

SLS MIRROR

VOLUME IV

ISSUE 2

APRIL 2015

Inside The Issue...

SR. NO.	TITLE	PAGE NO.
1	EDITORIAL	2
2	MODERN BANKING WORKSHOP	3
3	VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL OF MENTAL HEALTH	4
4	SESSION ON MALE BODY POLITICS	6
5	FLARE 2015	7
6	ART EXHIBITION	11
7	GUEST LECTURE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	12
8	SLS INAUGURATES WALL MAGAZINE	12
9	BATCH 2011 FAREWELL	13
10	ACADEMIA SPEAKS: DR. RANJANA HARISH	14
11	GUEST LECTURE: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	17
12	SLS SCALING HEIGHTS	18
13	ALUMNI SPEAKS	19
14	CREATE-WITTY CORNER	22
15	UPCOMING EVENTS	BACK COVER

Editorial

What would the students of School of Liberal Studies have given to stop the month of April from fleeing! The year long wait was finally over with the opening of Flare packed with its extravaganza and flamboyance and fervour, and we doubt if anyone who attended it would deny that this Flare was the most unabashed, uninhibited and memorable time with their college mates. This would hold more meaning for the graduating students of this year- as the month also marked their farewell.

School of Liberal Studies is synonymous with diversity; in the four years the students spend here, they not only become acquainted with a myriad of subjects and skills, but also develop a sense of belonging towards the institute, its people and its values. As a rule of life, this realization strikes when it is time to leave and embark on a different journey with other people, at another place. It is thus a bittersweet experience to travel back reminiscing those hours of preparation for challenges – exams, events, presentations et al, and the long and short of interactions with faculty in and outside the lecture halls, from the banter and frivolous comments to serious brainstorming sessions over the four years of college. April therefore, was a beautifully encapsulated morsel of the trivialities and vicissitudes, successes and hardships that laid the foundations for friendships and important lessons, in the life of every final year student. As they move ahead to reach for more, still longing to live every last moment with the people they spent these four years with, one cannot help but smile and bid them a good farewell.

To the graduating students this year- take pride in how far you have come, and have faith in how far you can go, always. With this, we, at SLS Mirror, wish you the very best in life ahead.

Happy reading!

Modern Banking Workshop

School of Liberal Studies organizes various workshops for the students to get a real life application of the knowledge acquired in class rooms. One such workshop was held for the B.Com (Hons.) branch of Liberal studies on 20th April, 2015 titled the Modern Banking Practices. The topics discussed during the workshops were Marketing of Retail Banking Products and Genesis of Banking Operations.

Two guest speakers Dr. Dhanyesh Pillai who is an MBA in Finance and a manager of IDBI bank and Mr. Jigish Sheth who is also an MBA in finance and is pursuing his doctorate in management were invited. Mr. Jigish is also the founder of Sheth Wealth Management.



The workshop started with an inaugural speech by our own Dean Dr. Nigam Dave at around 10:30pm. This was followed by an introduction of the guests by Urvashi Sharma. For the first half of the session we had Dr. Dhanyesh Pillai who bestowed the student with his knowledge on the Marketing of Modern Banking Practices. He gave a basic idea about the new developments in the marketing

and technological nuances in the banking sector today. The session was really very interactive and the students got very much interested in the various topics covered by him, including the job opportunities in the banking sector. This session continued till 12:45 after which we had a lunch break for around an hour.

The post lunch session initiated at around 1:45 pm. Now the stage was taken over by Mr. Jigish Sheth. He covered the topic Genesis of Banking Operations. Wherein also the students were equally interactive and participative.



After the workshop both the speakers were honoured with a certificate and the students and organizers also received a token of appreciation. The session was concluded with a vote of thanks by Kavisha shah. The students were highly enriched with the knowledge of the phase of Banking Sector which was now introduced to them. It was indeed splendid initiative taken by our faculty coordinator Sir Ashwin Dave. All in all it was a very informative session for the students of B.com.

Visit to The Hospital of Mental Health

Students of Psychology major (Semester 6) made a visit to The Hospital of Mental Health, Ahmedabad on April 7th, 2015 for clinical exposure. This visit was a part of the Abnormal Psychology course that we are taking this semester and it was aimed to help us gain a more practical insight in the field of Psychopathology. We were welcomed and introduced to the place by Dr. Darshana Singh who is the clinical psychologist at the hospital and assistant psychologist Mr. Hitesh Patel. The entire visit was then guided by Mr. Hitesh Patel.



