



Sep. 2012
June 2013

Annual Dream Seekers

Department of English Language & Literature, University of the Punjab, Lahore

Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment. - Rumi

Editor: **Amra Umer Cheema**
Sub Editor: **Mamoona**

Patron: **Dr. Amra Raza, Chair English**

Word from the Chair:

Another year has passed - rains have come and gone. More dreams have been engendered, some have started to take root, others have already borne flower and fruit. Out of ten faculty members, two are now Ph.Ds and in one year four have enrolled in Ph.D programmes. Thus we have been extremely busy in tilling the soil, sowing new seeds and nourishing them with love and care - occasionally trimming overgrowth here and there. The time for another harvest is here and we now wish to share it with you!



Dr. Amra Raza, Chair English

Highlights

1. Pakistani Poetry makes Headway in Canada: The Department of English celebrates with the guest editors Ilona Yousaf and Blaine Marchand the special issue of 'Vallum' featuring 26 Pakistani poets writing in English.

2. English Department wins 3rd position in Poetry Competition: Almeera Iftikhar (M.A I) wins third prize in the 22nd annual 'Sirajuddin Poetry Recitation Competition'.

3. Dr. Amra Raza receives Gold Medals: Tehreek-e-Istehkam-e-Pakistan Council and Frogh-e-Taleem honour Dr. Amra Raza, Department Chair, with gold medals for her outstanding academic achievements.

4. Launch of Athar Tahir's Poetry Collection 'A Gift of Possession': Renowned writers, critics and academicians gather together for an appraisal of the creative genius of the acclaimed poet, painter and art critic.

5. A Shadab Voice of the Poetic: Shadab Zeest Hashmi, a celebrated fresh voice, reads *Ghazals* and *Qasidas* from her latest poetic collection 'Kohl and Chalk'.

6. LUMS Professor speaks on French Literature: Dr. Aamir Khan, Associate Professor of Marketing at LUMS, gives interesting insights into the presence of the author and the art of narration in French literature.

7. Iqbal Day Celebrations: The Department of English lauded the life and works of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his birth anniversary.

8. Welcome New Students! The M.A II students arrange an orientation session and welcome for the new entrants to the M.A programme.

9. Fun at the Department Charity Fundraiser: Students have a fun-filled time on the Department premises.

10. Dr. Amra Raza Chairs South Asian Literature session at Social Sciences Conference: Dr. Raza chairs the second session of First Annual Conference on Social Sciences at LSE.

11. Ms. Ayesha F. Barque presents paper in SPELT Conference: Ms. Ayesha Fatima Barque, Assistant Professor, presented a paper titled 'Language and Conditioning' at the 28th SPELT International Conference 2012.

12. Interesting Facts about the Journal of Research: Archival history of The Journal of Research surfaces.

13. Travel Writing and Arabic Literature Courses introduced in M.Phil: This year for the first time the M.Phil students are offered two new optional courses – Travel Writing and Arabic Literature, which explore the thematic and stylistic diversity of the respective genres.

14. Sofizar offers Job Placement Opportunities: Content Writing is a promising career for passionate writers.

15. On-Campus Counseling Services: The University of the Punjab provides free counseling services to university students.

16. Department library computerized: The English Department library has computerized its M.Phil, ELT and Linguistics books for an efficient search of valuable resource material.

Pakistani Poetry in English makes Headway in Canada

The Department was recently visited by the guest editors Blaine Marchand and Ilona Yousaf of 'Vallum': a special issue of the Canadian journal of poetry, which featured 26 Pakistani poets writing in English on March 8, 2013. The issue celebrates both emerging and established poets including Zulfikar Ghose, Alamgir Hashmi, Waqas Khawaja and Adrian A. Hussain from among senior poets and Moniza Alvi, Shadab Zeest Hashmi, award winning poets from the new generation. The young poets featured include Bilal Tanveer, Kyla Pasha, Sadaf Halai and Mina Farid Malik. During the session, both Yousaf and Marchand read poems from 'Vallum', which depicted the rich culture of Pakistan and some of the powerfully engaging experiences of poets living in Pakistan, Canada, America, UK and beyond. During conversation, Ms. Ilona Yousaf strongly recommended the practice of reading among the younger generation to hone their writing skills in both poetry and prose. Marchand was of the view that writing is a source of communicating with people at large, and through a creative medium like poetry Pakistani poets can connect to the world at large and propagate a soft image of Pakistan. The two editors had a lively interaction with the students and faculty.



Ilona Yousaf and Blaine Marchand sharing their views on Pakistani Poets writing in English.

Note

English Department wins 3rd Position in Poetry Competition

The publication of Dream Seekers – an annual newsletter – is a source of great pride for the Department of English. It is published not only to review the significant activities held in the department during the calendar year, but also to record some of the dreams that the faculty and students were able to realize.



Brecht would call 'pleasure in cognition'. Their values were to be intelligently humane and generous spirited.

A two-member team comprising Mian Rabnawaz (M.A II) and Almeera Iftikhar (M.A I) took part in the competition hosted by the Lahore College of Arts and Sciences (LACAS). This year the competition was titled "I touch the day/ I taste the light/I remember". Ten teams from various esteemed institutions all over Lahore entered this competition and read poems by renowned English poets. Almeera Iftikhar bagged third prize for the recitation of the poem "Insomniac" by Sylvia Plath. The event was judged by Ms. Ayesha F. Barque, Mrs. Kausar Sheikh and Ms. Laila Rehman.

