Opening Word

Our gaze alights on the world. Our heart beats as the world beats. Our hands caress the world’s curves, our laughter tickles the world and our tears leave it trembling, but the world would be nothing without our words to tell it, without our words to believe it, without our words to build it.

Small letters, big sentences, pebbles of ink on white deserts of paper and screen, signs of stone, scratches and traces, lines of sand, we draw at the surface of the earth a second landscape that remains and recalls truths and memory to other humans.

Because reading is indeed remembering the one who lived and who wrote. And writing is indeed thinking about the one who will come after us and, in the invisible books, rub up against our stirred thoughts, still living when we are dead, despite our long-ago disappearance.

Take all these letters left by all men, these letters that tell our humanity, take them in your pocket, in your mouth, in your dreams, in your fists.

Keep them like the treasures they are.

Let no one steal them, but on the contrary share them with everyone.

Help the one who hesitates to grab them, who struggles to befriend them.

Be his master so he can become one himself.

Make him like you.

Because our first freedom is that of language, spoken language, murmured, written and deciphered, friend language, mother language, sweet language, language that comes under our fingers, on our lips and under our gaze like the great mirror of our humanity.

Philippe Claudel,
French author
BS PSYCHOLOGY

Keeping the crucial role of psychology in mind, the department of Humanities at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore is offering a maiden undergraduate degree program in Psychology, due to commence in FALL 2012.

The BS Psychology program offers a wide range of the related course work focusing on Human Development, Abnormal Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Social psychology, Neuropsychology and Professional Psychology.

The degree program aims to help students to develop an understanding of psychological theory, research skills, and psychological techniques necessary to be successful in the field. It will equip them with knowledge of the assessment of personality, intelligence and attitudes, interviewing techniques, questionnaire design and analysis, child development, and the methods of teaching and learning. Most importantly, it is a degree for students in general as well as those who plan careers in health, academia and research.

IELTS SHORT COURSE

The third batch of IELTS was successfully completed this semester. The faculty that taught this course included

- Ms. Shazia Aziz
- Ms. Amna Naveed
- Ms. Fatima Javed
- Ms. Sadaf Fatima
- Ms. Ammara Shaheen
- Ms. Maria Shamim
New Chairperson of Humanities

Dr. Shazia Hassan, HoD Department of Humanities, was recently given the additional responsibility of Chairman of Humanities of three CIIT campuses: Lahore, Islamabad and Abbottabad. It is indeed a great honour for Lahore Campus and our department. We extend her our heartiest felicitations, and hope that she will continue bringing our department more laurels in the future too.

Faculty Milestones

The following faculty members improved their academic qualification by successfully completing their M.Phil/MS degree.

• Ms. Maria Shamim completed her M.phil in Applied Linguistics from Kinnaird College. Her thesis title was “Improving Students’ Oral Communication Skills”.

• Ms. Shamana Munawwar recently completed her M.Phil degree in Islamic Studies in April 2012 from The University of Faisalabad. Her thesis is titled “The Holy Prophet’s [S.A.W.W] Role Model as a Teacher and Its Practical Implementation by The University Teachers.”

• Ms. Amna Naveed did her M.phil in Linguistics from UMT, Lahore. Her thesis was on “Analysis of Cyber Language: Identifying Gender Differences”.

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COMSATS Institute of Information Technology celebrated World Book Day on 27th April 2012. The purpose of celebrating the day was to pay tribute to books and authors, to encourage the people to discover the pleasure of reading.

Munno Bhai, a renowned playwright and journalist graced the occasion with his presence as a chief guest. Convener Library Affairs Dr. Robina Farooq presented the library report and introduced the facilities that COMSATS is providing to its students.

All the departments displayed their publications, discoveries and prototypes on their respective stalls. Ms. Maryam Jahangir and Ms. Maria Shamim represented the Humanities department with its publications.
STUDENT WEEK - Bilingual Speech Competition 2012

The Department of Humanities organized a Bilingual Declamation Contest on Wednesday, 21st March 2012, during the Students’ Week. This event was arranged by the joint efforts of Mr. Samar Kamal Fazli, Ms. Maria Shamim and Ms. Maryam Jehangir.

