

ENGLISH (UGS), NUML NEWSLETTER ISLAMABAD

QUARTERLY



Message of the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Safeer Awan
As we move further into the academic year, I am proud of the passion and talent our students continue to demonstrate in English studies. From this month onwards, we embrace modern teaching techniques, encouraging creativity and critical thinking. I urge all students to seize the opportunities ahead, from academic projects to literary festivals. Together, we strive for academic excellence and aim to foster a community that appreciates the transformative power of language, culture and literature.



Message of the Head of Department of English (UGS)

Dr. Muntazar Mehdi

As we begin this academic year, I am excited about the new opportunities for growth and learning. We foster creativity, critical thinking, and a passion for English Studies. I encourage students to actively engage in the initiatives we have introduced, both academic and extracurricular, to make the most of the resources available. Together, we will continue to build a community that values intellectual growth and addresses global challenges in the field of language, culture and literature.

Sections

1. Departmental Activities

- 1.1 Orientation Sessions
- 1.2 Meetings

2. Faculty Activities

- 2.1 Faculty Sessions
- 2.2 Meetings

3. Student Engagement

- 3.1 Seminars
- 3.2 Naat Competitions
- 3.3 Webinars
- 3.4 Reading Circles

Highlights

- Orientation Session for the Students of BS in English
- Faculty Activities: Briefing and Training on Research Grants
- Meeting with Mr. Jamal Shah and the officials of Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) and IDB
- Seminar on UGRAD Scholarship Programs
- Seminar on The Culture of Reading Books and Kashmiri Literature
- Winning of Naat Competitions by Muhammad Sibghatullah Qadri
- Webinars on LMS Registration and Faculty Engagement
- Reading Circle on Dostoevsky's Notes from the Underground and Mary Shelley's Frankenstein
- Launching of the podcast 'Literature Lounge' under English Literary Society
- Visit of SRS Team to the Each One Teach One (EOTO) Foundation
- Reactivation of the Departmental Writing Resource Center
- Meetings of the Head of the Department of English (UGS) with Focal Persons of Societies, Assistant Professors and Heads of Regional Campuses of the university

1. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

1.1. ORIENTATION SESSION



An Orientation Session for the Students of BS in English

An orientation session for the Students of BS in English was successfully conducted on September 9, 2024. The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a welcoming address by Dr Safeer Awan, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Dr Farheen Ahmed Hashmi, Head of the Department of English (Graduate Studies), and Dr Muntazar Mehdi, Head of the Department of English (Undergraduate Studies), addressed the students. Dr Nadeem Talib, Director of Academics, provided an overview of the program, while Dr Wajeeha Shahid, Director of Examinations, outlined the exam rules and regulations. Concluding the session, Dr Saira Nudrat and Raja Kamran, Advisors of Student Affairs, formally welcomed the new students and informed them about various opportunities and resources available at NUML .



Welcoming New Students of BS in English at the Orientation Session

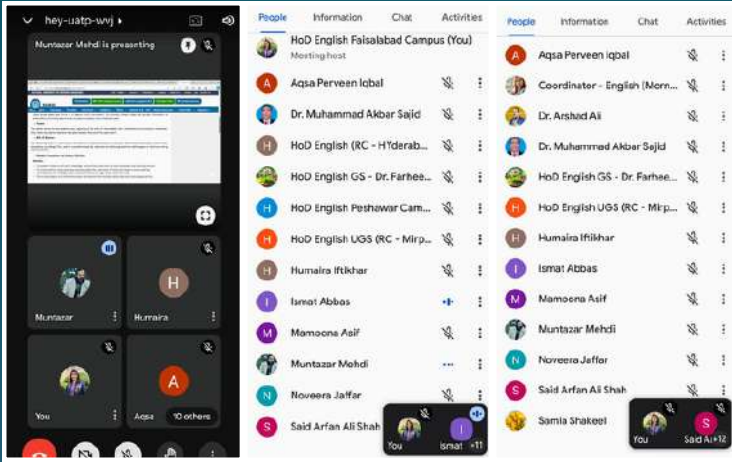
The event ended with group photographs and a campus tour, where orientation leaders and faculty members guided students who were divided into small groups. The students were familiarized with the campus and given opportunities to build connections with peers and mentors.