Dr. Amra Raza receives Gold Medals

The *Tehreek-a-Istehqam-e-Pakistan* Council has ordained an accolade titled the Quaid-e-Azam Gold Medal Award to acknowledge people having considerable social, economic or academic services to their credit. Dr. Amra Raza, Chairperson English Department has recently been awarded this medal on the basis of her services in the educational sector. She has also received the *Frogh-e-Taleem* Gold Medal from the Provincial Minister Zakiya Shahnawaz for being an outstanding teacher.

Frogh-e-Taleem is an organization founded by Tayyab Virk for the promotion of quality education and committed teachers. *Tehreek-a-Istehqam-e-Pakistan* Council is a welfare organization and mobilizes people by creating awareness regarding the need to practice social welfare. It organizes activities such as setting up free medical camps in shantytowns, conducting seminars, conferences and walks to raise awareness amongst the public regarding blood donation, providing financial support for deserving students and raising its voice for the prohibition of narcotic drugs.



Dr. Raza, receiving the Gold Medal from the Chairman of Tehreek-A-Istehqam-E-Pakistan Council.

Launch of Athar Tahir's Poetry Collection 'The Gift of Possession'

The Department of English in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) hosted the launch of the renowned



Faculty and guests, posing at the book launch of M. Athar Tahir's new collection of poems *The Gift of Possession*.

poet, author, translator and calligrapher Muhammad Athar Tahir's book 'The Gift of Possession' on January 20, 2013. Renowned writers, critics and academicians including Faryal Gohar, Prof Razi Abedi, Ms. Ayesha F. Barque, Prof Navid Shahzad, Mr. John Proctor, Ms. Bushra Naqi and Dr. Amra Raza spoke about the enriching experience of the book on the occasion. The poet shared some of his experiences and memories as a sensitive art critic and a painter with the audience. Later, Chairman (PAL) Mr. Abdul Hameed also presented a set of books to the Department. A large number of literary figures, teachers and students attended the book-launching ceremony.

A Shadab Voice of the Poetic

On 1st of March, 2013 Shadab Zeest Hashmi, one of the acclaimed fresh voices in Pakistani poetry in English, visited

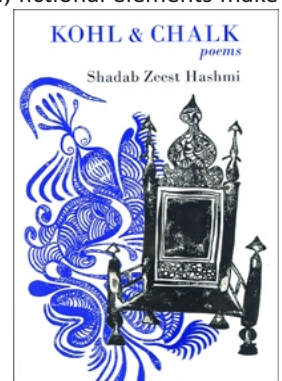


The distinguished poet, Shadab Zeest Hashmi

the department for a mellifluous reading from her recent collection of poems titled 'Kohl and Chalk' (2013). The collection celebrates the culture of Pakistan, its political history and the discordant present.

Among poems of varied styles and lengths, Ms. Hashmi recited her choicest selection of *Ghazals* and *Qasidas* from both her collections 'Kohl and Chalk' and 'Baker of Tarifa', which goes back to the glorious days of Muslim rule in Spain.

While answering questions, she was of the view that it is good to be accurate with facts, however, fictional elements make facts more comprehensible. Hashmi explained that for her the creative process was based on two steps: first, an invocation of the muse and secondly, the artist in her then revisits her work as an editor and cuts it to shape, without being sympathetic. During the session, the faculty and students were all ears to the lyrical renditions by the poet.



Celebrating Poets and Poetry



Bilingual

(From *Kohl and Chalk*)

By Shadab Zeest Hashmi

In the butcher's window
There were tongues
Marinating in oils
& auspicious herbs
I said
That one with the rainbow

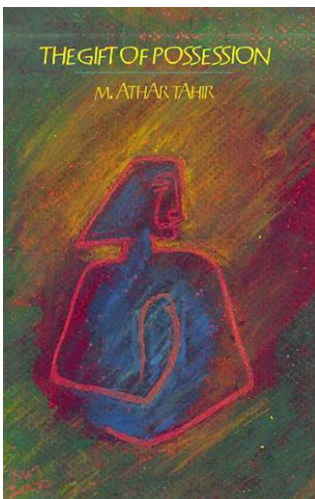
& if I may have two
Give me that other
That many-textured one
Crisp & tight & sublime

Supple like tapioca
Fineedged like a prince's dagger

& reversible
Like a damask sash

& grooved like the pit
Of a peach
Please

He filled my greedy mouth
With two
Half-tongues



Word

(From *The Gift of Possession*)

By Athar Tahir

What is a word?
A mass of marks
Letters fashioned into a horse, a face, a bird
A rhythm of connections, tasks

A scream of shapes
Another form of knowing
Gentle undulations, a silhouette drapes
A bleeding

Sap sent up the stem, node, bud, blossom
Full spread of the flower and despite a million
Variations, in some
Sponsors slow or sudden rebellion

The shadow that lives in the stone
The sun entices out
To dance shapes around the stone
Till the day coils on and out

Letter

(From *The Gift of Possession*)

By Athar Tahir

What is a letter?
The outline filled in
Like the moon on the fourteenth, or better
Still the emptiness outside the crescent's fin

The line of the windswept coast
The edge of the reed-pen's cut
A prayer-flag fluttering on a post
An upside-down roof of a hut

It is itself, solitary, not alone
Equal among others, with a role
A position, a tone
Giving, giving in, to a syllable, a whole

A wild weed
With smooth or serrated blade
Waiting for relevance, the need
For context that will not fade

LUMS Professor speaks on French Literature

On July 5, 2012 the Department of English in collaboration with the Department of French hosted a literary talk on French literature by Dr. Aamir Khan, Associate Professor of Marketing at LUMS. The talk focused on "The Author is Dead: Meaning and Interpretation of French Literature in the 17th 18th and 19th Century". The talk was attended by the faculty and students of both the departments. The role of first person narration was discussed in the 18th century novel including memoir novels such as *Manon Lescaut* and *La Religieuse* and the epistolary novel *Liaisons Dangereuses*. The evolution of third person narration was highlighted with reference to Stendhal's *Le Rouge et Le Noir*. The discussion pertained to how the narrative structure of the novel both constrains and allows the novelist to experiment. Once the work of art is complete, it is the reader who then applies interpretations and gives the text continued life.



