

## **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 Barthes 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, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

The second session of Invited Talk was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

The third in the series of Invited Talk was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **27<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The fourth in the series of Invited Talk was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. The session’s emphasis was on Indian Writings in English. This special session was organised in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> 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.