We got the opportunity to interact with patients of Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Borderline Personality Disorder and others. We were also briefed about their stories by Mr. Hitesh Patel and we could clearly establish an analogy in our minds, between the theoretical aspects and the practical aspects of each disorder learnt. Interacting with patients, made us reflect upon the theory that we have learnt, which thus, strengthened our basics.

The mental hospital has a total number of 235 patients with 137 in acute ward, 84 in chronic ward and 12 in the general ward. They have a team of one clinical psychologist, some psychiatrists, occupational therapists and nurses. They also allow M.Phil students as interns there who again are made a part of their own team. When we visited the hospital recently, they were hosting interns from Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU), Gandhinagar with whom we got a chance to interact too.

We were given information about the kind of activities that are organized for the patients on a daily basis to enhance their skills making them more efficient and employable. The hospital helps them to indulge into team building exercises through various games with the aim of improving social skills of the patients. They also have games that increase numbering skills, color skills, etc. The hospital has a special Recreation Room in their premises where these games are carried out. Newspaper reading, physical exercising, meditating and praying are majorly emphasized as a part of the routine there. The hospital also provides the pa-

Visit to The Hospital of Mental Health

tients with gym instruments and related facilities. Drawing and painting are promoted largely because they are not merely activities but also serve as a therapy for patients to vent their emotions and feelings. They have set up a mini library for the patients too.

The Hospital of Mental Health, Ahmedabad is



working very hard to make the lives of these patients better. They have established a Vocational Rehab centre wherein patients make different products, sell them and earn money. The money they earn is transferred to the patients' bank accounts by the hospital. They are into making of products like Incense sticks, mats, pottery items, boxes, etc. Apart from these, the hospital has special departments like Carpentry department, Binding and file making department, Handicrafts department etc. The hospital's efforts in raising these patients' abilities and making their ex-

istence more valuable are commendable.

The Hospital of Mental Health along with a NGO has established a Child Psychiatry department in their premises. They have a Day Care Centre for special children wherein they incorporate techniques of special education. They also organize Special Olympics for these special children that mainly include autistic children, children with ADHD, mental retardation and cerebral palsy. The student teacher ratio here is 20:1 which is unfortunately far away from the ideal ratio of 5:1. There is a great dearth of psychologists and special educators in clinical and other settings which also made us ponder upon the fact of how important our roles as students are, for the coming future.

This visit to the mental hospital helped us expand our knowledge horizons and also exposed us to the realities of life. We thank the School of Liberal Studies and the Hospital of Mental Health for making this visit possible for us.

-Gurmeher Juneja
SLS '12

Session on Male Body Politics

On the morning of the 3rd of April'15, Department of International Relations organised a guest lecture on the "Male Body Politics: From Colonial to Post Colonial Period", which was delivered by distinguished guest Dr. Niladri Chatterjee. He has started his own organization where in people discuss and debate on current issues and problems pertaining to gender and inequality and related areas and there is a page on Facebook named as New Gender Studies.

He started with a statement saying our bodies are political and not biological. Since a baby is born the politics to be a part of a society starts whether boy or a girl. Here he declares politics is all about identity formation, when there is medical intervention it naturally becomes political. The session gradually moved towards the connection between gender, politics and names: the way people say a male Greek Philosopher or male dancer. According to Dr. Chatterjee in this patriarchal society males are considered general and for female we need special recognition e.g. our constitution has

Human Rights and we also have Women Rights, so here the question is; are women not considered human? Even the way names like "Aam Aadmi Party" or the word "Bhai-chara" are considered politically incorrect.

We even discussed on the nude and bare body figures known worldwide: Venus and

David. David is perceived as 'Body Of Nation' personifying strength, war, aggression, firmness, expression, Biblical hero, etc. whereas Venus is simply a statue of



women who is hefty, heavy; personifying love and lust and nothing else. In a society male nudity is never seen or studied, it is covered with words and female nudity is just nude and uncovered body.

The session was very interactive and thought provoking; we got a new perspective on the subject matter. Wish to have such interactive session again which would ignite our minds and lead us to an undiscovered path.