Dr. Aamir Khan expressing his views on the presence of the Author in French Literature.

Iqbal Day Celebrations



The English Department commemorates the Poet of the East on the 9th of November, 2012.

The Department of English Language and Literature arranged a special programme to celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on November 9, 2012. The programme commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Usman Dar (M.A II) and a brief introduction to Allama Iqbal's life and works by Amina Khan (M.A II). It was followed by M.A Part II student Saasha Asif's musical rendition of Iqbal's *Gasoo-e-Tabdaar*. Later, senior student Irshadullah recited *Ye Rooh-e-Arzi Aadam ka Istaqbaal Karti He*. The reading of *Shikwa Jawab-e-Shikwa* engaged the audience with its powerful argumentation. Ms. Ayesha Fatima Barque, Assistant Professor, gave an insight into Iqbal's concept of Nafs with reference to his celebrated work 'Reconstruction of Thought in Islam'. M.A. Part I students – Narjis Rubab, Maryam Khan, Rabia Ramzan and Anam Sajjid read some interesting extracts from Iqbal's personal letters in order to shed light on Iqbal's personal life. *Muqaal-e-Maa-e-Iblees-o-Jibreel* was vividly presented through a mime by Muhammad Ahmad Mahmood, Maryam Siddique and Khadija Bukhari and Nida Shahid. Mr. Khurshid Alam, Lecturer, threw light on Iqbal's 'Concept of God and the Meaning of Prayer'. Iqbal's dua was read by Mrs. Iffat Sayeed, Assistant Professor. In her closing remarks, Chairperson Dr. Amra Raza shared her childhood association and meetings with Dr. Annemarie Schimmel (one of the foremost Western scholars on Iqbal). She concluded that the best way to celebrate Iqbal's birth anniversary was through 'living Iqbal and his Concepts'.

Fun at the Department Charity Fundraiser



Ms. Samra Soomro and Students having a good time at the Funfair.

On March 13, 2013 the M.A students organized a charity fundraiser on the Department premises for a fun-filled time at the beginning of the spring season. Different stalls were set up – sumptuous homemade food items were on sale, games of luck and skill attracted many, face painting, jewelry and accessories were inviting for female students. The students, clad in colourful attire, thoroughly enjoyed the amusement. As an annual ritual, the students utilize the money generated from the funfair for community service.



Dr. Amra Raza Chairs South Asian Literature session at Social Sciences Conference

The First Annual Conference on Social Sciences took place at the Lahore School of Economics on Feb, 28th –March 1st, 2013. Renowned scholars, academicians and researchers took part in this conference. The first day of the conference i.e. 28th March 2013 focused on 'Language, Literature, and Education: South Asian Context'. Dr. Amra Raza, Chairperson Department of English Language and Literature, Punjab University chaired the second session of the day 'South Asian Literature'. Dr. Waseem Anwar, Ms. Rumessa Naqvi and Dr. Nukhbah Taj Langah were the presenters for this session. They presented their papers on 'Pakistani Creative Writing in English Today: Tracing the Tradition, Embracing the Emerging', "'The Other Question': A Study of the Marginalized Gender in Girish Karnad's Hayavadanna' and "'Ambivalence' in the works of contemporary South Asian writers", respectively.



Dr. Amra Raza receiving a token of appreciation at the first annual Social Sciences conference at LSE.

Ms. Ayesha Fatima Barque presents paper in SPELT Conference

Ms. Ayesha Fatima Barque, Assistant Professor, presented a paper titled 'Language and Conditioning' at the 28th SPELT International Conference 2012.



Welcome New Students!



On October 1st, 2012 the M.A II students arranged an orientation session and welcome for the new students. The programme began with an exciting multimedia introduction to the department. It was followed by a brief talk by the members of the Orientation committee – Mr. Khurshid Alam, Ms. Ayesha Fatima Barque and Mrs. Amna Umer Cheema – about hostel issues, personal grooming, academic challenges and departmental norms. Later, the senior students shared some of their memorable experiences with the new entrants. The faculty and students thoroughly enjoyed a slide show of eventful pictures and humorous dramatic performances rendered by senior students.

Interesting facts about the Journal of Research (Humanities)

The Journal of Research (Humanities) is an academic research journal published by the Department of English, University of the Punjab. It was initiated in January 1966. At that time, the Editorial Board of the Journal consisted of the Heads of various departments and the other learned professors. Professor Sirajuddin (the first Head of the English Department and Professor Emeritus) was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal from its very inception. In January 1969, the journal published a voluminous Ghalib Number comprising approximately 400 pages. The Iqbal Number was published in 1977-78, and in July 1981, a special edition was presented in connection with the beginning of the 15th A. H. Initially, the journal was biannual, however, now it is published in January every year by the Department. The Journal has been recently updated with a revised and improved layout and its editorial committee includes many renowned national/international scholars.



(For this piece of archival information about the journal, we are highly indebted to Dr. Zahid Munir Aamir Professor/Chairperson Zafar Ali Khan Chair, Department of Urdu, Oriental College, University of the Punjab, Lahore.)

