

### MESSAGE OF THE PATRON

As the Institute of Liberal Arts (ILA) continues to grow in terms of academic accomplishments, research publications, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and a number of brilliant students and competent faculty and staff members, we felt a timely need to launch our own newsletter. This initiative will serve as a useful tool to share with you our achievements, activities, and events that truly demonstrate what we are and what we do. Information sharing is one of the best ways to reach out to our colleagues from other schools and universities and pool up resources for useful collaborations and design activities and devise plans for activities of mutual interest. I am positive that our team, responsible for the collection and projection of content from all three units of ILA and its publication, will be able to highlight the best that happens at ILA, track its progress, and make a meaningful impact on its readers.

Best wishes,

Dr Nadia Anwar Acting Dean, ILA

## WELCOME NOTE BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome to the first newsletter from ILA! The Institute of Liberal Arts, or ILA, is a happening place on the UMT campus. Every student in the university is affiliated with us in some way through three compulsory English language courses, while many departments also offer foreign language courses through ILA's Center for Languages (CFL). And then we have our own students in the BS, MPhil, and PhD programs at the Department of English & Literary Studies (DELS) and the Department of Linguistics and Communications (DLC). In this newsletter - hopefully, the first of many more - you will find some of the activities of our students and faculty over the last year. We are busy in numerous ways - presenting our work at conferences, arranging events and webinars, enjoying poetry and student presentations, and of course teaching, researching, and writing. You can catch a glimpse of all this in the pages that follow, and our teachers hope to continue this tradition of hard work and dedication in the coming semesters. I am indebted to my colleagues including Sarah Azam, Minaam Butt, Zain-ul-Abidin, and Naheed Ashfaq who have compiled the information, and Iqra Yaqub has put this newsletter together. I also thank our colleagues at OCM who have worked hard to make this first issue a memorable one, and finally, the Dean of ILA, Dr Nadia Anwar for her support and initiative in starting this tradition at ILA.



**Dr Nadia Anwar**Patron



**Dr Waqas Sajjad** Editor-in-Chief



**Ms Iqra Yaqub** Managing Editor



**Ms Naheed Ashfaq** Associate Editor, DLC



**Mr Zain-ul-Abidin** Associate Editor, DLC



**Ms Sara Azam** Associate Editor, DELS



**Ms Minaam Butt** Associate Editor, DELS

### INSTITUTE OF LIBERAL ARTS AT A GLANCE

The Institute of Liberal Arts (ILA) comprises two academic departments and one center. With over sixty faculty members, two undergraduate programs, three graduate programs, as well thousands of students from across the university who study courses in English and foreign languages through ILA, it is a dynamic part of the UMT campus. With courses in linguistics and literature, events, seminars, student-led initiatives, and international collaborations, ILA remains busy throughout the year.

## ILA'S MISSION IS... BREAKING OUT OF THE BOX

ILA's mission is to promote inquisitive thinking by developing and nurturing in the participants the ability to analyze and make sense of rapid global transformations through reflection, research, intellectual inquiry, and historical consciousness.

### ILA'S VISION IS...INSPIRING NEW THINKING

The Institute of Liberal Arts at UMT is a multifarious seat of learning that aims to inspire new thinking and generate novel ideas in its students for the reformation of societal thought and communal progress. It endeavors to prepare students to develop command over a range of disciplines such as literature, languages, philosophy, history, cultural studies, and theoretical sciences by honing their innate sense of inquiry and instigating their curiosity to seek solutions to society's problems. The institute promises to create a new generation of thinkers, writers, and a robust intelligentsia.

### DEPARTMENTS AND CENTERS

- Department of Linguistics and Communications (DLC)
- Department of English and Literary Studies (DELS)
- Center for Languages (CFL)

Degree Programs

Department of English and Literary Studies

- BS English (Literature)
- MPhil English (Literature)
- PhD English (Literature)

Department of Linguistics and Communications

- BS (Language & Linguistics)
- MPhil English (Linguistics)
- PhD (Linguistics )

### **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

International Conference on TESOL, Linguistics and Literature, CTLL 2022

A two-day International Conference on Linguistics and Literature was organized by the Department of Linguistics and Communications on November 28-29, 2022. Rector UMT, Prof Dr Asif Raza, was the Chief Guest of the event.

The Dean ILA Dr Nadia Anwar, Chairperson DLC Dr Arshad Ali Khan, and a large number of scholars, researchers, and experts from all over Pakistan including UMT faculty and students participated in the conference. Moreover, researchers from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Spain, Canada, and the United States presented research papers via Zoom. The goal of the conference was to educate students about innovative ideas and teach them how to conduct research by using modern methods. The Rector UMT thanked all the participants at the event, congratulated the Dean ILA and Chairperson DLC, and noted that the aim of organizing such events is to provide opportunities for students and teachers to interact and learn from each other.

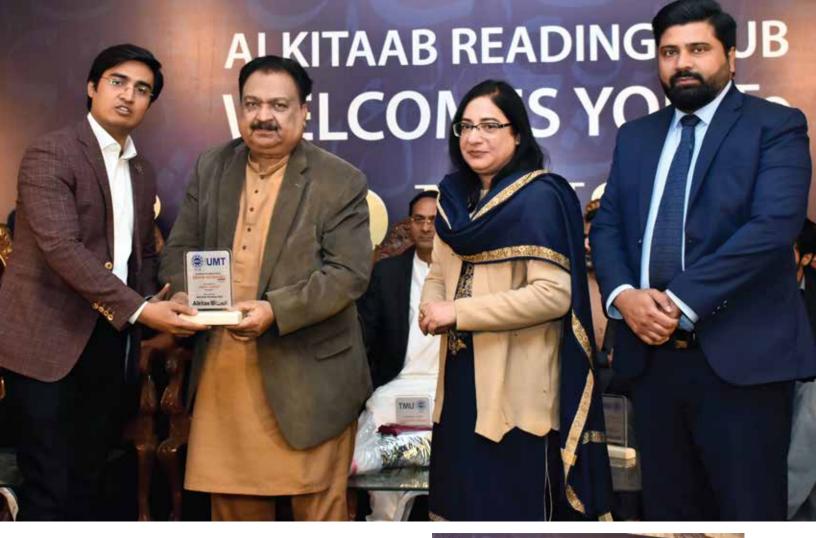












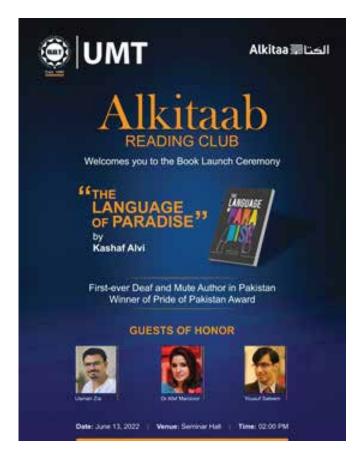
### ALKITAAB GRAND MUSHAIRA 2023



The Alkitaab Reading Club, an initiative of the students and faculty at DELS, organized the Alkitaab Grand Mushaira 2023 on January 16, 2023, in UMT Greens. The literary tradition of Mushaira was revived in the presence of renowned poets such as Tehzeeb Hafi, Usman Zia, Ikram Arfi, and many others. The president of the Mushaira was the well-known poet Abbas Tabish. The event was a huge success, with the lively participation of a large number of students, staff, and faculty members.



### FIRST BOOK LAUNCH EVENT BY ALKITAAB READING CLUB AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES, INSTITUTE OF LIBERAL ARTS



On June 13, 2022, Alkitaab Reading Club held its first book launch event for Kashaf Alvi's first book entitled The Language of Paradise. Kashaf Alvi stands out as an excellent example for those who aim to make their mark in the world despite the challenges they face in life, as his book aims to teach people how to interact with the deaf community. Alvi not only sheds light on different stigmas and stereotypes regarding deaf people but also talks about their strengths and incredible skills. For Alkitaab Reading Club and UMT, it is a privilege to be able to support writers like Alvi who are helping us create a better world. In addition to the author, Dean ILA Dr Nadia Anwar, as well as faculty members at DELS, Ms Mah- e-Nao and Ms Amina Mehmood, addressed the audience during the book launch.

## BEST ANIMATION VIDEO COMPETITION (DOODLY)



Dr Sameer Ahmad organized a Doodly Video Competition for the faculty members of DELS on December 4, 2022. A fun but educational activity, this was meant to empower teachers and enable them to add innovation and technology to their lectures. In this competition, faculty members prepared a lecture on the Doodly software and the best projects were awarded souvenirs and certificates.

DÉCOR AWARD COMPETITION

A Décor Award Competition was organized by the Dean's office for staff and faculty at ILA to showcase their creativity and decorate their offices. The competition provided an opportunity for individuals to add a personal touch to their workspaces, and make them more appealing and comfortable. Winners of the competition were recognized with prizes and certificates, providing them with a sense of accomplishment and giving them the motivation to continue their efforts of maintaining their workspaces.















On December 26, 2022, speakers from diverse fields were invited to share their views on Muhammad Ali Jinnah's leadership qualities and to discuss the lessons that the youth can learn from him. Prominent guests of the event included Dr Amjad Sagib (Executive Director of Akhuwat Foundation), Prof Dr Zahid Munir Khan Amir (Famous Author & Poet), Mr Amir Nawaz (Founder & CEO Maas Foundation), Dr Muhammad Asif (Rector UMT) and Dr Wagas Sajjad (Head Center for Languages). They highlighted Jinnah's honesty, integrity, empathy, and ability to unite people from different backgrounds and forge a common national identity. They also emphasized the importance of Jinnah's message of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to achieving one's goals, which can inspire young people to pursue their dreams with passion and determination. Overall, the event provided a platform to celebrate Jinnah's legacy and inspire a new generation of leaders to follow in his footsteps.