-Viddhi Joshi
SLS '13

Flare 2015

It was strangely symbolic that, on the moment I first heard the theme for FLARE 2015, I was listening to *Marching Season* by Yanni, live at the Acropolis. *Reviving the Pantheon* first and foremost sets the ball rolling on an array of rather enigmatic visuals, of grandeur, power, thrill and dynamism. Needless to say, FLARE 2015 did not disappoint

Held over three days, FLARE 2015 showcased quality events across the spheres of fashion, music, dance, theatre, and the fine arts. In its first installment, Amethyst, hosted by Elixir – the Fashion Club of PDPU, created waves that shall resonate for several future editions of the fest. On account of a soundly structured competition, with auditions for PDPU students and



on any of those counts.

The postponement of the annual Cultural Fest of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, while received with mixed responses, definitely added considerable buzz around the events to occur during the course of the fest.

FLARE 2015 was driven to its eventual success by a combination of factors. First and foremost, the dedication of the entire FLARE committee, which worked tirelessly to deliver a fest with the level of creativity that we witnessed. Secondly, the brilliant potpourri of events, which had all the elements of a top notch cultural fest, and thirdly, the level of participation.

externals, a grand finale, illustrious judges, and undoubtedly, phenomenal effort on the part of the organizers and practice on the part of the participants, it left in its wake an anticipation of what Elixir shall bring next to the PDPU fashion scene.

It is well known and equally well documented fact that there is no dearth of dance aficionados among the student fraternity. The dance floors were set Ablaze with great Zest, the two dancing events of the fest. While Ablaze was a floor for groups to enthrall with their intricate choreography, subtle and relevant concepts, and stellar coordination, Zest celebrated the individual dancer and the duet, in all their glo-

Flare 2015

ry, finesse and spin. The spice of Pepper to the dancer in our Souls was well served.

Don Mclean said it way back in 1972 – ‘tis music that saves our moral soul. A round of thundering applause is most definitely in order for Offbeat – the Music Club of PDPU. Offbeat presented Melodia, with a host of categories, from individual voices to serenade us to bands that riffed and soloed their way into laudation. Like Amethyst, and the dance

events, the intra PDPU auditions of Melodia were held prior to the fest, with the inter auditions and the finale being held during FLARE 2015. Melodia saw a jam packed auditorium, with performers from

across the city getting the audience to hum and sing along to some memorable tunes. To the amazement of the judges, there were several innovative collaborations across genres, and brilliant performances that fused the magic of classical to the funk of western.

The stage is addiction. The stage is magic. And the streets? The streets are real. Aahvaan, the Street Play event, and the Mime, Stage Play, Mono Act and Stand Up events organized by Soul Pepper – the Dance and Dramatics Club of PDPU reached new levels of creativity this time around. Inspired performances that left the audience gasping, concepts that left people stunned and performances that left people

dazed have set the bar so high, it is a challenge even to wait for future installments!

In art, as in life, it is said. Rang explained that with aplomb like only they can. The Rang exhibition took viewers by storm, by pushing the limits of skill and talent, with a vibrancy of color and design that added a dimension to our artistic perceptions. Moreover, we revisited one of the oldest forms of art – that of the

Wall Painting, which gave us some scintillating pieces to admire. Humor never goes unrequited. The caricature competition pitted the best against the best, conveying a lot with the simplest of things, and evicting quite the laughter in the process.

Last but not the least, the shoe making competition was a gust of freshness that sure created a shift in the consumer behavior on campus, from online shopping portals to our very own artists.

In big events, it's the small links that hold the pieces together and allow the main attractions to do their job. FLARE 2015 has successfully re-defined the tradition of informal events. Spaced across various sites on campus, these informal events kept the buzz alive, provided merriment, and helped retain the masses during the breaks between major events. What's more, the photographers had their hands full, with the several memories to be captured.



Flare 2015

We would like to believe that eating is an art we all excel in. Well, we proved that beyond expectation. FLARE 2015 was not only graced by food stalls kept by acclaimed eateries in the city, but by the Anand Mela. A space for the chefs and the entrepreneurs to satiate the taste buds of the foodies on campus, the Anand Mela raised a furor of satisfaction, and kept people coming back for more. With the legendary Biryani, and the hugely innovative Cheese Chakli Pav, from the tang of the Mexican to the zing of Chaats, FLARE 2015 scored a home run in the food department.