Travel Writing and Arabic Literature Courses introduced in M.Phil

This year for the very first time, the M. Phil students were offered two new optional courses on Travel Writing and Arabic Literature.

The Travel Writing course contents were selected by Mrs. Shireen Rahim, Assistant Professor, so as to introduce students to the fluidity of the genre in its representation of place, people and culture. Selected readings from a range of 19th and 20th century travel texts provides the students a

comprehensive introduction to the thematic and stylistic diversity of different travel writers.

The Arabic Literature course introduces some representative literary works across Middle East, from Iran to Morocco. The writings focus on the social and psychological issues prevalent in the region. Mrs. Zareena Saeed, Assistant Professor, designed this course.



Sofizar offers Job Placement Opportunities

On 11th April, 2013 Sofizar Constellation CK creative team comprising Mehwish, Asma and Asim visited the Department to offer job placement opportunities to students. They focused on motivating young writers to take up content writing as a career. They highlighted the power of persuasive writing in the field of internet marketing. In this regard, Mehwish, the HR head, explained the hiring process, which involves home-based and on the spot assignments along with a formal interview. The career growth of a content writer begins from being an editor/trainer to a team-leader and then climbing up to the post of a manager. Sofizar Constellation CK, founded by Zafar Khan in 2004, deals in search engine optimization and internet marketing. It is pursuing a rapid growth path due to its innovative business plans.



The English Department faculty with the Sofizar creative team.

Commemorating Founder's Day



The Department of English Language and Literature celebrated the birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam on 25th December, 2012. In this connection, the Quaid's letters and interviews were shared with the audience. Also, a mime was presented to throw light on the political and private life of the Father of the nation.



On Campus Student Counseling

The Clinical psychologist and Student Counselor at the Punjab University Student Counseling and Assessment Services Centre, Sadia Shahzeb delivered a presentation on student counseling services on April 11, 2013. She identified common psychological problems faced by students such as depression, disinterestedness and anxiety. Further, Ms. Shahzeb motivated students to acknowledge such issues in and around them, and seek counseling to maintain a healthy life. She also informed the students that their information is kept confidential and not shared without their consent. Besides, the counseling services are offered free of cost to university students.



Student Counselor Ms. Sadia Shahzeb with faculty members.

Welcome New Faculty!



Ms. Mamoonah and Ms. Samra Soomro joined the department as Lecturers this year. They have an M.Phil. degree in English Literature from this department and have also been M.A. students of this department. We welcome these bright young scholars.

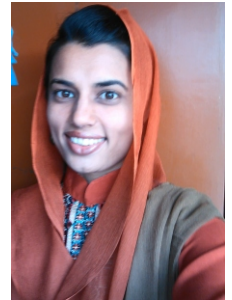
Ms. Samra Soomro talks about her strong bond with the Department:

As an eager student who has spent almost six years in the Department of English Language and Literature I have always found this place to be one for merit. Against all perceptions of bias across provinces I, having a domicile of Sindh, have been acknowledged as a top student and am now working as a Lecturer in the University of the Punjab. The appointments

made by the University in 2012 show that the academia here will always appreciate and welcome budding talent, for which I owe a huge debt to my teachers in the Department itself, who recognized it, honed it, and now have given me an opportunity to pass it on. As a student here I always felt that an open and constructive environment can only be provided to the students if the professionals working in that place have maintained such an environment amongst themselves. As a teacher I have found it to be very true. The welcoming and supporting hands from the Chairperson to the faculty, is an essence of this Department that I and other lecturers inducted with me cherish the most. I have joined here in the hope of maintaining and even daring to further the standards of this Department, which are based upon honesty to one's work and to the students, in an order to further the environment that is constructive and enlightening, passionate about its work and disciplined at the same time, and puts its trust in itself and in the hard work of its students, hoping thus to carry the legacy forwards.

Ms. Mamoonah expresses her feelings of accomplishment on joining the Department:

Once you get in the English Department, it is the beginning of an interminable bond that you hold and cherish for the rest of your life. 2012 was an eventful year for me as it reshaped my ties with the Department. The year left me with a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment as I completed my M. Phil degree and joined the Department as lecturer. I take it as an advantage that in the beginning of my regular career in teaching I am placed at such a prestigious institution. As a faculty member, I feel that the Department, by maintaining its uncompromised academic standards, keeps one's professional integrity intact. Furthermore, to have a serious occupation with Literature (as is in vogue in the Department) and through this engagement take part in moulding youngsters into reasonable, responsible and thinking individuals is a great source of delight and achievement for me as a teacher. I feel I still have a long way to go and enrich myself while passing on the spirit of the subject to my students.



Mr. Liaqat Ali performs Hajj



Mr. Liaqat Ali, Assistant Controller, Department of English, performed Hajj in 2012. He feels privileged to have made the obligatory pilgrimage to the Holy Ka'aba. Through this special way of worshipping God and performing all the rituals of Hajj, he has had a soul-satisfying experience, which will stay with him for ever.

Career Counseling and Job Placement Services

The Department of English was recently visited by the Representatives of the Institute for Career and Personal Development (ICPD). They offered career counseling and job placement services to all those students who wish to pursue a successful career. During the presentation, the representative also informed the students about the short term programme being offer in summer this year, to have some of the essential skills such as critical thinking, business and analytical writing. The institute for career and personal development helps individuals to become outstanding professionals in an organization



Representatives from the Institute for Career and Personal Development

Ph.D Archives

Mr. Rizwan Akhtar receives a Doctorate in English

The Department welcomes Mr. Rizwan Akhtar, Lecturer, back to Lahore after successfully completing his PhD from the University of Essex, UK.

