

Activities organized by Department of English

1. Diamond Jubilee 3RD S.C.DATTA Memorial Lecture Cultural Politics of Contexts” by Dr.Sumit Chakrabarty, presidency University Kolkata on 31st August 2016.
2. Mentoring Talk organized by Department of English and IQAC, 20th May, 2019.
3. From 2021 the Department has also organized the Annual Talk by the Alumni of the Department entitled “Leading Light”. This year the programme was held on 11th October 2021 where the resource person was Mrs.Ivyreen Warjri, Assistant Director(Good Governance Cell), Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute, Govt of Meghalaya.
4. Recently the Department started with an Add-on Course titled ***The French Connection*** for the students of the Department. The Initiation Programme for the Course was held on the 16th of December,2021.
5. The Post Graduate section of the department had organised a talk by A.S Guha on 2nd May 2019.
6. The Post Graduate section of the department had organised a talk by Prof. Mao on 2^{5th} September 2019.
7. The Post Graduate section of the department had organised a talk by Dr. Deepika Gurumayum, on.13th Nov 2021.
8. The Post Graduate section of the department had organised a talk by Dr. B.W Nongbri on 17th Nov 2021.
9. The Post Graduate section of the department had organised a talk by Ms Dzuvinguno Dorothy Chasie on 20th Nov 2021
10. The Post Graduate section of the department had organised a talk by Dr. C.P Rabindranath on 27th Nov 2021.

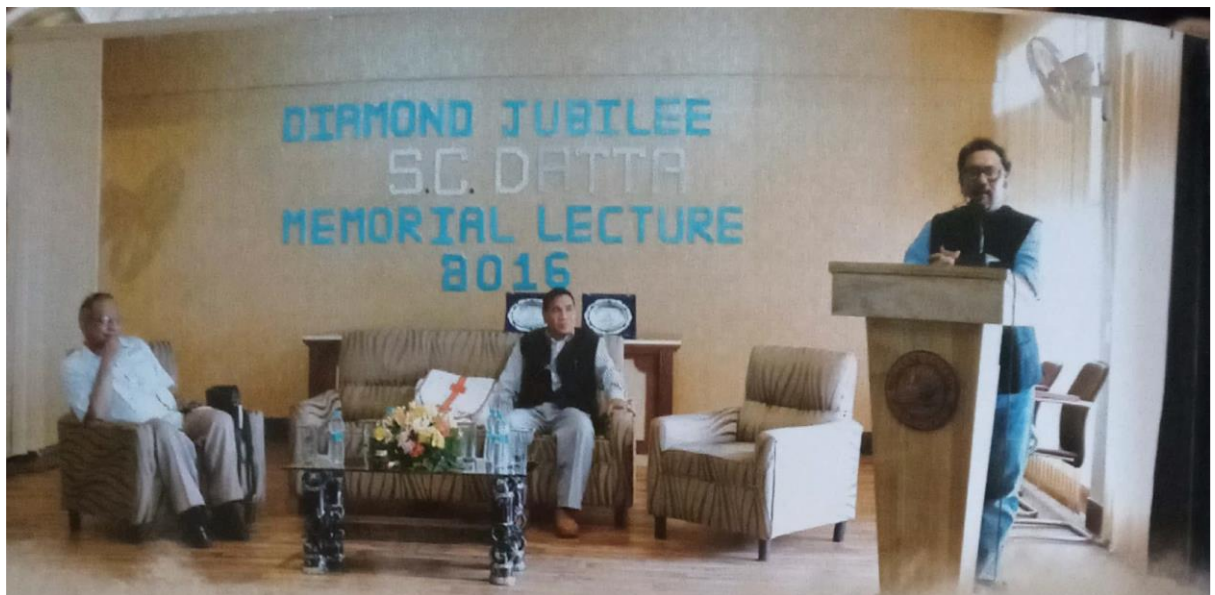
Declamation Contest 2014

Declamation Contest

The Dept of English organised an inter-college and inter-school Declamation Contest on the 26 September 2014

Shri. F.Kharkongor (I.A.S), Secretary of Education, Govt. of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest for this event





DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration the Department of English, Shillong College organised the SC Datta Memorial Lecture at the Conference Hall. The lecture series assumed more significance this year as the lecture today was attended by Prof. Subir Datta, a retired faculty of the English Department, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and son of the Founder-Principal of Shillong college after whom the lecture series was named. In his address, Prof Subir Datta reminisced the days when Shillong College was housed at Jail Road Boys school close to the then Principal's residence. He recalled how this institution of which he was a student, moulded and shaped many like him. He also expressed his gratitude to the many who had and still are taking forward the dreams of the pioneers who envisioned the establishment of the College and taking it to greater heights. Dr Sumit Chakrabarty, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, Presidency University, Kolkata delivered a very thought provoking lecture which was entitled "Thinking Literature: The Cultural Politics of Context". In his lecture, he pointed out that there is a need for singularity of literature and hence intuitive understanding of art. He stated that a literary text is picked up by a reader for its literary appeal and not for being a cultural text adding however that at times on reading the cultural history of the

moment becomes more important than the text itself. In this context, he said that the various theories and 'isms' are indeed essential towards understanding the texts but argued that such representations and utterances divests the text of its marginality. He therefore urged critics and authors to avoid such contextualisation and rather present the text in its singularity and worldliness. As part of the programme and to share the experience of the early years of Shillong College a presentation entitled "Shillong College at 60" which featured students and faculty members who were part of Shillong College during the tenure of the Founder-Principal was also shown. The interactive session was made more lively by students and faculty members from various colleges of Shillong who were present at the lecture. ■

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Shillong College

A TALK ON MENTORING

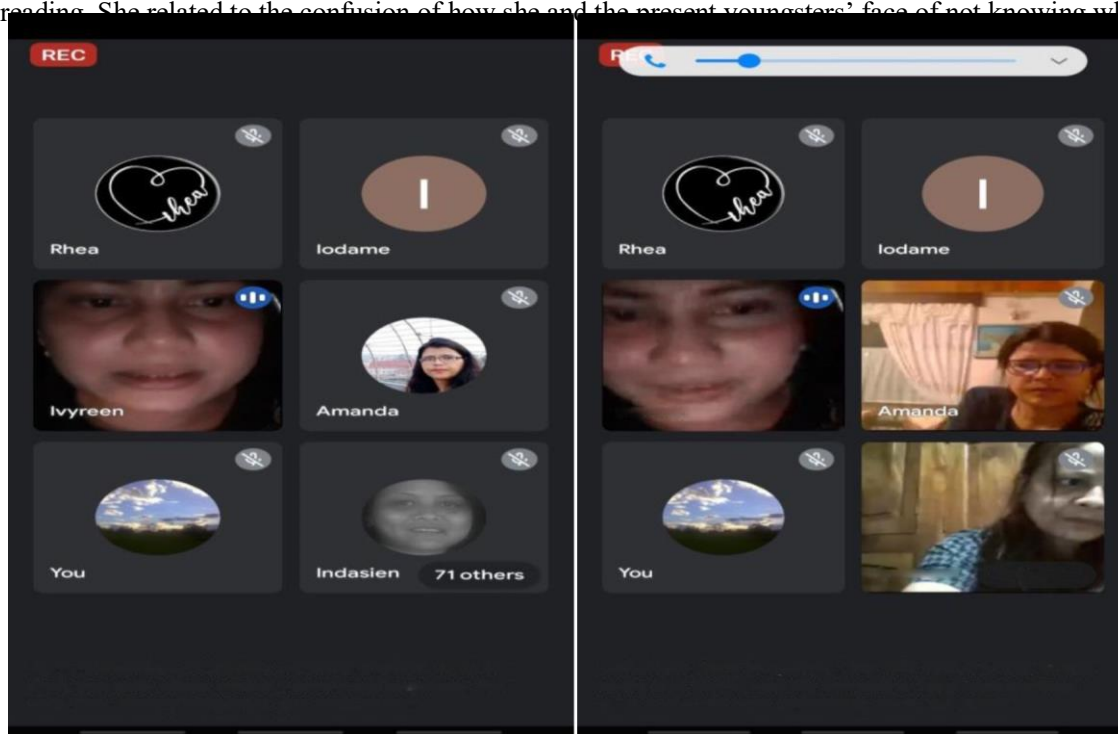


The Department organized a talk on Mentoring on the 20th of May, 2019. The Talk was delivered by Shri Lawynn Pariat, Assistant Professor, Department of English. In an hour-long talk Shri Pariat highlighted on the importance of mentoring and detailed out the tools and techniques for conducting mentoring sessions. The Programme was attended by the faculty and students of the college.

