

ENGLISH (UGS), NUML NEWSLETTER

OCT-DEC 2024



Message of the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Prof. Dr. Arshad Mahmood

It is an honor to serve as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. I am deeply grateful to the university leadership for entrusting me with this responsibility. Our Faculty plays a central role in nurturing critical thinkers, creative minds, and socially responsible individuals. I look forward to collaborating with our esteemed faculty, dedicated staff, and inspiring students to foster an environment of innovation, inclusivity, and academic excellence. Committed to promoting interdisciplinary learning and research, I encourage active engagement in intellectual discourse, cultural activities, and community outreach. Together, we will continue to uphold the highest academic standards and achieve new milestones. I am excited for the journey ahead and confident in the potential of our vibrant academic community.



Message of the Head of Department of
English (UGS)

Dr. Muntazar Mehdi

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you the latest edition of our departmental newsletter. This platform continues to reflect the vibrant academic and co-curricular life of our students and faculty. The Department of English remains committed to excellence in teaching, constructive pedagogy, and holistic student development. I take great pride in the hard work, creativity, and dedication demonstrated by our students and colleagues. Our focus this semester has been on enhancing classroom engagement, fostering culture interactive learning, and promoting meaningful outreach to community. The achievements showcased here are a testament to our shared vision and collaborative spirit. I also extend a warm welcome to our new students and faculty members who have joined our academic community. As we move ahead, let us remain passionate, curious, and committed to lifelong learning. I encourage everyone to contribute actively and continue striving for excellence. Thank you for being an integral part of our department's journey.

Highlights

- Literary Gathering
- Literature Fest Extravaganza
- Global Education Expo
- Career Pathways Seminar
- Alumni Reunion
- Language Technology Workshop

The English Readers' Club of the Department English (UGS) organized a literary gathering on Billy Collins' anthology, *Bright Wings*, on November 14, 2024. Members of faculty and Dr. Muntazar Mehdi, the Head of the Department English (UGS) attended the program.



Eco-visual/poetry

Under the guidance of Ms. Aleena Shahzad, students delved into the anthology's evocative poems. They explored how birds are used as metaphors for human emotions and connections to nature. The event showcased poetry's ability to unveil life's complexities, inspiring reflection on our bond with the natural world. The program featured students reciting selected poems, and concluded with the distribution of origami birds to the audience.





The English Literary Society (ELS) of the Department of English (UGS) hosted its 3rd Annual "Literature Fest" on November 18, 2024. This vibrant celebration showcased a rich tapestry of multilingual performances, including poetry recitals, dramatic sketches, cultural acts, and a presentation of Oscar Wilde's "The Nightingale and the Rose".

An Art Corner, themed on literature, featured books, paintings, and literary writing from Pakistani and world literature. A Literary Contest was organized, with prizes awarded in poetry writing, short story, and painting categories.



The festival was honored by Chief Guest Sir Hameed Shahid, a noted short story writer and literary critic, and Guest of Honor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Safeer Awan, Pro-Rector Academics at NUML. They appreciated the students' literary and artistic talent.

The event featured rhythmic fusions of music, culture, and literature, making it a memorable experience. A large number of students, faculty, and industry guests attended. Islamabad Tea set up a tea stall, and Mr. Naeem Khan, General Manager, praised the students' talent and promised internships for English students.

This festival reaffirmed its role as a cornerstone of literary and cultural enrichment at NUML.



Literature fest showcases Pakistan's rich culture & artistic spirit

STAFF REPORTER

The English Literary Society (ELS) of the National University of Modern Languages hosted the annual Literature Fest 2024; full of vim and vigour, celebrating Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and literary brilliance.

The event brought together students, faculty, and distinguished guests for a colourful display of creativity, unity, and patriotism, leaving an ineradicable impression on all attendees.

At the outset, Dr. Muntazir Mehdi, Head of the English Department, welcomed the audience, emphasizing the importance of literature and culture in shaping identities. "Through events like the NUML Literature Fest, we aim to reconnect our students with their roots, noting that such efforts play a vital role

in promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage".

The event was attended by Pro-Rector/Academics, Dr. Safer Awan, Head of English Department, Dr. Muntazir Mehdi along with a renowned literary critic, short-story and fiction writer Muhammad Hameed Shahid (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) as a Chief Guest; the festival celebrated the unflinching spirit of Pakistan's traditions and literature. They hailed NUML's commitment to preserving cultural identity in a fast-changing world.

"In today's era, where it is increasingly difficult for individuals to remain connected to their cultural values, NUML has always taken steps to keep our traditions' essence alive. This initiative has stirred up love and pride for Pakistan's culture in the hearts of every individual,"

remarked Muhammad Hameed Shahid.