Mr. Akhtar throws light on his dynamic research experience there:

In October, 2008 I went to the University of Essex, UK for my PhD in Literature. Prior to applying and arriving in the UK I had doubts and misconceptions about Western culture not to speak of the clichés and stereotypes I am fed with here in Pakistan while moving on with life. Universities in the UK are very open-minded and scholars and students enjoy freedom. Surprisingly, I did not have any cultural shock; today I feel that my roots are deracinated. I stayed in England, and visited many other parts of Europe, and became exposed to a variety of culture although European life, as I found, is a mixture of both beauty and boredom. In my opinion one who is able to synthesize these two dimensions becomes a moderate success story. I read postcolonial literature, now almost a vogue, but hold it a good choice, keeping in mind the debates and narratives which over the years have become a part of a typical postcolonial ethos. The topic of my PhD thesis runs as 'Resistance and Defiance of Patriarchy: A Study of Anita Desai's Female Characters as Fictional Counterparts to Hindu Mythical Women and Cultural Traditions'. Writing a PhD thesis is a challenging experience but at times it gets on one's nerves. So, I did not limit myself to academic writing



and sought escape in creative writing. I published poems in many UK magazines and in other parts of world, and also have an entry in Bloodaxe anthology. Essex University has a very vibrant Creative Writing outfit; Caribbean poet Laureate Derek Walcott remained there for three years and I have had the honour of being his student. I term it as my "peak moment". I met many contemporary writers and shared their enthusiasm for a global intellectual community. Today, I feel that we not only cross a geographical border but a mental border too; we carry borders and boundaries in mind. English/ European space(s) are now part of my mental topography. Simultaneously, one's mental mappings become imbued with imaginative destinations and exotic locations; we leave so that one day we come back.

Flawed

staring at a lonely sky

I peep back at words and times left in English climes

crows assemble for a lethargic rhyme

next time I will see if they are worth relying

a part of the city is versed, rest is a doggerel

here a day pulsates in stubborn hours

of skewed mettle, creaking bridges, cracking roads

silence barks at the tindery disc of sun

evenings eject dusty remains on dyed whiskers lip lines

winds yelp at skins slurred by twilight clustering for shape

and wavering windscreens

tempt birds to fuzzy destinations

honking at mauled turns messed-up signs

on grass-giving earth a shadow is a dot of doubt

cruise towards jarring endings.

in verandas there is always an old man

By Dr. Rizwan Akhtar

Mr. Khurshid Alam on the Ph.D Journey



Mr. Khurshid Alam, lecturer, enrolled in the PhD in English programme in 2012. He relates his experience as a PhD scholar:

Seeking admission to the PhD programme at the Department of English was a challenging experience. I had mixed feelings of happiness and fear. I felt elated at the idea of being a regular, full time student again. But on the day of the written test, I realized how miserable the students were when they were preparing for the final examination. I tried to console myself saying, 'Don't worry. This is no big deal. You will be OK.' But my heartbeat increased with every passing moment. When the ordeal was over, I had to prepare myself for another bigger trial yet to come. I had to defend my research proposal.

On the appointed day, I felt like a sacrificial goat moving unwillingly to the altar. At about 3p.m, Ilyas came to my office to tell me that I was the first to appear for the interview. Going towards the Chairperson's office, I started pondering over my research proposal. And the more I thought over it, the more absurd it appeared to me. At last, I sought permission and entered the office. Four renowned scholars sitting comfortably in their chairs, with shining glasses on their noses, I felt like a miserable fool who had lost his way in some unknown region. Had Adam not transgressed the will of God, I would have been saved from this interview! Dr. Raza looked through her glasses and politely asked me to sit down. And then the formal session started. The Board members asked me various questions regarding my proposal which I tried to answer to the best of my knowledge. They thoroughly reviewed my proposal and suggested some changes. Although they seemed very encouraging, yet I had no idea of the outcome of the whole process. After the interview, I had a cup of tea with three spoons full of sugar because my brain had consumed more glucose than I had estimated. And the result is that today I am writing this piece thanking my God for granting an opportunity to be a beggar at the gates of knowledge.

Mrs.Amna Umer Cheema ready to embark on a Ph. D from University of Leeds, UK.



Mrs. Amna Umer Cheema, Assistant Professor Department of English PU, has been granted admission in the Ph.D programme at University of Leeds, United Kingdom. She has also been re-elected Executive member of the Academic Staff Association (ASA) for the year 2013. She has earned the second highest votes among female candidates.

Mrs. Robeena Tahir receives a Doctorate in English

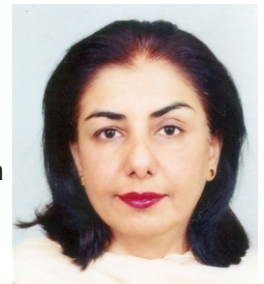


Mrs. Robeena Tahir defending her Doctoral thesis.

Mrs. Robeena Tahir has successfully completed her Ph.D in English from the University of the Punjab. Her dissertation is titled "A Study of Historical Fiction of Women Writers of the Subcontinent: a Gendered Perspective".

Mrs. Saman Saif completes Ph.D in English

Mrs. Saman Saif, Assistant Professor, completes her Ph.D in English from the University of the Punjab. Her thesis is titled "Time and Metaphysics in the Fiction of Qurat-ul-Ain Hyder".