1.2. MEETINGS



Meeting of The Departmental Board of Studies

A Departmental Board of Studies meeting was held in September 2024 to evaluate and enhance the course outlines. The participants discussed the strengths and areas for improvement within the curriculum. The session focused on identifying ways to address students' evolving academic needs, aligning course content with educational standards, and promoting a comprehensive learning experience. This collaborative effort reflects the departmental commitment to educational excellence and continuous improvement, ensuring that the curriculum remains relevant and beneficial for all students.



An online meeting of the Heads of Departments of English was held on 18th October 2024 and was presided by Dr Muntazar Mehdi, the Head of the Department of English (UGS), in the Islamabad campus of NUML. The meeting, attended by the Heads of Departments of English from all regional campuses, adhered to many points, including the following: discussion of the Scheme of Studies for Fall 24 and Spring 25; the need for at least two meetings of Teachers from all campuses with the teachers in-charge of courses; the need and efficacy of Professional Development of Faculty; proper functioning of Students' Societies and Departmental Committees; Courses Reallocation (to relegated students, improvers, repeaters, Frozen semesters, exchange programs etc.) along with a discussion on the steps to improve the Campus Academic Ambiance.

Virtual Meeting of the Heads of Departments of English in Regional Campuses of NUML



A Meeting with Mr. Jamal Shah, Former Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture of Pakistan and Mrs. Amna Shah, Director of Hunerkada

On August 28 2024, the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities along with Dr. Farheen Ahmed Hashmi, Head of Department of English (GS) and Dr. Muntazar Mehdi Head of Department of English (UGS) had a meeting with Mr. Jamal Shah, former Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture of Pakistan and Mrs. Amna Shah, Director of Hunerkada. The primary agenda was to discuss the possibility of collaboration regarding the commencement of new programs in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (already approved by the Academic Council). The discussions were productive, leading to a follow-up meeting with the Coordinators of the Departments of English (U/GS) to finalize the roles, responsibilities, and strategic framework. This collaborative effort marks a significant step towards enhancing NUML's academic and cultural landscape.

Meeting With the IBCB Officials



On 24th August 2024, Dr Mohammad Safeer Awan presided over a meeting with Professor Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, the Executive Director of Inter Boards Coordination Commission, and Dr Mohammad Ali Yazdani, a representative of Islam Development Bank. Dr Muntazar Mehdi also attended the meeting. The agenda focused on exploring internship opportunities for students and expanding NUML's outreach across Pakistan in different BSISEs, aiming to enhance students' educational and professional development opportunities nationwide. Dr Mallah offered NUML the opportunity to host students' competitions in coordination with the respective boards; he also offered NUML the chance to collaborate with IBCB in sports competitions to create a healthy environment among the youths.

2. FACULTY ACTIVITIES

2.1. FACULTY SESSIONS



Training Session for Departmental LMS Committee Members for Spring 2025

A Training on the LMS activities for the next academic session, Spring 2025, was organised by Dr Farah Hashmi, the focal person of the LMS committee, on 30 October 2024 in the conference room in Iqbal Block. Ms. Rabeea Maryam, the focal person for LMS registrations in the afternoon session, was the resource person for the training session. She provided hands-on training to the members of the LMS committee. Dr Mehdi and the coordinators attended the training session in the morning and evening. The committee members were assigned different tasks to complete in the stipulated time.



Briefing on Research Grants

A briefing on research grant proposals for Education Programs was held on 28 October 2024 in Room 301, Iqbal Block. Dr Ghazala Kausar, the focal person of the Departmental Research and Projects Committee, led the session for the faculty of the Department of English (UGS). The session provided essential guidance on crafting practical proposals and received positive feedback from attendees for its valuable insights.



Session on "Unlocking Meaningful Conversations"

Dr. Bilal Hussain conducted an enlightening English Readers' Club session on 24 October 2024 on "Engaging with Text: Unlocking Meaning through Critical Reading." Munazza, a student of the BS English dept, hosted this session and welcomed all participants. Dr. Bilal's expertise ignited thought-provoking discussions, inspiring the participants to dive deeper into the world of critical reading.

