UBIQUITOUS

English Literary Society of RLAC

"The purpose of literature is the art of turning blood into ink." ~T. S Eliot

Each academic session, the Literary Society of the English Department, UBIQUITOUS, organizes a variety of student-centric events and competitions, providing students with opportunities to showcase their creative talents. During the 2019-20 academic year, the Society hosted a *Movie Screening* of *12 Years a Slave* on October 16, 2019. As the topic of slavery and the African American experience in the United States forms a crucial part of their curriculum, the screening was both informative and engaging for the attendees. Approximately 40 students from the 2nd year English (H) and three from the BA Programme gathered in the Seminar Room to watch the film, which was followed by an active postscreening discussion. The discussion focused on pertinent issues such as the historical context of slavery, the Civil War, and the ongoing impact of these events on the Black community. Students expressed their appreciation for the activity and recommended organizing such screenings more frequently within the department.

On October 18, 2019, the Society also held an in-house competition, *Spin-a-Yarn*, where participants were tasked with reimagining the popular sitcom *F.R.I.E.N.D.S.*. Approximately 15 participants from across the department showcased their oratory and storytelling skills by creatively reconstructing the sitcom in their own unique styles. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the alternate versions of the show and suggested that future iterations of the competition should be extended to inter-collegiate levels, with topics focusing on literary classics.

The annual two-day departmental literary festival, Lit Fest, took place from February 13-14, 2020. During this event, the Society organized an inter-college *Spin-a-Yarn* competition, featuring literary classics such as *Pride and Prejudice, Jane Eyre, Beloved*, and *The Shadow Lines*. As these novels are part of the syllabus, students displayed their creativity by reinterpreting these texts through a contemporary lens. The festival also included a *Literary Quiz*, in which participants enthusiastically competed, answering questions related to literature. Winners of both competitions were awarded certificates and cash prizes. Student feedback regarding these events was overwhelmingly positive. One notable suggestion was to reschedule future literary festivals from mid-February to mid-March, as the current timing coincided with several other college fests, limiting participation from external institutions. The department has acknowledged these recommendations for future consideration.

Convener Literary Society (2019-20) Deepshikha Kumari