Ms. Ayesha F. Barque on her way to Ph.D

Ms. Ayesha F. Barque, Assistant Professor Department of English PU, is pursuing her Ph.D at the Department.



Ms.Mariam Zia pursues her Ph. D in Critical Theory at University of Sussex, Uk

Ms. Mariam Zia, Lecturer Department of English PU, is currently working on her Ph. D thesis at University of Sussex, UK.



M.Phil Archives



Prattling About

The first day at school is always frightening and as you grow up you tend to laugh reminiscing about your first day. My first day in Punjab University was a bit different. I came, I saw and then I left. Why did I leave, well it was because it was not the first day. The efficient being I am, I came a bit early to resume my studies. But still that doesn't make me a nerd or does it?

My second first day at English Department had its share of surprises. I came, I saw and I got worried. I did not dare enter my classroom. I paced in its adjacent corridor a hundred times (metaphorically of course). While I was pacing around, I imagined how weird I might seem while walking around in this corridor and not entering my legit classroom. This weirdness became weirder when my usual unimaginative brain sneered at my worry by conjuring a vivid image that I look like a worried father pacing outside a delivery room. Now this was a horrid thought how reproductive it might seem. The reason why I couldn't dare enter my classroom was that there were no boys in the class. I was destined or doomed to be the only boy. Trust me however fantastical it maybe to a boy's imagination but to be the only boy in the class it is intimidating (at least at first). Anyways as one enters a cold shower in winter, I entered my classroom and sat in the middle of a single file of seats arranged in a U-formation. This was ominous because the chirpy sounds which girls make when they talk to one another were hushed by my sudden entrance. And now I came, I saw, I sat and there was silence. I was intrusion personified and there was silence everywhere. For first time I realized that how poets can squeeze centuries in a moment, because those god-knows-how-many moments were 'unsurpassable'. You might be thinking what did I do, did I break the ice? No that is so not me, did my class fellows initiate a conversation with me or started to talk to one another ignoring me- Mr. Intrusion personified, well NO, that is so not them. They maintained their silent vigil and made me realize that I am not welcome. In Hell every person has something to do (read Dante's Divine Comedy if you don't believe me). So like Sisyphus who kills his time by rolling a stone up a mountain, like Atlas who is to carry the world on its shoulders till Zeus and

the Olympians forgive and welcome him, I took out my notebook, and started writing this piece. And while I am writing this elaborate archival piece, the chirping has resumed and someone is talking about a writer whom I've read. So, I break my nib here, and am about to jump in a conversation which I can comfortably steer wherever I want it to go. You don't get this opportunity every now and then. So, this is me about to stop writing about his second first day at the English

Muhammad Umer

M. Phil Thesis Completed

Student: Samra Soomro

Supervisor: Zareena Saeed

Thesis: Oneric Structure and Historicity in *Without Dreams* by Shahbano Bilgrami and *Noor: A novel* by Sorayya Khan

Student: Atika Israr

Supervisor: Zareena Saeed

Thesis: A Study of Polyphonic Patterns as Unifying Narrative Technique in the Sporadic Structure of Julio Cortazar's Novel *Hopscotch*

Student: Amna Khalid

Supervisor: Ayesha F. Barque

Thesis: A Pragmatic Study of Performing Gender Language in Kamila Shamsie's *Broken Verses*

Student: Mahrukh Bokhari

Supervisor: Zareena Saeed

Thesis: Otherness of the Other in an Englishness of Hanif Kureishi

Student: Ayesha Khalid

Supervisor: Dr. Amra Raza

Thesis: The World of Harry Potter in the Light of Jungian Archetypes

Student: Socrat Aman Rana

Supervisor: Shireen Rahim

Thesis: Treatment of Time in Munro's *Too Much Happiness*

Department Library Computerized



Mrs. Ammara Mohsin, Librarian, Muhammad Riaz, Muhammad Najabat, Hasan Ahmad and Rafaqat Ali

The English Department library now has computerized its M.Phil, English Language Teaching and Linguistics books. Students can efficiently locate resource material through the electronic database. This will save time for more reading and lead to more research. The library staff is also working earnestly to complete the data-bank of the large reservoir of M.A books.

Blending the Co-curricular with the Curricular



MA I (Morning) students represent the Punjabi village hierarchy on Cultural Day.



Mrs. Zareena Saeed with the M.A Part I (Replica) students.



MA I (Replica) students in the Laptop Distribution Ceremony.



As we sow so shall we reap
A busy lot of MA I (Morning) students on
Plantation Day in the Department.



MA II (Replica) students on Welcome Party for their juniors



Gay and gaudy M.A II (Replica) on Ethnic Day in the Department

Learning while having fun



M.A Part II (Morning) students proudly display colours of ethnicity.



M.A Part II (Replica) students posing with Shan and Iftikhar Ahmed on the set of *Geo Shaan Se* programme.



MA I (morning) students clustering around Dr. Amra Raza after their maiden enactment of Sophocle's *Oedipus Rex*.



M.A I (Replica) students celebrate their favourite Literary Personality Day.



MA II (Replica) students posing with Mrs. Zareena Saeed & Mrs. Shireen Rahim on Cultural Day



M.A II (Replica) Laptop Achievers

Celebrating togetherness



Time to pose with the accolade Winners of GRAMREC 2013 Poetry Recitation Competition with Dr. Raza, Mrs. Zareena Saeed and Mrs. Shireen Raheem.



M.A Part II (Morning) students and Faculty on Literary Personality Day.



A mime to commemorate Quaid-e-Azam Day on December 25, 2012.