The festival was a kaleidoscope of events including soulful recitations of Hamad and Qalam-e-Iqbal, a lively Rabab performance, and a thought-provoking theatrical act, "Nightingale and the Rose".

The vivacious Bait Bazi competition and cultural poetry performances added a lively charm to the event, showcasing the cultural heritage of all the provinces, while modern elements such as beatboxing and comic literary news showcased the versatility and creativity of NUML's students.

The aesthetics of the festival were equally captivating, with the art corner displaying vibrant and imaginative works by students. The enthusiastic applause, lighting, and cheers

from the audience resonated throughout the performances, reflecting their engagement and pride in the cultural showcase.

The NUML Literature Fest 2024 emphasized the importance of reconnecting with cultural values while fostering artistic expression. Each activity symbolized a different facet of Pakistan's heritage, from the poetic depth of Ghazals to the dynamic energy of beatboxing. These performances not only marked the diversity of Pakistan's culture but also inspired the students to carry forward this legacy with pride and creativity. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Hameed Shahid highlighted the festival's significance: "This event is more than a celebration; it is a call to remember who we are and where we come from."

NUML Literature Fest showcases Pakistan's Rich Culture and Artistic Spirit

Bureau Report

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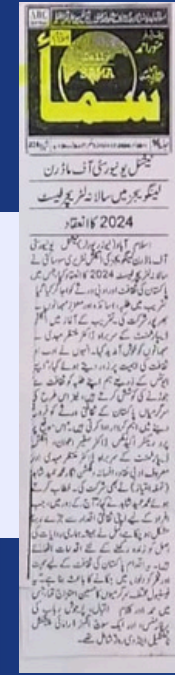
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City Desk

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Through literature and arts, we can keep our culture alive and inspire the next generation to contribute to Pakistan's vibrant identity."

He commended the performances presented by the students, adding that such events help to keep the youth aware of their rich traditions.



The Career Planning Society of the Department of English (UGS) organized an educational excursion to the IDP Expo at Serena Hotel, Islamabad, on October 8, 2024. This excursion provided students with invaluable exposure to global academic and scholarship opportunities. During the event, students interacted with representatives from esteemed international universities.

They also attended a comprehensive IELTS masterclass delivered by renowned expert Ms. Roudaba Shuja. The masterclass provided insight into IELTS examination formats, strategic reading techniques, and scoring metrics, with an emphasis on developing comprehension, accuracy, and effective communication skills. The session also offered in-depth guidance on enhancing writing and speaking skills, focusing on lexical sophistication and grammatical precision.



SEMINAR ON "EXPLORING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND ACADEMIA FOR ENGLISH GRADUATES"



The Career Planning Society (CPS) within the Department of English (UGS) successfully organized a seminar titled "Exploring Career Opportunities Beyond Academia for English Graduates" on November 20, 2024. This event was specifically designed for 8th semester students and featured esteemed speakers Mr. Saqlain Abbas, Ms. Namra Hashmi, and Mr. Shajar Abbas. They provided valuable insights into emerging industries and diverse career paths, including civil services, freelancing, and content creation. The participants departed the seminar with enhanced clarity concerning their career objectives and acquired beneficial networking opportunities.

THE FIRST ALUMNI REUNION OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

On December 18, 2025, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, NUML, organized The First Alumni Reunion of the English Department to mark its 35 years of excellence. The event was a vibrant gathering of alumni from various batches. The reunion was graced by Dr. Rubina Kamran, the first Dean of English, former HODs, senior faculty members, and alumni. The event featured thought-provoking theatrical and musical performances, including a theatrical performance by NDC. Alumni success stories were a significant highlight.



The reunion brought everyone together, fostering a sense of community and shared nostalgia. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Safeer Awan, Pro-Rector Academics NUML delivered the welcome address. Prof. Dr. Arshad Mehmood, Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities and HoDs from English departments greeted the guests and alumni. The event organizers included Dr. Khadeeja Mushtaq, Dr. Islam Badshah, Dr. Sana Tariq, Ms. Uzma Aziz, Mr. Habib ur Rehman, Ms. Munazza, and Dr. Bilal Hussain.





The Departmental Facilitation and Supports Club of the Department of English (UGS) organized a seminar on 'A Digital Approach to Language: Understanding Corpus Linguistics' on November 15, 2024. Several esteemed members of faculty and the Head of the Department, Dr. Muntazir Mehdi, attended the event. Dr. Arshad Ali, the Head of the Department of English (UGS), NUML, Rawalpindi was the resource person. He is a renowned scholar in corpus linguistics, and delivered an insightful talk. His presentation focused on data-driven language research and its educational applications. An engaging Q&A session ensued, inspiring participants to explore innovative approaches in linguistics. The event concluded with a token of appreciation presented to Dr. Arshad Ali.



Thank you for reading!

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