

Coffee Hours this semester have been centred on the senior students' dissertation projects: students (among them Puja Prakash, Krishnendu Basu, Chandna Singh Nirwan) presenting their research papers, followed by discussion and feedback from students and faculty. This Coffee Hour will celebrate the completion of the seniors' research projects. Our alumni have also been invited to attend the event.

This time students, professors, et al will raise their cuppa to bid cheers and adieu to our very own final batch of MA English and Communication Studies. There will be memories, speeches, nostalgia and our usual chatter. The students of 1 M.A. English wish the graduating class great success and happiness in all their future endeavours!

The Quill's Will Team

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