M.A II students gathered together for Iqbal Day celebrations



M.A II students posing outside the Murree resort.



Students enjoying a chilly summer with Mr. Khurshid Alam at the Muree hill station.

Completed M.A. Research Papers (Session 2010-2012)

Sr. No.	Name of the Students	Session	Title	Name of the Supervisor
1	Sehrish Firdous	2010-2012	Re-exploring the Family Myth in Kamila Shamsie's <i>Salt and Saffron</i>	Dr. Amra Raza
2	Mehreen Baloch	2010-2012	Base Vs Superstructure in Shahid Nadeem's <i>Kala Meda Bhes</i>	Dr. Amra Raza
3	Ghania Safdar	2010-2012	Socio-economic Dynamics in <i>In Other Rooms Other Wonder's</i> by Daniyal Mueenuddin	Dr. Amra Raza
4	Areej Shahid	2010-2012	<i>The Diary of a Social Butterfly</i> as a Political Satire	Zareena Saeed
5	Javeria Azam	2010-2012	Paradox between the Claims of Reverence for Women and Degrading Reality	Zareena Saeed
6	Sara Idrees	2010-2012	Life of the "Other" in <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Zareena Saeed
7	Zonara Sajid	2010-2012	Time Split in Anita Desai's <i>The Village by the Sea</i>	Zareena Saeed
8	Zeenish Liaqat	2010-2012	A Study of Women's Positioning in Khalid Hosseini's <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Zareena Saeed
9	Muhammad Usman Ali Virk	2010-2012	The Theme of Megalomania in <i>A case of Exploding Mangoes</i> by Muhammad Hanif	Shireen Rahim
10	Maliha Hamdani	2010-2012	The Autobiographical Element in <i>Working with Sharks</i> by Fouzia Saeed	Shireen Rahim
11	Farwa Pervaiz	2010-2012	The Theme of Isolation in Nadeem Aslam's <i>Maps for Lost Lovers</i>	Shireen Rahim
12	Maneeba Naeem	2010-2012	The Portrayal of Female Characters in ' <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> ' by Khalid Hosseini	Shireen Rahim
13	Nida Najeeb	2010-2012	The Significance of Peripheral Characters in <i>Dreams of Tipu Sultan</i> by Girish Karnad	Shireen Rahim
14	Naila Naseer-ud-Din	2010-2012	Transgression as a Terrain for Elaborating Selfhood in <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> by Hanif Kureishi	Prof. K.M Siddiqui
15	Sara Chaudhary	2010-2012	The Positive Assimilation Suggested by the Diaspora Literature in <i>Home Boy</i> by H.M. Naqvi	Prof. K.M Siddiqui
16	Hafiza Ayesha Zafar	2010-2012	A Critique on the Dynamics of Multiculturalism (Hanif Kureishi)	Prof. K.M Siddiqui
17	Lala Rukh	2010-2012	Symbolic Representation of Woman as Hunter/Hunted in <i>Shikari</i> by Sahar Rizvi	Prof. K.M Siddiqui
18	Zaheer-ud-Din Babar	2010-2012	A Marxist Reading of <i>Modern Soap</i> by Javed Amir	Prof. K.M Siddiqui
19	Khalila Azhar	2010-2012	Inter-faith Dialogue : A Diplomatic Strategy in M. Hanif – <i>Our Lady of Alice Bhatti</i>	Iffat Sayeed
20	Sabiha Iqbal	2010-2012	Disruptions as Means of Destruction Rather than Construction in James Joyce	Iffat Sayeed
21	Ayesha Javaid	2010-2012	Dichotomy Between Emancipated Womanhood and Traditional Motherhood	Iffat Sayeed
22	Rushaan Hamid	2010-2012	Adopting Alter Egos as a Means to Recover Identity in Hanif Kureishi's <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	Iffat Sayeed
23	Saba Hameed	2010-2012	Ambivalence and Identity Crisis as well in Mohsin Hamid's <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i>	Iffat Sayeed
24	Sana Ajmal	2010-2012	Exploration of Effects of Imperialism on Artistic Expression in Anita Desai's <i>In Custody</i>	Ayesha F. Barque
25	Inam ul Haq	2010-2012	Mythic Interpretations in Girish Karnad's <i>Naga Mandala</i>	Ayesha F. Barque
26	Nazish Sameen	2010-2012	The Use of Mass Media in Zia's Regime in Constructing the Subjectivity of the Citizen in <i>A Case of Exploding Mangoes</i>	Ayesha F. Barque
27	Nabila Jabin	2010-2012	Negotiation of Gender Space in <i>The Young Wife and Other Short Stories</i>	Ayesha F. Barque
28	Iqra Ajmal	2010-2012	Mystical Stages in Salar's journey in <i>Pir-e-Kamil The Perfect Mentor</i> by Umera Ahmed	Ayesha F. Barque
29	Aleena Farooq	2010-2012	Exploring the Three Modes of Writing in <i>The Ordinary Persons Guide to Empire</i>	Ayesha F. Barque
30	Tehmina Suhail	2010-2012	Social Coherence Within the Diasporic Community and its Ties to Ancestral Lands in <i>The Saffron Kitchen</i>	Shamaila Dodhy
31	Kanwal Yaqub	2010-2012	Monsoon a Symbol of Unpredictability in <i>Season of the Rainbirds</i>	Shamaila Dodhy
32	Sidra Amjad	2010-2012	Social Dynamics Art or War in Noor	Shamaila Dodhy
33	Sara Arif	2010-2012	Cultural Blindness and Manipulation of Islamic Ideology in <i>The Holy Woman</i>	Shamaila Dodhy
34	Rabbia Naseer	2010-2012	The Criticism of Lack of Circumspect in Herta Muller's <i>The Land of Green Plums</i>	Shamaila Dodhy
35	Zarnab Ellahi	2010-2012	Spirituality – A way to Human Dignity in <i>Our Lady of Alice Bhatti</i>	Shamaila Dodhy
36	Ayesha Umber	2010-2012	Time Consciousness in Zulfiqar Ghose's <i>The Murder of Aziz Khan</i>	Amna Umer
37	Kanza Qayyum	2010-2012	Suppression – Empowerment Dynamics in Tehmina Durrani's <i>Blasphemy</i>	Amna Umer
38	Ayesha Aslam	2010-2012	Power Dynamics in <i>My Feudal Lord</i>	Amna Umer
39	Asma Muzafar	2010-2012	Redemption through Unlearning in Khalid Hosseini's <i>The Kite Runner</i>	Amna Umer
40	Mubarra Hassan	2010-2012	Overpowering Influence of Society on an Individual in Mohsin Hamid's <i>Moth Smoke</i>	Amna Umer
41	Ayesha Shafiq	2010-2012	Absurdity of War in <i>Burnt Shadows</i> by Kamila Shamsi	Khurshid Alam
42	Sajeel Anjum Roofi	2010-2012	Application of Cartesian Philosophy on the Nameless Protagonist of <i>Surfacing</i> by Margaret Atwood	Khurshid Alam
43	Hafiza Syeda Mehwish	2010-2012	Distortion of the Image of Islam in Zoha Muhsen's <i>Sold</i> .	Khurshid Alam
44	Maryam Jamshed	2010-2012	Fire imagery – A Comparison of the <i>Return of the Native</i> by Thomas Hardy and <i>Fire on the Mountain</i> by Anita Desai	Khurshid Alam
45	Zunaira Yousaf	2010-2012	Obliteration through Culture and Social Order in Zulfiqar Ghose's <i>The Murder of Aziz Khan</i>	Khurshid Alam