A REPORT ON LEADING LIGHT- MEET YOUR ALUMNI

This Programme Leading Light- Meet your Alumni is a series of programmes introduced by the Department of English, Shillong College to provide an opportunity to introduce current students to the array of opportunities available to them with an English Honours degree. The job market is so vast and many do not know where to go next or what to do next. Where better to gather some advice than from those who have been in your shoes. Hence, through this interactive short session we encourage our present students to interact, seek clarifications from your seniors who are now gainfully employed. The intention of holding this programme is to encourage all students to "Chase their dreams and to dare to dream".

In the first series of this program held on 11th of October, 2021 the Department was privileged to have Mrs. Ivyreen Warjri an alumna of the English Department who currently is serving as the Assistant Director (Good Governance Cell) at the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute, Government of Meghalaya. While interacting with the students she recollected her days in Shillong College and particularly the Department of English. Referring to how English is the lingua franca of the world she encouraged students to make the best use of the opportunity of being enrolled in the Department of English and to boldly work towards achieving their dreams with sincerity. She stated that the edge that the English degree gave her is to effectively communicate through her exposure to different literary works and particularly her love for reading. She related to the confusion of how she and the present youngsters' face of not knowing what they



want or how to pursue what they desire for themselves. Relating to her experiences that she eloquently and candidly shared the honours students of the department posed various questions pertaining to public

speaking, personality development, career opportunities and various lines that can be opted for further studies after English Honours. It was a highly interactive session in which students not only participated but opened up building their confidence to move towards building and shaping their future.

Ivyreen

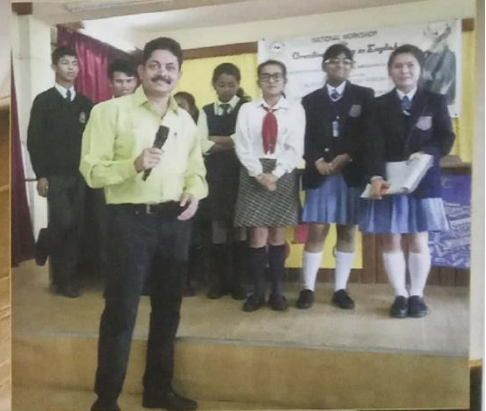
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communication, effective, communication. And for that, you talk about verbal, non-verbal gestures, you talk about body language, you talk about

talk about body language. You talk about presentation skills and such. And it's not only a language student who has to do that when they enter the world



National Workshop on *Creative Writing in English*



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NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH

An Initiative of the English Department to Promote Creativity

Mrs. A B BASAIAWWMOIT, CONVENOR

Department of English

A Two Day National Workshop on Creative Writing in English was organized by the Department of English, Shillong College in collaboration with the North East Writers' Forum on the 21st and 22nd of May, 2015. This workshop which primarily aimed at developing the skill of writing among the participants and envisioned to be a much needed platform for the creative talents. It was because of this that in this endeavour the activity was supported by the Sahitya Akademi, the foremost literary organization of the nation and the Chief Ministers Youth Development Scheme through the East Khasi Hills Deputy Commissioners Office apart from the State Bank of India and the Meghalaya Rural Bank.

CROSS WINDS

The Department of English, Shillong College, Shillong, organized an Inter-College Poetry Writing Competition, called 'Cross Winds' and is part of the College celebrating Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood. The competition open to all Under-Graduate students studying in Meghalaya was aimed at providing budding writers/poets with a platform where to exhibit their works.

Concept Note:

'Cross Winds': is an amalgamation of two unassuming words to produce a strong current of interweaving flow of ideas, thoughts, feelings and emotions. As the State celebrates its 50 years, we are hypothetically looking at this number as a midway point, almost as if we are at an intersection. However, the cross, which symbolically signifies suffering and shame, can also signify dilemma. This dilemma is most strongly felt by the youth as they head on a collision course with an uncertain future. Unemployment, substance abuse, and the pandemic fallout are some of the main causes of fear and anxiety. This fear is fueled by the "winds of change", which have turned the world into a constant state of flux, and thus adding to the uncertainty of an already clouded vision of the future. It is with this concept in mind that the Department of English, Shillong College organized the said competition to give the youth a canvas where they can paint their visions and dreams.

The winners of the competition were adjudged by eminent poets of the North East Writer's Forum and their works will feature in the online journal of the NEWF.

Report prepared by: G. Rumnong, Convener of Cross Winds

Poster Declaring Results



The poster is divided into two main color sections: a grey left side and a green right side. At the top left, there are logos for the Northeast Writers' Forum (NEWF) and Shillong College. The title 'cross Winds' is prominently displayed in the center-left, with 'cross' in blue and 'Winds' in green. Below the title, a yellow banner contains the text 'An Inter-College Poetry Writing Competition' in a cursive font. Further down, it states 'Organized by The Department of English Shillong College in collaboration with North East Writers' Forum'. A circular orange stamp with the text 'Congratulations to the Winners' is placed over the bottom left. The year '2022' is at the bottom left. The right side of the poster features an abstract painting of a tree with vibrant red, orange, and yellow foliage. Below the painting, the text 'The results are out!!! and the winners are...' is written. The winners are listed as follows:

1st Marbamonlang Rani

2nd Menangtei Kupar Thangkhiew

3rd Maisnam Finjita



Selection of winning entries of Shillong Poetry Competition



Inbox

**TAYENJAM SINGH** 20:18

Dear Rashmi, By now you must have seen
Amanda Basaiawmoit's emails addressed to

**Rashmi Narzary** 23:26

to TAYENJAM, me, Dipanjol ▾



Result of Poetry Competition

1st : Poem 5. "Meghalaya Echoes"

2nd : Poem 9. "What I think about....."

3rd : Poem 3. "An Untitled Painting"

Congratulations to the winners and to all
participants!

Along with the winning poems, remaining 7
shortlisted poems too are expected to be published
in the NEWF online anthology.

Warmly,
Rashmi
For the Editorial board

Rashmi Narzary

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The French Connection- an Initiation Programme into the learning of French

A Report



The NEP 2020 has given impetus towards the learning of foreign languages and states: In addition to high quality offerings in Indian languages and English, foreign languages, such as Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, will also be offered at the secondary level, for students to learn about the cultures of the world and to enrich their global knowledge and mobility according to their own interests and aspirations. Research has shown that learning a second language can have a positive effect on first language development. The transfer of literacy skills from one language to another leads to both languages being enhanced. This, in turn, can result in improvement in other areas of the curriculum. Acquiring a second language makes it easier to learn a third, fourth or fifth language. The social aspect of learning a second language can also be significant. Not only does it develop the learner's social and interpersonal skills, it can also give the learner a more global perspective by making it from different experience new cultures, countries around the second language leads to and sensitivity towards, diversity in one's own global issues. In light of the NEP and the second language, The Shillong College has introduced a French programme called "The

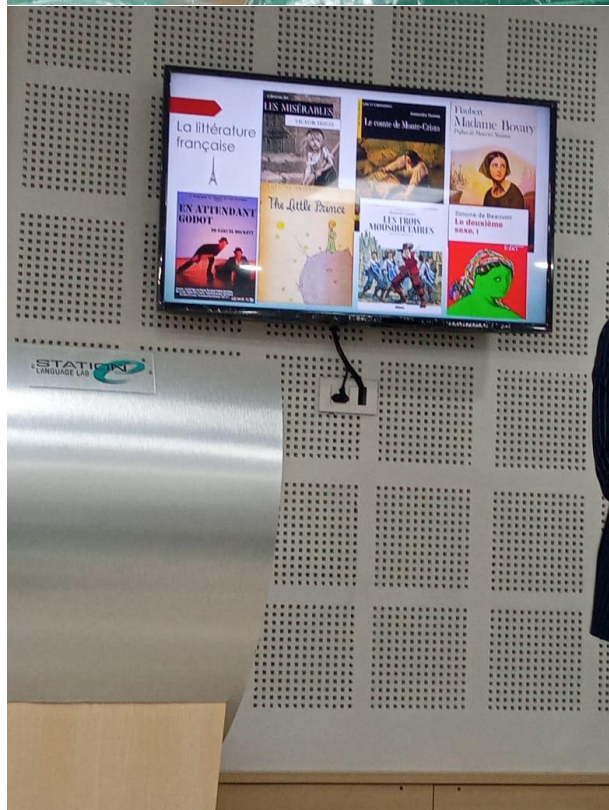
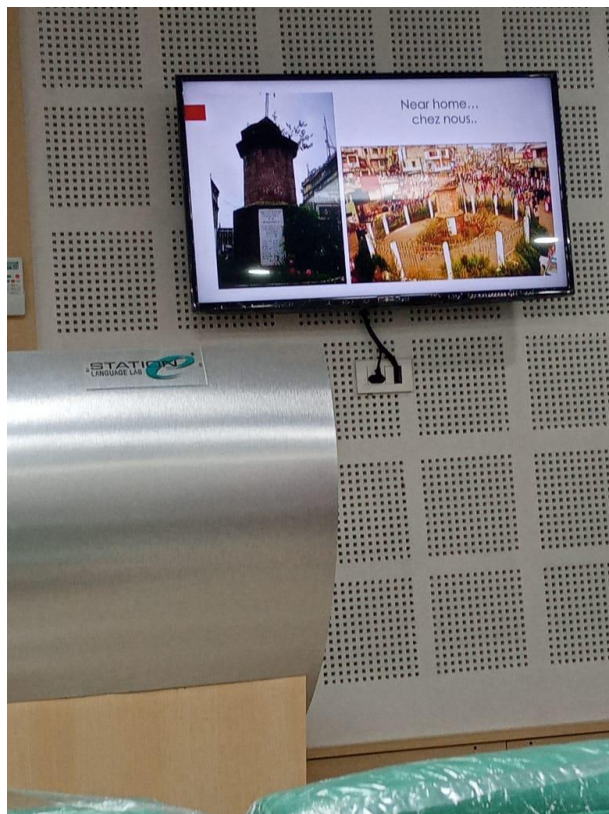


easier to meet people from different backgrounds, to and to travel to various world. Learning a greater appreciation of, linguistic and cultural country as well as the recommendations by advantages of learning a English Department, thus decided to language learning French Connection".

The Session with Dr.Dharmendra Kumar Singh in progress

The French language is spoken by 68 million people worldwide and is the official language of 27 nations. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English. Along with English, it is the working language of the United Nations Organization, UNESCO, NATO, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Labor Bureau, the International Olympic Committee, the 31-member Council of Europe, the European Community, the Universal Postal Union, the International Red Cross and the Union of International Associations. French is the first or second language of over 40 countries and is spoken on every continent. It is estimated that 200 million people around the world speak French and that 100 million people are learning French. English and French are the only languages spoken on all 5 continents and taught in every country in the world. "French is the lingua franca of culture, including art, cuisine, dance, and fashion. French is popularly considered the language of culture, taking learners into the worlds of fashion, gastronomy, the arts and architecture. Learning French offers access to the works Victor Hugo and Marcel Proust, Charles Baudelaire and Jacques Prévert, the songs of Édith Piaf and Charles Aznavour, the movies of Claire Denis and Jean-Pierre Jeunet in the original language. As Laura K. Lawless, creator of Lawless French states, "French is the lingua franca of culture, including art, cuisine, dance, and fashion. France has won more Nobel Prizes for literature than any other country in the world and is one of the top producers of international films." Thus, learning French accords multiple advantages to the speaker to navigate a multi-lingual, multi-cultural globalised world.

