

VOL: 02 ISSUE: 12
FEBRUARY 2014

SLS

MIRROR



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Exams can be a trying time for any group of students and teachers. This month at SLS though, the Even Semester mid-sem exams have had an underlying buzz - the anticipation of FLARE setting everyone aquiver.

As the tempo for the FLARE '14 builds, with more and more events holding their preliminary events, the landscape of campus is changing, the background humming reaching its crescendo as we draw closer to the long awaited event. Although, it must be said, the spectre of the mid-sems looms all the larger against this backdrop.

The *desi* extravaganza, our annual hurrah and show of triumph, is the pulsing heart of the cultural season - and little else occupies us in the lead-up or during that fabulous time.

Nonetheless, being the multi-taskers that we are, our students (and faculty) are also busy making their mark

in academics at the same time, winning accolades across conferences, here and across the globe, even winning pinnacle awards, despite the disparity of being under-grad students in a graduate studies atmosphere.

On a more personal note, one of our own, here on the SLS Mirror team, has just made their bona fide breakthrough in journalism, with contributions to a Divya Bhaskar special project. We could not be more proud of this great start to any fledgling journalist's career.

Moreover, adding to this joy is the anticipation of another stamp of success – the advent of SLS Mirror's two-year anniversary, as we complete two volumes this issue.

Congratulations to you, our readers, and we hope you continue to enjoy our continuing coverage in our third volume, beginning next month.

REPORT: WORKSHOP ON ‘ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN BUSINESS’

In this fast paced world of 21st century, the importance of making quick and smart decisions in different areas of life is unquestionable. Therefore, it has become extremely important to streamline the thought processes of students, so that they make sound decisions as future leaders and decision makers, by considering various intricate issues involved in the decision making process. Hence, with this objective in mind, School of Liberal Studies organized a 4-day workshop on “Ethical Dilemmas in Business”. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Kanan Dhru, the founder and managing director of Ahmedabad based think tank- ‘Research Foundation for Governance in India’ and lecturer of Business Ethics in many colleges.

Interestingly, students from different batches of SLS participated in this workshop. This diversity in class made their learning process highly engaging as they discovered, debated and substantiated the views of their peers in these four days. The first day of the session began with the discussions on brief case studies based on the dilemmas in everyday life. This allowed the students to explore the ethical dimensions of routine decisions. It provoked them to consider the issues of morality while making important decisions in their own lives. During discussions they discovered that though ethics area requisite to produce responsible individuals and just societies, their interpretations are highly biased. The students tried to judge their own past decisions in the light of ethics and drew inferences about how their understanding of ethics was shaped by various aspects like culture, religion, experiences, gender and education. They understood the subtleties involved in the construction, adherence and deconstruction of ethical ideas and thus, grasped the dynamic nature of ethics in human society. They discussed the situations which led to the divergences between individual and societal benefits, and discoursed its implications on the grounds of ethics.

On the second day, the class discussed thinkers like John Stuart Mill, Jeremy Bentham, John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and Immanuel Kant. This gave them an overview of the evolution of ethical ideas and made them understand the process of creation of new theories based on the limitations of preceding theories. Hence, on the second and third day, the students discussed the applications of the major ethical theories marked as Utilitarian theories of ethics, theories based

on Ethics of Duty and theories based on Ethics of Care. They studied the characteristics of ethical decision making and examined the application of ethical ideas in the formation of certain controversial laws. The students understood ethics not just as an idea or a prescribed action, but analyzed its effects on human psychology as a ‘special emotion’. On the last day, the students discussed the stages of morality, as theorised by psychologist Dr. Lawrence Kohlberg.

Thus, the workshop strengthened the theoretical foundations of students with respect to their understanding of ethics. This understanding was utilized while discussing the ethical dilemmas and their probable solutions in the business situations. They discussed multiple case studies from business, politics and social life, in order to back their analysis of ethical issues with appropriate ethical theories. The students not only had a great time while exhaustively debating with peers, but also enjoyed some fine entertaining moments while watching movies.

The success of the workshop on “Ethical Dilemmas in



Business” was beyond doubt, when the students enthusiastically requested to conduct the next level of workshop. They heartily thanked Ms. Kanan Dhru, for her excellent conveyance and co-ordination of classes. They also expressed their gratitude to Dr. Nigam Dave and Ms. Niyati Shah for organizing this workshop, which transformed their abilities to question, reason and justify their decisions.

Jainisha Chavda



INTRA-SLS CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

The 2nd edition of the bi-annual intra-SLS began in the month of February, 2014. The championship has one team each from the SLS-2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013 batches. This being the final tournament that the batch of 2010 shall be playing and they being the defending champions of the previous edition has pumped up the energy and competition really high. The tournament is a league tournament where each team shall play one match each with every other team i.e. each team would play three matches each. At the end of the league stage, the first team on the table according to the net run rate would qualify directly for the finals while the 2nd and 3rd teams on the table shall play against each other for a spot in the finals.

The following are the results of the league stage:

SLS 10 beat SLS 11
SLS 10 beat SLS 12
SLS 13 beat SLS 10
SLS 13 beat SLS 12
SLS 11 beat SLS 12
SLS 11 beat SLS 13

SLS 10 and SLS 13 will now play against each other for a spot in the finals while SLS 11 has directly qualified for the finals. The decider and the finals are both slated to take place in the 3rd week of March, 2014.

GD-PI TRAINING ORGANIZED FOR 2010 BATCH

The SLS Career Cell and SLS 10 Placement Committee jointly organized a Group Discussion, Personal Interview and Resume Writing workshop and training sessions for the SLS 10 Batch. With the approaching placement season as well as for students pursuing admissions for higher studies, it was a very insightful program that helped them hone their interpersonal skills and build their resumes. This training was in collaboration with Endeavour, a coaching institute. Mr. Sanjay Rao and Mr. Saumil Bhatt from Endeavour Careers visited PDPU Campus from 11th to 14th February to interact with and train SLS students.

Over the four days, the students were first called in with their resumes and CVs, where the trainers helped them in pointing out errors and making corrections wherever required. Along with this, each student attended a Group Discussion consisting of small group of 7-8 students each. The GD was done on topics that were wide in range and following it, was an extensive and deep feedback which was given to each and every student. The trainers remarked about the content, body language and communication skills. The students were then expected to come with their corrected resumes and sit for a mock Personal Interview which would prepare them for the actual job interviews to follow. Special major-centric GDs were also conducted where students sat in groups of their respective majors and discussed on topics directly related to the respective majors. This helped the students in assessing the content and the depth of their knowledge. A feedback session for the same was also organized on 14th February, 2014.

The Career Cell and SLS 2010 Placement Committee did an excellent job in organizing the train. It was a fruitful activity that shall help the students in the days to come.

Yash Modi

CARD MAKING AND GIFT WRAPPING AUDIT REPORT

AHMEDABAD CYCLOTHON INTERNSHIP

On the 8th and 9th of February, as a part of the audit course activities, students of the School of Liberal Studies were taught Card-making and Gift-wrapping art. The seniors were mentors for the students of SLS'13. From basics of paper quilling to glass designing, they were trained in various arts and crafts.

Day 1 started with the introduction of the art mentors and the batch of thirty students. Proper arrangements were made and materials were kept for the students to make the best of their creativity. They were taught what colours are to be combined for a particular theme or occasion and also certain "Dos and Don'ts" were delivered. Students made cards on themes like friendship, parental love, Valentine's Day, and likewise; using techniques like paper quilling, paper and ribbon made flowers, and many more.

Students went to complete their cards followed by the glass decoration session, wherein they made beautifully decorated glasses of colorful shimmers, golden, silver and black sprays, and ribbons! Students were seen working with great enthusiasm and joy. Those who thought they did not have a creative aptitude in them also surprised themselves. Utmost care was taken to create a perfectly comfortable environment for students to work in; all the art requirements of the students were fulfilled and that is how the beautiful cards and decorative pieces were born.

The work of students was taken to be displayed in one of the upcoming exhibitions. This workshop also helped to develop a rapport between seniors and their juniors. Students took home a lot of learning as they were instilled with budding creativity during these two days.

Yatna Jain

The Ahmedabad Cyclothon took place on the 2nd of February 2014 wherein the students of PDP SLS actively assisted the AMC as a part of their URMI (Urban Rural Mission Internship).

The students assisted the officials from the 31st of January till the very last minutes of the cyclothon. It was a good experience for the students as they got a practical knowledge of working with the officials.

The students had to do everything from a scratch and the officials supported them with great energy. Right from the registrations to cheering the participants, the enthusiastic students never let their energy level go down. There were around 5000 registrations which had different categories like: gear, non-gear so on and so forth.

The exposure at the 3 day internship was widely appreciated by the students as well as the officials as they were very much happy in the way the young buds of SLS effectively managed such an event.

Vedant Sharma

PSYCHOLOGY AT SLS TURNS TO THE LAND 'DOWN UNDER'!



The Psychology department of SLS hosted a Psychology Discipline Leader from Edith Cowan University, Dr. Eyal Gringart, on February 13, 2014. Edith Cowan University (ECU) is a modern descendant of the first institution of higher education in Western Australia. Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University and Edith Cowan University signed collaboration MOU in 2013 to promote mutually beneficial exchange of culture and knowledge. As an initiative step, both universities have planned a student exchange program as a part of which two students (including a student of Psychology from SLS) will study the next semester in ECU. Dr. Eyal Gringart is the Coordinator of International Psychology Programmes at the School of Psychology and Social Sciences in ECU. He is the recipient of the Australian Psychological Society Prize, the

Elsie Harwood Award and has done extensive research on stereotypical attitudes towards older employees, body image and self-esteem, and also on former Special Forces officers. Dr. Gringart shared information on psychology courses at ECU, industrial opportunities for psychology graduates in Australia and also about the growing branch of community psychology. Students from all batches were introduced to the flexible study options at ECU- having a choice of opting for double majors, taking lectures off-campus and the availability of study courses for mature students. ECU offers three Masters programmes in Psychology, one of them in the developing branch of Community Psychology. The talk was followed by a question-answer session during which the students explored the Australian outlook towards the discipline of psychology and its practitioners. Dr. Gringart expressed his delight at meeting SLS students and put forth the idea of involving more students in the exchange program. Soon, an SLS student will be packing her bags for ECU in the land 'down under'*!

*Australia is also known as the land 'Down Under'.

Kinjal Gandhi

BLOCK PRINTING AUDIT REPORT

The students of SLS'13 had their block printing workshop held on the 8th and 9th of February as a part of their audit course activities. They were taught how plain and simple clothes can be turned into beautiful printed clothes using block printing.

The students learnt about prints and its process, they were told how the mixture of colors takes place and how to make different colors using various techniques. They were provided with different beautifully carved blocks.

On the first day the mentors got a few designed blocks and made color using Fevicol and acrylic colors. The students were given a few fabrics and they block printed on them.

On second day, students got their own tshirts, *kurtis*, *dupattas* etc. to make beautiful artifacts on them. They used a sieve like net and a box filled with color to imprint design on the cloth. For a darker effect they removed the net and the dark colors were imprinted on the cloth.

At the end of the session the students clarified their doubts and then it was all smiles and prints around!

Urvi Shah

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DRILL AUDIT REPORT

As a part of audit course activities carried out for the first year students of the School of Liberal Studies, a disaster preparedness drill was organized on the 15th of February, 2014. The session was held in collaboration with Saritsa Foundation – A Mobile University for Disaster Management. The faculty from Saritsa Foundation included Director General Colonel M.K. Verma, Executive Director - Smita Kadam and Senior Faculty T. Sundaram.

The session began at 10 a.m. with a brief introduction on Saritsa Foundation and the faculty. The session was taken forward by Colonel Verma explaining about the national security inclusive of border security, terrorism and disaster management.

He further explained and demonstrated various ways to tackle bomb blasts and terrorist activities. These included situations of firing and bomb blasts. Lying down on the floor, not panicking and various other effective measures and their importance were elaborated.

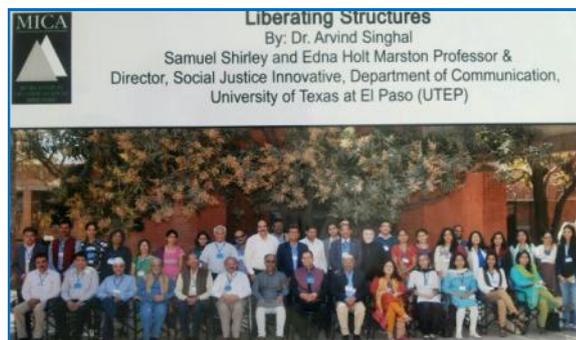
This was followed by a fire- safety briefing by T. Sundaram. He talked about various measures to fight with fire and also made the students participate in drills and measures required during fire emergency. The very interactive session enabled the students to grasp some very intricate and useful teachings regarding first aid and ways to deal with emergency situations during a disaster.

Second half of the session was taken over by Ms. Smita Kadam; she explained ways to deal with Tsunami, earthquake and cyclone. She expounded the ways of cures and precautions to be taken before, during and after the calamities. These measures were very basic but useful and effective. Two rescue teams were made and a rescue operation was demonstrated. Students were acquainted with various tools and equipments used during rescue operations.

Saritsa Foundation is an organization that builds capacity to reduce risk from disaster and climate changes by reaching the door step of vulnerable people – "a people centered, people led, and people owned resilience and safety culture methodology".

Urvi Shah

Dr. Ritu Sharma and **Dr. Neeta Sinha** participated in a One-day Immersive Workshop on 'Liberating Structures' conducted by Dr. Arvind Singhal, Director, Social Justice Initiative, Department of Communication, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) held at MICA, Ahmedabad on 11th February 2014.



Dr. Neeta Sinha also conducted a workshop for the Final Semester MLW students on Team Building on 14th February 2014, invited to do so by the MLW Department, Gujarat University.

Dr. Neeta Sinha presented a paper titled *"Transactional Analysis – A Comparison of Dominant Ego States of Teachers of English Medium Primary Schools"* in International Conference on Transgenerational Entrepreneurship, Economy and Innovation Dynamics for Sustainability on February 4th and 5th organized by Christ Institute of Management in Association with The Association of Management Development Institutions of South Asia.

Ms. Urmi Satyan presented a paper titled *'Existentialism and A Leap into the Abyss in The Immigrant by Manju Kapur'* at the UGC sponsored International Conference on Postmodernism and Indian English Literature, held at Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune.



Mr. Anurag Srivastava delivered the Video Lecture (Public Administration) series from January 30 to February 1st 2014 at Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, Rajasthan. He has also attended a 3-day workshop on "Question Repository" in Public Administration, from January 30 to February 1st 2014 at the same.

Dr Rupakjyoti Borah recently interacted with the Hon'ble Turkish Ambassador to India. Dr Borah held wide-ranging discussions with the Hon'ble Turkish Ambassador on India's bilateral ties with Turkey and India's interests in the region.



SLS Faculty Members **Ms. Niyati Shah** and **Dr. Chaitanya Vyas**, and SLS11 students **Aena Bhattacharya**, **Mansi Mohanlal**, and **Sachi Agarwal**, attended International Communication Management Conference on Feb 12-14, 2014 organized by Mudra Institute of Communication - Ahmedabad.

SLS SCALING HEIGHTS

SLS10 student **Janki Patel** presented a paper titled '*Improving Public Services in the Age of Transition: prevailing practices and Ethical Dilemmas*' at the International Conference on Globalization, Governance & Sustainable Development, organized by Academy of Politics & Governance, Management Development Research Foundation, New Delhi on 8 December, 2013. It will be published in the Journal of Politics & Governance, Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan-March 2014.

She also presented a paper titled *Modernization of Land Record System in India: A Case Study of 'e-Dhara'* at the 2014 International Conference on Culture, Knowledge and Society organized by International Economics Development and Research Centre (IEDRC), January 24-25, 2014 in Macau. The paper will be published in the IPEDR and will be included in the Engineering & Technology Digital Library, and indexed by a number of directories. She has also presented a paper titled *Sustainable Rural Development in India: An Individualistic Approach* with another SLS10 student **Pulkit Viradiya** at the International Conference on Sustainable Development organized by Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law among others between 4 & 5 December 2013.

SLS10 students **Kruti Nair** and **Sannidhi Vyas** presented a paper titled Exploring the Trend of the Indian Fiscal Deficit as Compared to Various Macroeconomic Variables at the 14th International Conference at Jaipur, with the theme Advances and Challenges in Global Business, Management, Economics, Tourism and Information Technology, held on 1st and 2nd February, the conference was organized by Research Development Association and Research Development Research Foundation in collaboration with Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They were awarded the 'Best Paper' prize for the same.



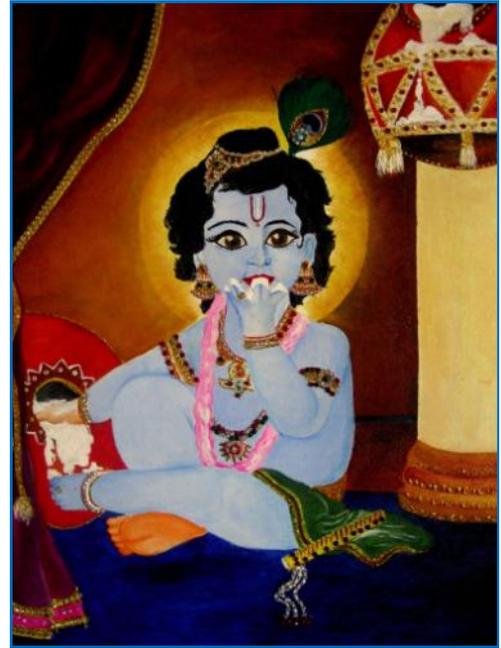
SLS'10 student **Shinjali Divanji** had worked with Divya Bhaskar for the production of their book, *100 Growth Engines*, a compilation of the profiles of hundred eminent people of Gujarat. She has interviewed of many of these honorable individuals and compiled their profiles for publication. This book was released on February 19, 2014 by the Governor of Gujarat, Hon'ble Dr. Kamala Beniwal. This is a proud moment for SLS, as one of our own has had such a successful endeavor in the field of journalism.



Prasashya Chaudhary has played a leading role in the movie *Deshbook*, directed by Vipul Sharma. The movie is based on the ideologies of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and was commercially released across theatres of Ahmedabad, Anand and Himantnagar.



Kruti Nair (SLS10)



Shailja Shah (SLS12)

Mohit Sadhu (SLS13)



Shivani Shah (SLS12)

Sites:

CNN Heroes: <http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/>

CNN profiles real world heroes who are doing their bit every day. Each year, ten heroes from around the world get nominated. Follow their inspiring journeys and also read about the heroes who came before them. Last year's hero was a mid-wife from Indonesia.

Blogs:

Life Optimizer: <http://www.lifeoptimizer.org/>

Life Optimizer is guide to do amazing things. The blog features articles by a lot of great guest authors covering topics like self-improvement, time management and happiness.

Apps:

The Bucket List

This free Android application is basically a to-do list that will inspire you to reach your goals every day. You can share your list with other people and inspire them each day. The app also lets you input your life to-do lists, and set their priority levels to show how important they are to you. You can also see other people's Bucket Lists and, if you like, you can like their Bucket List and comment on them. If you've got some goals you'd like to achieve, you might want to give Bucket List a try. Who knows, it might just help you in reaching your dreams.

UPCOMING EVENTS

21ST-23RD MARCH, 2014

PDPU'S TECHNO-CULTURAL FESTIVAL : FLARE 2014

3RD-4TH APRIL, 2014

SLS NATIONAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY LECTURE

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