Needless to say, two of the biggest USPs of FLARE are Atmosphere and Pro-Nite. FLARE 2015 probably created a record in terms of sheer numbers with Pro-Nite. A packed cricket field screamed, danced, jived, sang, cried, laughed and made lasting memories to the magic of Sonu Nigam's voice. Performing his hits, and old Bollywood classics, memories rose like Borealis dust, as the music united all, and the feet hit the ground to the tunes recognized by all. There was a never ending stream of people, especially members of the senior

batches, who couldn't have been happier with their last FLARE as students.

While Sonu Nigam worked his magic on the final evening, the head bangers redefined velocity on the penultimate evening, with Atmosphere. An ensemble lineup, bringing bands from PDPU, Ahmedabad, and even the capital, it was metal that emerged victorious. Breakneck solos, vicious riffing, and awesome shredding lit up the night, as the searing vocals and growls had the adrenalin pumping. The gas pedals were pressed to the limit, and the crowd roared. Let there be Rock? We nourished it.

FLARE 2015 has set a benchmark for many years to come, and many more glorious cultural fests. The efforts of the committee, and the staff, which worked tirelessly to put this together cannot be appreciated enough. While we have Tesseract coming up in the next semester, one eye will still be trained on March 2016. So long, folks. #FlareItUp

- **Shashank Sreedharan**
SLS '12



Know Your Majors Workshop

School of Liberal Studies had organized a “Know Your Major” workshop for its semester four students on 22nd April, 2015. The workshop was based on the prospects of various subjects offered as Majors and Minors in the course curriculum. The semester four students have to make a major decision of choosing their Majors and Minors in the coming semester, the workshop was structured in a way so as to make the decision making easier. The main aim of the workshop was to help the students know their area of interest and the possibilities of choosing it as a career. The in-house faculty held introductory seminars on the five major subjects being offered at SLS, clearly defining the scope and setting the horizon that came along with them. To give students a better understanding the faculties also spoke about current endeavours, requirements of the market, the job opportunities that await fresh graduates and the skills required to make a career in the student’s area of interest.

The sessions helped students in understanding their proclivity towards various subjects and enhance their knowledge of diverse fields. The students interacted with the professors freely and asked them many questions that the practical world might bring to them.

-Urvi Shah
SLS ‘13

Art Exhibition

On Tuesday, 28th of April 2015, the batch of SLS'14 had put up an exhibition of their art work named Expressions. The work done by the students in the World Civilization class, Styles of Painting class and their audit work was exhibited under the guidance of Ms. Asha Mandapa and Ms. Seema Agarwal. The chief guest for the exhibition was Ms. Deviba Wala- Artist, Sculptor, Curator and Ms. Aasha Pandian. The art work ranged from the ancient civilization of India, Greece, Roman to impressionists Paul Gauguin, Vincent Van Gogh, Camille Pissarro to Byzantine empire and Indian artists like Amrita Shergill and MF Hussain and also Indus valley seals made of terracotta. The audit art work consisted of Tie and Dye Cloth, Warli art clocks and Chinese brush painting.

Simultaneously the first edition of the SLS wall magazine was also inaugurated which was the combined effort of the faculty and Simran Bhatia of SLS'14. Next was an interactive session with the guests of honour and Deviba Wala ma'am who shared her experience of starting her career as an artist, what art meant to her and why she chose to start a series of Black and White Paintings. The whole batch of SLS'14 is very thankful to the faculty of SLS and especially to Ms. Asha Mandapa for encouraging us to put up an exhibition and for letting us know that our art is exhibit-able. The exhibition went on for 3 days for all to attend and was a great success.

-Gargi Doulatani
SLS '14



Guest Lecture on International Relations

Prof. Bharat H. Desai, Faculty in International Law, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, delivered a series of Invited Guest Lectures on, 'Role of International Law in International Relations' and 'Relevance of United Nations in the context of International Law', on 27th and 28th April 2015, at PDPU campus.



SLS Inaugurates Wall Magazine

Magazines are periodicals in nature, some weekly, some monthly and some annually. Some focus on a certain subject, Some have a variety of subjects. Just like School of Liberal Studies have many different subjects to study from various backgrounds which gives us a general idea and understanding of everything and makes us learn the basics. In the similar manner SLS came up with something new, it launched its first wall magazine. Simran Bhatia of SLS 14, started the idea of wall magazine in PDPU ! Earlier in April she, under the able guidance of

her faculty members, Dr. Nigam Dave and Ms. Niyati Trivedi launched the first issue of wall magazine focusing on the topic Food. It show-



cased various sections focusing on the psychological, emotional, scientific aspects of food, vocabulary section mentioned about the Food idioms and even coverage about news about Food that made head lines. It was a honour for the

entire university as Wall Magazine was inaugurated by the Registrar of PDPU.

-Simran Bhatia
SLS '14

Batch 2011 Farewell

The Farewell of the SLS 2011 batch took place on 29th April, 2015. It began with a great deal of enthusiasm in the Antakshari as the students responded with agility when asked to identify and connect the eclectic mix of actors, actresses, singers, directors, songs and films. More frolic followed in the Sonpapdi with Pratik as questions flew at the SLS 11 students.

The afternoon was permeated by a number of dance performances by students across all batches of SLS. The 1st and 2nd year students got together for a singing performance; the SLS 12 students performed a “crazy” and a “brainless” dance performance, every bit entertaining though; the hangers did their signature moves and finally everyone from the SLS 11 batch joined this dance extravaganza on the stage.

The formal farewell ensued in the evening at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium. After a warm bouquet welcome and a musical performance by Shashank, Yash and Atman on a self-composed song Yaddein, there was a formal presentation by Riya Javia recounting the achievements of the SLS 11 batch.

Shashank paid a tribute to the SLS 11 batch as a bunch of amazingly talented people with whom he enjoyed playing football to making geopolitical puns. Several students from the SLS 11 batch gave short 2 minute farewell

speeches where they cherished all the memories they had had till then and the amazing contribution that their friends and teachers alike had made in their life in SLS.

After Chaarvi, Sandeep, Shreyes, Ravina, Shrey, Twinkle, Rutul and Nirha did their due, the faculty members appreciated the times they spent with the students and the beautiful moments they had together. Ms. Neeta Khurana, Nigam Dave, DG Sir, NR Dave Sir and Pandian Sir all encouraged the students and inspired them to tread unique paths from SLS. The formal evening closed with a vote of thanks delivered by Hetansh Desai who set a benchmark through his dream of seeing SLS, PDPU in the top 10 colleges in India.

The cultural evening continued after a short photo break. There were more musical performances and a nostalgic video showcasing the SLS 11 batch students captured in different shades at different times over the wonderful four years in the college. The SLS 12 volunteers flooded the auditorium with envelopes and calendars which were given as gifts to their seniors.

It was time for more photos; more memories to reminisce...

Adieu SLS 11.

-Riya Javia
SLS '12

Academia Speaks: Dr. Ranjana Harish

Dr. Ranjana Harish, Professor & Head Department of English, School of Languages, Gujarat University, interacted with the students of School of Liberal Studies. It was an enlightening and educational experience. The main aim of the lecture was to relate feminism with a number of aspects. Dr. Harish talked about feminism with regards to decision making. Wide range of examples from Shakespeare to Arjuna in Mahabharata were discussed during the session. She also talked about gender and the Bhakti Movement.

The session was quite motivational to say the least. “Always think about the two extremes before taking a decision and be prepared for the worst or the best. Take the decision and stick to it. If you do that, nothing is difficult in this world. If you follow this rule, you will become a successful professional in whatever field you chose to work,” said Dr Harish.

As the discussion flowed from decision making to possibilities and consequences, she presented the example of Shakespeare. “Shakespeare did not go to any school, did not know any foreign language and never heard about theories. Then too his words have become immortal. If Shakespeare and Bernard Shaw can do it, anyone can become whatever one wants to. Shakespeare watched theatre for eight long years. And after all these years of just watching theatre, a

new person was born in him; a writer was born in him. People made fun of him, called him illiterate, the one who did not know theories but he didn't listen to them and see what he became. His madness was what made him what he is till date,” explained Dr Ranjana, leaving the students aggravated with the life of Shakespeare. She furthermore went on to compare Shakespeare to Arjuna in the greatest Indian epic Mahabharata to take on the topic of dilemmas and decision making. The topic of Feminism was taken on then, linking Shakespeare and his writing to the Bhakti movement and Mirabai. Shakespeare had the king who helped him publish his works and bring it before people. But Indian Poetess Mira had no help. She went against the society's norms and did what she felt was right. Shakespeare was born after Mira. This proves she has survived much better than Shakespeare despite the conditions whatsoever.

According to Dr. Harish,” feminism is not hating men, Feminism isn't a competition against man, Feminism isn't grabbing the power from men, Feminism isn't becoming like men, and Feminism isn't anti-manism. Feminism is going against the patriarchy and not the men. Treat every human being as a human being. That is the root thought.” Thus the basic concept underlying feminism were taken into consideration and debated on.

These are some of the thoughts Ranjana

Academia Speaks: Dr. Ranjana Harish

Ma'am shared with the small but really indulged and interesting group of students she interacted with. An interview with the SLS mirror was conducted later on, wherein she shared her ideas about interdisciplinary approaches to academics and her thoughts on School of Liberal Studies. When asked about the students of SLS, Dr. Ranjana's response was quite flattering as well as motivating "Your thinking is very futuristic, you think ahead of the mass. You build up a lot of faith

in us regarding the future. You are a promise to the future that's what I believe. The questions you put are very sensitive and genuine they express your thoughtfulness about the future. This shows that you

all are aware of whatever wrong or right is happening around you. You are not insensitive to the surrounding" replied Dr. Harish. When talking about Liberal studies, she shared her experiences with regards to bringing the interdisciplinary approach to the

academic platform, beginning with her own field of work, the Gujarat University. "I started giving international conferences on interdisciplinary studies. It could be subjects like science, arts, computer technology, literature, etc. over these 20 years I have given around 25 conferences on interdisciplinary studies. All these talks argued that 'arts' is not something that is water-tight. I thought beyond SLS, I thought of an SLS including all subjects even computer science, IT and science and all that," Dr Harish informed us. We further on went to talk about the promotion of regional literature and the activities carried out in Ahmedabad city it-

self to promote Gujarati Literature.

The session with Dr. Ranjana Harish was exceptional, providing the students of SLS a little food for thought with respect to Feminism and these basic concepts excorporated from the events of our day to day life.



Academia Speaks: Dr. Ranjana Harish

Following the lecture, in an interview she had with SLS Mirror we came to know about her thoughts on School of Liberal Studies, which are elucidated below:

SM: Tell us about your experience with SLS students.

RH: Of course, it has been excellent. Your thinking is very futuristic, you think ahead of the mass. You build up a lot of faith in us regarding the future. You are a promise to the future that's what I believe. The questions you put are very sensitive and genuine they express your thoughtfulness about the future. This shows that you all are aware of whatever wrong or right is happening around you. You are not insensitive to the surrounding.

SM: What are your thoughts about Liberal Studies?

RH: Oh! I must tell you that I was the one who started thinking about liberal studies the interdisciplinary approach, 20 Years back. Nobody in my university could understand the concept. They thought that this woman had gone crazy. I started giving international conferences on interdisciplinary studies. It could be subjects like science, arts, computer technology, literature, etc. over these 20 years I have given around 25

conferences on interdisciplinary studies. All these talks argued that 'arts' is not something that is water-tight. I thought beyond SLS, I thought of an SLS including all subjects even computer science, IT and science and all that.

SM: What will you say about promotion of regional literature?

RH: When you ask this question, are you even aware about what all activities are carried out in Ahmedabad related to Gujarati literature? Gujarat Sahitya Parishad and such institutions organize lots of events with the motive of promoting Gujarati Literature. Go look it up!

-Himani Sheth

-Manas Daxini

SLS '13

Guest Lecture: Environmental Law



School of Liberal Studies organised a Guest Lecture for the semester IV SLS 13 batch - Introduction to Environmental Law students, on April 20th, 2015 by Mr. Mahesh Pandya who is an environmental engineer. He is the Founder & Director of Paryavaran Mitra, an environmental NGO which has worked tremendously in his field. Mr. Pandya was invited to talk about “The role of a student and a citizen in the field of environmental protection with the help of law.”

Faculty Achievements

- **Dr. Sanjay Pradhan's** research paper titled '**Shale gas in Indo-US cooperation**' was published in *Geopolitics*, V (IX), 2015: 62-65
- **Ms. Niyati Trivedi** presented a paper titled '**Between in page and on stage: studying unspoken spaces in multi-layered identity spheres of select Indian performing women artists as expressed in their self-narratives**' in an International Conference on "Re-member"- Self-narrative, memory and identity, organized by University Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne and University Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, Paris, France. (April 10-11, 2015).



Students Achievements

Mit Patel (SLS '11), Ishan Ganatra (SLS '11), Shreyes Shyamsunder & Shashank Sreedharan (SLS '12) presented Seminar Papers in the Annual International Studies Convention 2015 (AISC 2015), organised by School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on March 22-23, 2015.

Mit Patel: Social Inequality in Columbia: The Root Cause of Civil War & Narco-Terrorism.

Shashank Sreedharan & Shreyes Shyamsunder: The Dynamics of Political Economy in Africa.

Inshaan Ganatra: Shale Gas and Power Shift

The students from School of Liberal Studies, PDPU were the only undergraduates who presented the papers and they were admired by the Co-convenor of the Convention during the Valedictory Session of the Seminar, which the Vice President of India, Honourable Shri M. Hamid Ansari graced.

Alumni Speaks



Riva Patel of SLS10 batch is one of those SLS alumnus who chose a foreign university for further studies. With the admission process going on for the next batch of SLS15, Dr. Nigam Dave wanted to have one of these alumni in flesh and blood to share their experience. SLS mirror got a chance to have a brief chit chat with Ms. Riva who is currently studying at the University of Sheffield, UK. Ms. Riva is also appointed as the brand ambassador of the University of Sheffield for India.

SM: You were the second batch of the new born School of Liberal Studies. Now we are ready for the seventh batch's admission. What changes, development have you seen here at SLS?

RP: When we took admission here, we had no idea what we were doing; we didn't have any

alumni to ask how the course would be like. We just had a mere 47 seniors and our batch also selected SLS because we weren't sure what we wanted to do. Now, we have all over India counseling sessions, entrance exams, and SLS is not unknown anymore. It's still comparatively new but not as untouched as it was during our times. At our times when we tell people we were liberal studies students they would just discount us thinking we won't be studying at all and would be bringing bad grades but now things have changed and liberal studies as a course has gained recognition and respect both. Plus, the numbers of applicants have highly increased because at our times we were overjoyed seeing a 100 applications and today you are getting more than 500 applicants and I'm very happy about that. But people do get confused about how we are studying a B.A/B.B.A or B.Com in liberal studies at a petroleum university, not only in India but also where I study, in the UK.

SM: How is your honours degree in bachelor of Liberal studies helping you?

RP: Having an Honours degree itself is a very valuable thing there in UK. We don't understand the value of the honours degree we get and think that doing a four year course is such a task but if you don't have the honours degree you any way have to do a bridge course there. Honours students have the privilege of directly getting admitted to any university without doing the bridge course.

Here, we used to study 8 subjects per semester for 2 years and at that time we didn't un-

Alumni Speaks

derstand the value of learning all the subjects even if it didn't have any relevance with your future plans or interests, "I was interested in International Relations then why am I studying geography or environmental studies?" I just wanted to pass my end semesters to move on to the next semester. But though I'm studying hardcore International Relations there, somehow, in the long run I've ended up applying something or the other from each and every subject I've been introduced to in the first four semesters. Not only that, while conversing with students from other departments at the university you can talk something about their interests and profession and also give your inputs and it feels really good that you don't have knowledge limited to your subject only. It also boosts up your confidence and helps socialize easily. I agree that you won't remember everything you learnt in your first semester but somewhere at the back of your mind you do have some basic knowledge of the subjects you have been introduced to.

SM: Why did you choose a foreign destination for your post graduate?

RP: Why I chose to study in a foreign university and not a *desi* one was because my study area was International relations and there are a mere 4 to 5 universities where you can specialize in IR and JNU is the only one which is recognized but thinking on international level, JNU hardly stands anywhere in ranking. The department of politics at University of Sheffield where I'm enrolled is the fourth best in the UK, which is a higher rank than

the politics department of the Cambridge University and talking about world ranking, there was a world survey done where university of Sheffield stood on the 69th rank. Times higher education ranked us at 121st globally. Now imagine this university with so many rankings, accreditations stands at this rank, where would JNU stand? See, even I applied for JNU but the question is about where you stand after doing your masters. Frankly, if you have the opportunity and finance, opt for an international university with specialization in your subject, at least to a place which is recognized globally.