2.2. MEETINGS



Meeting of the Head of Department of English (UGS) with focal persons of societies

On 5 September 2024, Dr. Muntazar Mehdi, Head of the Department of English (UGS), held an interactive meeting with the focal persons of various student societies at NUML. The meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration between the department and student societies to enhance co-curricular activities. The discussion points included planning upcoming events, student engagement strategies, and the development of leadership skills among students. Dr Mehdi emphasized the importance of fostering a collaborative environment to enrich students' university experience. This initiative aims to empower students and create a vibrant, inclusive campus culture.



Meeting of the Head of Department with Assistant Professors

The Head met with the Assistant Professors of the Department of English (UGS) on 5 September 2024 to discuss practical steps to improve the department's growth.

3. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

3.1 SEMINARS



Speakers and Participants of the Seminar on UGRAD Scholarship Program

A Seminar On UGRAD Scholarship Programs

On 16 September 2024, the 'Departmental Facilitation and Support Club' of the Department of English (UGS) Islamabad held a seminar on UGRAD Scholarships. The speakers included Mr. Ali Zahoor Malik and UGRAD alumni Mr. Atif Siddique, Ms. Sana Ihsan, and Ms. Tooba Batool. They discussed Fulbright and UGRAD programs and shared tips on crafting strong Statements of Purpose. The session concluded with a question-and-answer segment. Dr Muntazir Mehdi, the Head of the Department, thanked the participants and presented souvenirs and certificates to the keynote speaker and the alumni.

A Seminar on "The Culture of Reading Books & Kashmiri Literature"



On 23 September, the English Readers' Club of the Department of English (UGS) organised a seminar on "The Culture of Reading Books and Kashmiri Literature" at the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. The event featured Dr Farrukh Nadeem, Assistant Professor at International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and Dr Rabiya Aamir, Assistant Professor at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), who enlightened the seminar participants through their engaging and scholarly thoughts. The session ended with a question-and-answer segment. Dr Muntazir Mehdi, the Head of the Department, expressed gratitude to the speakers and organisers. He presented souvenirs to the guest speaker.

3.2 WINNING NAAT COMPETITIONS

Mohammad Sibghat ullah, a student in the sixth semester of BS in English, participated in the Annual Naat Competition held at Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad and organised by Baseerat Islamic Trust. He secured the third position out of 35 participants representing different colleges, universities and madrassas in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, thus qualifying for the Grand Finale. Later, in the Grande Finale held on 13th October 2024, Mohammad Sibghat Ullah secured the second position by impressing the audience with his heartfelt recitation.



3.3 WEBINARS



A Webinar on LMS Registration and Login Issues

The Departmental Facilitation and Support Club and LMS Committee hosted a webinar on LMS Registration and Login Issues on 21 September 2024 via Google Meet. Presided by Dr Muntazir Mehdi, Head of the Department of English UGS. The event featured expert insights from Ms Saima Shirani, Assistant Director of IT at NUML, and Dr Sajjad Haider, Director of QEC. With over 100 participants and more than 200 livestream viewers, the highly interactive session addressed questions asked by the students in real-time. The successful webinar concluded with a question and answer segment reflecting strong student engagement and interest.

The Second Meeting of the Class Representatives



To achieve the objective of collaborative learning and to develop mutual consensus, an online meeting of the class representatives with the Head of Department, Program Coordinators and Focal Person of Societies was held on 12 October 2024. The agenda of the meeting focused on the implementation and execution of multiple activities (curricular and co-curricular). Moreover, the class representatives were informed about the university's rules regarding the conduct of classes and examinations. The class representatives were provided opportunities to identify areas for improvement and ensure that their concerns were addressed. The meeting ended with a note of thanks from the Head of Department to all the participants.