The French language has deep connections with the English language, literature and traditions. It was the language of the court following the Norman Conquest of 1066, existing side by side with the English language that was spoken as the vernacular. This meant that the French language considerably influenced the vocabulary of the English speaking masses, with over 10,000 French words being adapted into the English language and about 75 per cent of these still in use today. Words like *justice*, *judge*, *jury*, *challenge*, *danger*, *realm*, *sovereign*, *power*, *joyful*, *parole*, *telephone*, *virtue*, *vice*, *charity*, *uncle*, *aunt*, *nephew*, *niece*, *cousin*, *beef*, *veal*, *mutton*, *pork*, *dinner*, *tailor*, *carpenter*, *butcher*, *mason*, *painter* have their origins in the French language. Other French words like *cliché*, *déjà vu*, and *faux pas* continue to be used in everyday speech. French spelling also helped transform Old English into the modern English we speak today as words like *queen*, *ship* and *should* used to be spelled "cwēn," "scip," and "scolde." French also has its influence on English pronunciation and accentuation. For example, the "ai" sound in English words like *fine*, *price* has been influenced by the long "i" sound in French. The connection between the languages has also led to the creation of hybrid words such as *overpower*, *colourless*, *rebirth* etc.



Glimpses of the Lecture

The French Connection

Organized by

The Language and Skill Development Lab,

In Association with

IQAC, Shillong College

Date: 16th December, 2021

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Venue: Language Lab, Shillong College

1:00 P.M.

Welcome Address- Dr. Dhira Bhowmick

1:05 P.M.

Short Speech- Dr. E. Kharkongor

1:10 P.M.-2:00 P.M.

French Connection

Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh,
Assistant Professor,
Department of French Studies,
The English and Foreign Languages
University,
Shillong Campus,
Shillong.

2:05 P.M.

Vote of Thanks- Shri. P. Nicholas Jyrwa

The connection between French and English extend beyond vocabulary and pronunciation. French is the language of key texts that influenced and shaped English literature in its early beginnings such as *Roman de la Rose* by Guillaume de Lorris and *Lais, Lanval* and *La Friene* by Marie de France. It is the language of philosophers, thinkers and critically acclaimed authors like Descartes, Heri Berson, Simone de Beauvoir, Michel Foucault, Lyotard., Lacan, Jules Verne, Émile Zola, Marcel Proust, Alexandre Dumas, Camus, Charles Baudelaire, Eugène Ionesco, Samuel Beckett and others whose works have been translated into English and continue to be studied in English literature classrooms across the world. The long history of warfare and peace between England and France, the influence of French aesthetics upon the theatre, fashion and court of England are topics that receive considerable attention in classroom discussions of the English renaissance and development of English literature up to the Caroline age. The study of modern and post-modern literature cannot be initiated without a foray into the works of French philosophers and theorists, and the movements in art, philosophy and gender studies that can trace their origins or maturity in France. After all, French is an analytical language that structures thought and develops critical thinking. It is the language of great philosophers like Descartes, Sartre and Derrida, among others and eminent scientists like Pierre and Marie Curie, Pasteur, Georges Charpak, etc. It can thus be established that the French language in the English literature classroom has multiple benefits; from understanding the complex history of English language and literature to allowing learners to enjoy the brilliant works of literature they already love

in the original language of the text to broadening their cultural horizons as well as encouraging their capacities for critical thinking, analysis and negotiation.

The French Connection an initiation Programme into the learning of French was organised by The Language and Skill Development Lab in association with IQAC Shillong College on the 16th of December, 2021 in the Language and Skill Development Lab. Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of French Studies, The English and Foreign Languages University came in as a Resource Person on the day and initiated the Post Graduate teachers and students of First and Third Semesters into basics of French language learning. The Programme was attended by the Principal, Dr. E. Kharkongor, Vice Principal Shri K. D. Roy. Principal delivered a short speech on the occasion.

In a very interesting and engaging presentation, Dr Singh detailed out the benefits of being multilingual, how language introduces us to cultures helps in mental development of aptitudes. Made an interesting presentation on the global presence of the French especially India and Meghalaya. French theorists and mighty literary figures and their masterpieces were brought into reference and stressed on the need for reading them in the original. Helped pronounce French words correctly while also introducing the students and teachers to new French words. He talked about career opportunities, played movie clippings of *Lost in Translation* to show how translation and interpretation can provide multiple career opportunities. The 70 minute long session ended with questions from the teachers about minimum period required for learning French, the structuring of the language the accuracy of machine guided learning. French music completed the feel of the French classroom on the

Report on Invited Talks, a series of Guest Lectures, in the month of November 2021 organised as part of the celebration of 50 years of statehood of Meghalaya

The Department of English Shillong College, Shillong, had undertaken the initiative to organize a series of Guest Lectures as part of the celebration of 50 years of statehood. The decision was taken with the intention of exposing the students to the views of various experts across diverse areas, and thus broaden their understanding and appreciation of the subjects. As a measure to adapt to the challenging times, all the sessions were held virtually. Here is a brief report on the four sessions.