SM: Tell us something about your life there!

RP: The education system is totally different there. Teachers don't just come to the class and teach and go. They play the role of facilitators in the class sitting in the corner throwing questions to make sure the student led debate goes on. That is their job, otherwise it is all up to the student how much she wants to learn from the class. You discuss, you debate. For my course particularly, we have weekly debates and 10 articles to read to actively participate in the debate. So if you don't read and go to the class you won't understand a word of what would be going on. It's very practical, application based and thought provoking.

This is funny but they take plagiarism very seriously, (just like we do). For example, in my course I have to submit a 2500 word essay and another 3500 word essay each time to be written within 10 days time. After the first 2000 to 3000 words it is very difficult to

Alumni Speaks

write more because everything is original. Of course, we use citations and references but it's not a cakewalk.

SM: What would you like to convey to the students of SLS as a senior?

RP: I would recommend every student of SLS to at least try and apply in a foreign university along with national ones to see what options you have. Here in India the options are way too limited in comparison with the options given by global universities. People there are doing what they really like and that too spontaneously; if you did your undergraduate in a subject but now your mind changed and you want to do a post graduate in a totally different subject, you can easily do it there. There is no set of rules to be followed to pursue anything. And I'm not talking just about UK or Sheffield particularly but globally, outside India the system is flexible and supportive in these regards. Your grades and GPA matter but only failures have to worry about it, others are judged on the basis of other important qualities of the student. For my course, I have 4 contact hours in a week, 2 hours a day 2 days a week. The remaining time we can study, do assignments, research, socialize, explore and practically apply. Part time job trend is very common there. Depending on your course the leisure time differs but you won't be packed studying all the time; leisure time and self exploration time is highly valued in these universities.

SM: Describe the contribution of SLS both on a personal and educational level.

RP: SLS has not just given me knowledge about these subjects and an honours degree- We had a bulk of seminars and conferences and workshops organized every now and then in PDPU. We would always participate and volunteer a lot; personally, volunteer. Tasks as small as giving a bouquet to the guest or escorting them would give you the opportunity to converse with them, make contacts, know about them, get confidence to talk to new people, in sum, all of formal and informal communication applied at one go. Here, Niyati ma'am particularly emphasized a lot about how you talk to people individually and with a mass, how to be presentable before everyone. We would hate wearing formals all the time but here it helped me a lot to be at least presentable to the audience. Other group members would come in hoodies and totally informal attire while presenting but I would be in my formals even though it is an ungraded assignment. It's what I've learned here, whatever the case you want yourself to look presentable and the presentation should go perfectly fine. Over all that society is very polite and sophisticated as I have observed but with the amount of varied people you have conversed with here at SLS it makes it easy for me to habituate myself with the culture and language, bringing a boost of confidence while talking to new people.

*-Manas Daxini
SLS '13*

Create-witty Corner

SILENCE AND TRANQUILLITY

She believes in peacefulness and serenity,
Observing all the actions taking place in front of her beautiful enigmatic eyes,
She captured every moment without any distress, without any lies.
Being alone she never felt lone,
Exploring the secrets of the world in the great unknown.
Thinking she was feeble and fragile,
everyone went away making a small strife,
Never did they realize how much helpful it could be for her entire life.
Day by day she kept on shining brightly like a fire,
Perseverance and determination blazing inside her kept on getting higher.
With peace, love, positivity and forbearance,
she will conceal all her weakness,
and slowly and gently, with patience, they will, one day, appreciate all her uniqueness!

- Anushka Tharad
SLS '14



Joji Johnson
SLS '14



UPCOMING EVENTS

SLS Entrance Exam

International Exposure Programme

Community Development Initiative

Rural / Civic & Social Service Internship

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Ms. Niyati Trivedi

Jasmine J. Pereira | Preksha Jain

Anmol Jain | Urvi Shah

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Manas Daxini | Viddhi Joshi



PANDIT DEENDAYAL PETROLEUM UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES

Off Koba-Gandhinagar Highway, Raisan,

Gandhinagar - 382007, Gujarat, India

Phone: +91 79 23275231 | Fax: +91 79 23275030

Website: www.sls.pdpu.ac.in