The competition comprised of a single round only. The speakers were allowed to agree or disagree with the topic. Each Speaker was allowed to speak for a minimum of four and maximum of six minutes. Speakers were not allowed to use Urdu in their English debate and vice versa. Both the genders meticulously prepared for the competition.

STUDENT WEEK - Mehfil-e-Naat

Recently, CIIT Lahore campus had organized a purposeful spring festival for students. A lot of societies had arranged different kinds of competitions among the students.

In this connection Islamic cultural society had organized a Mehfil-e-Naat in accordance with Qiraat and Naat competition among the CIIT Lahore students, on 19th March 2012 after Zuhaar prayers. In this program the chief guest was honorable director Dr Mehmood Ahmed Bodla, guest Sanakhuans were Qari Amjad Bilali and Hamnawa Alhaj Irsad Ahmed Chishti, the legendry sanakhaun. The program of Husn-e-Qiraat was started right after Zuhaar prayer and ended on 2:30 and Husn-e-Naat was started at 2:30 and lasted till Asar prayer.

At the end the chief guest distributed the first, second, and third prizes among the students. This program was organized by Mr. Mudasser Hussain Awan (incharge Islamic and cultural society) Miss Ifaat Khalid (member) Madam Shamana Munnawar (member).
Mr. Nasir Adeeb carried out the duties of Judge for Urdu declamation and Justice retired Munir A. Mughal performed the duties of Judge for English Declamation. Mr. Muhammad Iqbal was the chief guest of the ceremony. Director COMSATS Lahore campus, Professor Dr. Mehmood Ahmad Bodla and Dean of Academics, Dr. Talat Afza also honored the ceremony with their presence.

At the end, the three best speakers from both English and Urdu were awarded certificates. For English declamation, Arslan Aslam from department of Chemical Engineering and Iyesal Waseem Gill from department of Electrical Engineering together won 1st prize; Meher Ali from the department of Chemical Engineering secured 2nd position; and Ataul Musawir from MBT obtained 3rd position. For Urdu Declamation, Safi Ullah from Chemical Engineering Department stood 1st, Zain Ul Hassan secured 2nd position; and Khubaib Mukhtar from Chemical Engineering Department and Tayyaba from Computer Science department together obtained 3rd Prize.
Cultural Festival in Student Week 2012

During Students Week Spring 2012, Ms. Shazia Aziz organized a colorful Cultural Festival with the theme of ‘Celebrating the Diverse Cultures of Pakistan’. She was helped by Miss Amna Naveed, Miss Fatima Javed and Miss Sadaf Fatima in organizing the event.

The students who assisted in organizing the event included Rana Waqar, Hunain Anwar, Misbah, Naem Sikandar, Parkha Khattak and Shoaib Riaz; the total number of participating students was around 100. The event featured cultural dances of the four provinces of Pakistan, a ramp walk by students wearing different cultural dresses, which was much liked by all the audience, mehndi show, skits, cultural songs and many more. The encouraging thing for the organizers was that most of the audience was wearing cultural dresses as requested by them.

The ramp walk started by little children wearing different provinces’ cultural attires followed by CIIT students wearing the same. In the end, the director Dr Mahmood Ahmad Bodla, Dr Talat Afza and some faculty members joined the ramp walk on the request of students. The chief guests included Mr. Zulqurnain Haider, famous TV artist, playwright and director, Mr. Safdar Ali, musician and music teacher Miss Farah Deba, President Punjab Cultural Wing. At the end of the event the guests were awarded shields, while the participants and organizers were given certificates by the worthy director.

The director and the guests in their concluding speeches appreciated Miss Shazia Aziz’s novel idea of arranging this event and the efforts of the participants and organizers in arranging it and commented that such events should be frequently organized in order to appreciate and celebrate our rich heritage and varied culture. Mr Zulqurnain Haider specially appreciated the anchor persons, Zeeshan Zafar and Syed Zain, and offered them to perform on TV and benefit the public with their talent of handling shows extempore.
Convocation Festival 2012

As suggested by the Worthy Director, this time a convocation festival was arranged on the day of the convocation of the students graduating this semester. Different items were presented on the occasion to entertain the worthy guests, graduating students and their parents by the current students. Miss Shazia Aziz organized a ramp walk, songs, and some modern and cultural dances on the occasion. All the items were appreciated by the audience.

Miss Shazia Aziz wins Research Productivity Award for the year 2011

Ms. Shazia Aziz was given a research productivity award for her three publications in an international journal during the year 2011 at the inauguration ceremony of Pak China Business Forum and Industrial Exhibition. It was held on 15th April 2012 at Pak China Business Centre, Islamabad. In this event, delegates from China, Rector CIIT, Directors, Professors, Assistant Professors and researchers from all the campuses of CIIT participated.

Participation in Story Writing Competition organized by Oxford University Press

Shoaib Riaz (BTE) was guided by Miss Shazia Aziz to write a story for participation in a Story Writing Competition organized by the Oxford University Press in April 2012. The result of the competition is awaited yet. Best of luck to Shoaib!
Lectures and Seminars

Education UK’s first Career Counselor’s Symposium

Ms. Fatima Javed and Mr. Ahsan Bashir attended Education UK’s first Career Counselor’s Symposium on 13th and 14th March 2012 at Beaconhouse National University, Raiwind Road Lahore.

The Symposium aimed at providing an opportunity of professional development to career counselors and was attended by some of the prominent names from the education and corporate sector in Pakistan.

Amongst the speakers/trainers who conducted the workshop were professionals in career counseling, psychologists, and business entrepreneurs as well as leading academics.

The symposium was a great opportunity to develop and gain knowledge in the field of career counseling and gave an invaluable chance to develop networking with colleagues from across the country and abroad.

National Conference on Islamic Studies: State of Education and Research in Higher Education Institutes

Ms. Shamana Munawar and Ms. Iffat Khalid participated in “National Conference on Islamic Studies: State of Education and Research in Higher Education Institutes” held at UMT on April 11-12, 2012.

Dr. Tahira’s lecture on Indigenous issues in Psychology

Dr. Tahira Jibeen delivered a lecture on “Indigenous issues in Psychology” for our PhD students on June 8, 2012 at Beacon House University Lahore, Pakistan. Her lecture was well received and the response of the audience was very motivating for the speaker.


Ms. Maryam Jahangir’s article “English Channel” was published in Jahangir’s World Times, Aug 2012. The article comprises nouns, phrasal verbs and idiomatic phrases for CSS students.

NEW JOININGS

Dr. Khawer Bilal Baig

Dr. Khawer joined the Department of Humanities, CIIT Lahore in May, 2012 as Assistant Professor. He holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi.

His previous work experience includes working as a Therapist from 2004 - 2011 at the Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi. He has also served as Assistant Professor at Department of Psychology, GC University, Lahore from Dec. 2011 to May, 2012.

His subject specialty is Clinical Psychology / Speech & Language Therapy. His research areas include psychological assessment & psychotherapy, interpersonal relationship and psychopathology.

Dr. Urooj Sadiq

She recently joined the department of humanities as Assistant Professor in May 2012 hold as a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi.

Before joining CIIT Lahore, she worked as Cooperative Teacher and Assistant Professor from 2005-2011 at the Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi. She has also worked as Assistant Professor at Department of Psychology, GC University, Lahore from Jan. 2012 to May, 2012.

Her subject specialty is Clinical Psychology and her areas of interest range from Psychological assessment and psychotherapy to research interest in women health, antenatal psychopathology and family relationship.
CLOSING WORD

Every Warrior of the Light has felt afraid of going into battle.

Every Warrior of the Light has, at some time in the past, lied or betrayed someone.

Every Warrior of the Light has trodden a path that was not his.

Every Warrior of the Light has suffered for the most trivial of reasons.

Every Warrior of the Light has, at least once, believed he was not a Warrior of the Light.

Every Warrior of the Light has failed in his spiritual duties.

Every Warrior of the Light has said ‘yes’ when he wanted to say ‘no.’

Every Warrior of the Light has hurt someone he loved.

That is why he is a Warrior of the Light, because he has been through all this and yet has never lost hope of being better than he is.

- Paulo Coelho
Editor
Ms. Fatima Javed

Sub Editor
Ms. Mariam Jehangir

Designed by
Umer Shakoor
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