Invited Talk, 13th November 2021

The first session of the series of Invited Talk was held on the 13th of November 2021. The Resource Person was Dr. Deepika Gurumayum, Assistant Professor, Department of English, G.P Women's College, Imphal, Manipur. The topic of her lecture was Roland Barthes' essay, 'From Work to Text.' She discussed Barthes' concept of 'text' and 'work' and explained that Barthes does not try to define 'text' but he rather explains the differences in the two concepts based on seven propositions: method, genre, signs, plurality, filiation,

reading, and pleasure. She also elaborated on how Bathes viewed the developing relationship between ‘text’ and ‘work.’

Dr. Janet G. Dkhar, faculty, English Department, chaired the session. The Head of Department, Dr. Dhira Bhowmick gave the welcome address. The students and the faculty participated in a lively discussion during the interactive session that followed the Lecture. Ms. Patricia Hodge, faculty, proposed the vote of thanks and closed the session.

The link to the invited talk is attached here:

<https://tldv.io/app/meetings/618f548264adbf00137ff5d4>

Invited Talk, 17th November, 2021

The second session of Invited Talk was held on the 17th of November 2021. The Resource Person was Dr. B.W.Nongbri, Dean, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong.. Her lecture in this session was on the poet William Butler Yeats, with special focus on his poem ‘Sailing to Byzantium’. After giving a brief overview of the poet and the times in which he wrote, the speaker explained, in detail, the poem and discussed its relevance to modern readers of our times. The exposition was rendered more lucid and relevant as she introduced modern day examples and analogy to explain her points. The lecture was followed by an interactive session.

The session was chaired by Dr. Grace Aonok, faculty of the Department. The Head of Department, Dr. Dhira Bhowmick delivered the welcome address and the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Ms. Sumita Marthong, faculty.

Invited Talk, 20th November, 2021

The third in the series of Invited Talk was held on the 20th of November, 2021. The Resource Person for this session was Ms. Dzuvinguno Dorothy Chasie, a poet and writer from Nagaland. She read four poems from her collection of poetry. She also presented a Spoken Word Performance, titled “Whisper of Hope.” Besides sharing about her poetry and experiences as a young poet, she also highlighted on the possible career avenues that are available for students of English Literature.

The session was chaired by Ms. Patricia Hodge, faculty of the Department. The Head of Department, Dr. Dhira Bhowmick gave the welcome address and the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Janet G Dkhar, faculty.

The link to the invited talk is attached here:

<https://tldv.io/app/meetings/6198736fa55e6800137caa7e>

27th November 2021

The fourth in the series of Invited Talk was held on the 27th of November 2021. The session's emphasis was on Indian Writings in English. This special session was organised in recognition of the 50th years of Statehood of the State of Meghalaya. The resource person for the occasion was Dr.C.P. Rabindranath, retired Head of Department, Department of Psychiatry, Madurai Medical College, Madurai. He is also a renowned writer who has authored five books, "The Lone Limbo" and "God Created Them All" his two famous novels were discussed during the session. After giving a brief introduction on Indian Writing in English, he read from his books, while also outlining the plot and narrating other details from his books.

The program was chaired by Ms. Sumita Marthong, faculty, Department of English. The Principal, Shillong College, Dr. Eva Kharkongor gave the welcome address. Dr Dhira Bhowmick HOD,English introduced the Speaker.The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. G.Janet Dkhar. It may be mentioned that besides the students and the faculty of the Department, several invitees from North Eastern Hills University, Dibrugarh University and Madurai University and Assam University also attended this session.

The link to the invited talk is attached here:

<https://tldv.io/app/meetings/61a20b4f337f410014d9c02a>

It may be added that both the students as well as faculty were seen participating enthusiastically in the interactive session that followed all four lectures.We believe that the exercise of organising these lectures has benefited the students, the Department, and the Institution as a whole, and that this may serve only as a small measure towards the Department's aspiration to forge ahead towards academic excellence.