3.4 READING CIRCLE

Meeting of Class Representatives



On 11 October 2024, the English Readers' Club (ERC) of the Department of English (UGS) organized a book reading discussion session in a Conference room in the library at the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. This session aimed to discuss Dostoyevsky's novella *Notes from the Underground*. Dr Muntazar Mehdi, Head of the Department of English (UGS), Ms Bushra Ashraf, Focal Person of ERC, Ms Munazza Mahmood, ERC team members and students from different semesters joined the session. The readers shared their views and experiences on the book and enlightened participants through engaging and scholarly reflections. In the end, Dr. Muntazar Mehdi expressed his thoughts on the significance of reading books and works of famous authors and expressed gratitude to the speakers and organizers.

English Readers' Club Organized a Reading Circle on "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley

The English Readers' Club of the Department of English UGS hosted an engaging and insightful reading circle on *Frankenstein*, a novel by Mary Shelley, on 22 October 2024, organized by Ms Aleena Shahzad. The event featured a thought-provoking discussion on the novel's central themes, including horror, humanity, morality, and the dangers of unchecked ambition. The students of BS in English led panels analysing Shelley's complex ideas and their relevance in today's world. Rich dialogues exchanged among several panels of students enabled them to examine how the novel resonates with contemporary social and ethical issues, sparking vibrant discussions on the nature versus nurture debate and the consequences of scientific advancement. Through these conversations, the event highlighted the novel's enduring relevance and profound exploration of the human condition.



Reactivation of the Departmental Writing Resource Center

The Writing Resource Center in the Department of English (UGS) was inaugurated on 23 October 2024 by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Pro-Rector Academics, Prof. Dr Safeer Awan. The ceremonial ribbon cutting was conducted and attended by faculty and students. The Writing Resource Centre will initially operate two to three days a week, and Mr Habib-ur-Rehman and Dr Aziz Ullah Khan will guide aspiring writers. The purpose of the Writing Resource Center is to develop writing skills and support academic success for the students and faculty of the department. By offering personalised tutoring, workshops, and a wealth of resources, the centre plans to foster an environment of collaboration and learning. It aims to help individuals develop a richness of ideas, coherence and cohesiveness in their writing abilities, improve their understanding of structure, grammar and style, and ultimately equip them with essential skills for academic and professional success. Additionally, the centre promotes a vibrant writing community, encouraging creativity and effective communication across disciplines.



4. PRODUCTIVITY SESSIONS

4.1. PODCAST BY ELS



The 2nd Episode of Podcast Series titled "South Asian Literature: Challenges and Scope"

The Second Episode of The Literature Lounge, titled "South Asian Literature: Challenges and Scope", was launched on 2nd September 2024 on the official channel of the Department of English (Undergraduate Studies) on YouTube. Dr Yasir Arafat explored the culturally rich and territorially diverse world of South Asian Literature. This podcast series aims to disseminate knowledge among students and faculty regarding important literary topics and provides a platform for students to enhance their public speaking skills. The podcast also engages English students in recording, editing, and developing graphics/videos, hence honing their technological skills through such interdisciplinary projects.

4.2. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY VISITS

Visit to the Each One Teach One (EOTO) Foundation



The Social Responsibility Society (SRS) of the Department of English (UGS) organised a volunteer visit to the Each One Teach One (EOTO) Foundation on 21 October 2024. Led by Ms. Quratulain, Lecturer, Department of English (UGS), the twenty-five members of SRS performed educational and recreational activities involving underprivileged children, following the concept of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). The volunteers conducted interactive sessions on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, including hands-on activities and practical lessons. The visit concluded with distributing stationery and food items among the children. This initiative successfully delivered educational support, fostered compassion among volunteers, and promoted community service. The SRS aims to continue organising similar outreach programs, contributing positively to societal welfare and academic development.

Tree Plantation Drive by the Social Responsibility Society of English UGS



During the summer, the Social Responsibility Society (SRS) of the Department of English (UGS) organised a tree plantation drive to contribute towards a greener and healthier environment. Students and society members were encouraged to plant trees and saplings in their local communities. Under the guidance of Ms. Qurat ul Ain, participants documented their efforts by sharing photos of themselves planting and nurturing the saplings. This activity aimed to raise environmental awareness and foster a sense of responsibility among students, emphasizing the importance of sustainability and community involvement.



Thank you for reading!

Stay connected with us:

