

## Report (2018)

The English department and its Literary Society organized a number of academic and extra-curricular activities during the year. On 26th February, the department invited author KuldeepYadav in collaboration with the Book Club to discuss his latest book *Murder in Paharganj*. Mr Yadav also inaugurated the student art exhibition, 'Collective Rubbish: Formalism' on the same day. The art exhibition showcased the students' interpretation of the literary theory, Formalism, in a wide range of multimedia works. On 12th March, an event around 'Memory and the 1947 Partition' was organised in collaboration with the Book Club. The event featured author Aanchal Malhotra who spoke about the role of material memory in writing history via her book *Remnants of a Separation*. Mr Raghav Sagar, an archivist at the 1947 Archive, joined her in the discussion of the challenges of collecting and managing oral narratives as a record of personal histories.

The Literary Society organized its annual department day Litluminous 2018 on 16th March, the theme for which was 'Music, Sound, Noise', celebrating the connections between literature and sound. The event opened with a panel discussion on the theme, led by Dr Shubhasree Basu, Assistant Professor, Jindal Global University and Ms Susan George, Assistant Professor, Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University. Presentations focussed on the difference between 'sound' and 'noise', on the politics of disappearing sounds, the practice of reading sound along with text, and the discourses of power that align soundscapes with a recipient's sensory system. The other events on the day were a creative writing competition, student paper presentation and a music competition amongst college bands from across Delhi-NCR. The intention was to begin a conversation on the multiple elements that compose 'writing' and to acquaint students with the possibilities of creative listening in collaboration with creative writing.

Continuing the tradition of hosting a musical every year, on 27th March students from across disciplines came together to direct, produce, and perform the acclaimed Broadway musical *Evil Dead*. Experimental in form and content, the musical presented many challenges to all who participated in it. Not only did it involve devoted stage presence, acting, singing, and dancing, but also well-crafted placement and lighting. The students skilfully manoeuvred the stage and ensured that their strengths were played up to.

In an attempt to familiarize students with storytelling across mediums, the department organized two events: on 4th April Ms Rituparna Sengupta, film critic and IIT-Delhi scholar, made a presentation titled 'Mythological Women in Graphic Representations' for our students. She made a succinct comparison of films and graphic novels that deal with 'mythological' women like Padmini and Sita. She averred that in the current scenario it is necessary for all of us to think about how and why 'mythological' women are remembered. On 11th April Ms A P Payal, PhD scholar at the Department of English, University of Delhi and a widely published visual artist, graciously agreed to talk to

colleagues and students about her graphic piece titled 'Rangoon to Vadakara: A Survivor's Tale' from the Yoda Press anthology First Hand. She spoke about the process of recreating a personal story and working with a visual medium. She elaborated on how violence can be represented in graphic novels, and how it may intersect with representing travel. Students and colleagues actively queried her regarding these issues, and we hope this helped students understand that being an artist and being a critic are separate and complicated. The last event of this semester was held on 18th April, a Just-A-Minute (JAM) event conducted by Harsh Pitaliya, JAM Master from IIT-D. JAM is a game that tests the participants' ability to think on their feet as they create narratives that become more bizarre by the second. The participants were students from BA(H) Eng and enthusiastically responded to the prompts by Mr Pitaliya.

The new semester began in July, and the first event that was organised by the department was an orientation and welcome programme for the incoming batch of students. This took place on 13th August. On 23rd August representatives from the Teach for India programme made a presentation to the students of the department regarding teaching opportunities with their organisation. Ms Shweta Sharma from Teach for India also conducted a workshop with the students on 'Training Teachers for Community Engagement.' On 5th September the literary society organised the screening of two short films, The Lost Thing and Dimensions of a Dialogue. The screening was followed by a spirited discussion on the films. On 17th September, a creative writing workshop was organised for the students of the department. It was conducted by Dr Devapriya Roy, who is a prolific and renowned writer of novels and graphic biography. The department organized a walkthrough at the National Gallery of Modern Art on 15th September, which was attended by 39 students and 2 teachers. The visit to the gallery was guided and led by the Assistant Curator, Mr Argha Kumar Ganguly. On 11th October, the department was back with its art exhibition created and curated by students, 'Collective Rubbish', this time on the theme 'Revisioning Postcolonialism'. The students creatively attempted to redefine the ideas associated with Postcolonialism in literature and visual arts.