M.A English Part II Session (2011-2013)

- We all are human in form, but to be human at heart is something different. **Tehreem Hamid**
- Never give up till your last attempt and never say it is your last attempt till you succeed. **Warda Abbas**
- The colossal truth of life is reasoning. **Maida Fatima**
- Living in the present is better than roaming in the shadows of the past. **Maryam Fayyaz**
- It is our response to ground realities which makes our life difficult or easy. **Rai Abad**
- The process of fulfillment is more meaningful than fulfillment itself. **Anam Rasheed**
- Experience is not what you live or receive from others, but what you live and relive with the assistance of memory. **Nida Huma**
- At times I get cynical, for the rest I resist to be. **Irshad Ullah**
- It is easy to live with your follies, but not with your regrets. **Iram Israr**
- To yearn for the difficult, to be weary of what is being offered, is precisely human nature. **Saima Qayyum**
- It is a fact that life plays its jokes on us, the thing to do is to learn how to enjoy them. **Asfa Kanwal**
- When the Sun rises, its day/ When the Moon rises, its night/ When it rains, it pours/ Is life worth anymore? **Anil Samuel**
- Satisfaction is not what we have, but what we strive for. **Sharafat Ali**
- Life survives on change, so take every change as a challenge. **Maryam Khan**
- A genius is one who grows with the tradition and one day becomes a tradition himself. **Muhammad Usman Dar**
- Find the purpose for your existence, don't just spend your life, live it. **Muhammad Ahmad**
- One cannot find pearls of wisdom without diving into the sea of knowledge. **Amna Afzal**
- Be thankful to the mirror, it only reflects your appearance. **Maryam Zulfiqar**
- Don't let your individuality be usurped by anyone else, be what you are. **Iqra Qamar**
- Silence is a way to predict the unpredictable. **Fatima Wajahat**
- In illusions and uncertainty do we dwell and lead our lives to extinction. **Iqra Kabir**
- In darkness, the truth of life dawns upon us. **Madeeha Manzoor**
- Doubts about your convictions are not as dangerous as having convictions about your doubts. **Saasha Asif**
- The hardest thing in the world is to handle success. **Ammara Saeed**
- The more you try to interpret life, the more complex it becomes. **Alishbah Afzal**
- Do not count on others for help, be your own saviour. **Muhammad Awais**
- A society of lambs would only be governed by wolves. **Zarwa Fatima**
- Love that will not betray you, dismay you, or enslave you, will set you free. **Maryam Siddique**
- One does not get what one wants, one gets what one works for. **Fatima Amin**
- Difficulties only strengthen your character. **Sadaf Ahmad**
- A clear rejection is always better than a fake promise. **Madiha Noor**
- The thing that makes temptation difficult is when you can't find any. **Saba Yaqoob**
- Life is a conflict between thesis and anti-thesis. **Sundas Rafique**
- Depending on others will never make you independent. **Tayyeba Pervaiz**
- Never give up on principles. **Noor Fatima**
- Always Judge people according to their circumstances not your own. **Saba Idris**
- There is no such thing as unconditional love on earth except that of Parents. **Maliha**
- When you choose a road to travel on, do not ask for directions. **Amina Khan**
- A strong will is the key to success. **Rab Nawaz**
- One person's reality is an illusion for the other. **Shehzadi Sundas Wafa**



Dr. Amra Raza, Department Chair and faculty members with the MA Part II (Morning 2011-2013).



Dr. Amra Raza, Department Chair and faculty members with the MA Part II (Replica 2011-2013).