### **EVENT SERIES**

International English Immersion Colloquium Series (Fall 2022)

The English Immersion Team at DELS organized the International English Immersion Colloquium Series during the Fall 2022 semester. The series, comprising three episodes held online, aimed to provide students of English Immersion the knowledge and insights regarding issues such as how to capitalize on their skill set, globalization of industries, digitization of businesses and prevalence of virtual reality, and other recent trends in local and international business markets. The course facilitators hosted guests from Turkey and the United States, and mediated discussions were held among the guests, students, and facilitators.



COLLOQUIUM F2022 (EPISODE 2)

THURSON 25TH DECEMBER 2022 Time: 100 PM - 2:00 PM PST

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### RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

The seminar series provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge and was an opportunity for scholars to receive feedback, engage in dialogue, and network with their peers. The topics covered in the seminar included "Finding The Right Tool For Research Paper, Developing Questionnaire And Making Variables," "Plagiarism And Citation," "How To Write An Abstract," and "Developing Computer-Assisted Reading Material." The Research Seminar Series plays a vital role in promoting research excellence and fostering a community of learning and intellectual exchange.







### WEBINAR SERIES

The flexibility and convenience of webinars make them accessible to a broad audience, regardless of location or time zone. A webinar series on a range of topics is an effective way to promote lifelong learning, professional development, and intellectual exchange. At the Department of Linguistics and Communications, a webinar series was conducted on a wide range of topics and audiences and included hundreds of participants from the university and beyond.





### **CLASS ACTIVITIES**

Contemporary Feminist Perspectives – A Class Conference

Students of the course Women and Literature (Batch 13) at DELS organized a class conference on the theme of feminism and its various strands, under the supervision of Ms Sarah Azam. Dr Fatima Syeda, Head of the English Department, at Forman Christian College, graced the event and enlightened the students about the eclectic history and development of feminism, and briefly discussed the concept of Islamic Feminism, and the impact of war and politics on the formulation and evolution of the discourse about gender. The second guest of honor, Mr Muhammad Afzal Faheem, also delivered an insightful lecture on Islamic Feminism.





# THE FATAL DISCIPLINE: WEAPONIZING AMERICAN LITERATURE TO PEDDLE IMPERIALISM

Miss Frahana Tabussum organized a seminar titled 'The Fatal Discipline: Weaponizing American Literature to Peddle Imperialism' on January 13, 2023. The seminar was arranged for the students of BS English in the course 'American Novels since 1945'. It aimed to expand the learners' existing knowledge, provide different perspectives, stimulate critical thinking, and equip them with potential resources to explore topics in depth.

Dr Shahzeb Khan, an Assistant
Professor at the University of the
Punjab, delivered an informative and
engaging talk at the seminar. He
highlighted how literature was used
as an exploitative tool by imperialists
in the past to justify acts of invasion.
He stressed, "To abolish the imperial
culture, we must change the existing
curricula that are being taught in
public and private universities in the
entire country." He also noted that
students of literature must learn about
native writers through translation and
comparative studies.

The event concluded after a question-and-answer session followed by group photographs.





## **DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION**

Under the supervision of Ms Atifa Binthe Zia, students of English 1 displayed their final projects on February 4, 2023, in the form of a documentary exhibition using photographs and visuals of historical and cultural places. This self-directed learning experience fostered creative and collaborative skills giving students the opportunity to express themselves in detail, while also enabling them to enjoy trips to different parts of Lahore.



# VIDEO PRESENTATION DISPLAY

A video presentation display was organized on 1 December 2022 by Ms Naheed Ashfaq Qureshi and her students from English III. Students narrated and reported on their personal experiences of working in a group on a research-based project. They discussed ideas of group work, video making, presentation skills, task management, research, interpersonal skills, time management, and critical thinking.



# ENGLISH SPEAKING ACTIVITY AND POSTER EXHIBITION

Ms Sobia Malik organized an activity on English Speaking on December 27, 2022, at the SHS campus. It was a graded project, and there was a discussion in the class among students about topics previously assigned to them.











### POSTER PRESENTATIONS ON ARGUMENTATIVE







**ESSAY TOPICS** 

The final project of English III was assigned by Ms Sobia Malik. Students wrote an essay and then presented it in the form of poster presentations; it was a graded project, and presentations were taken by students on the topics previously assigned to them. The event was held on February 23, 2023, at the SHS campus.

### ASSESSMENT IN ELT/RESEARCH

A research-based training was held on January 14, 2023, by Ms Rida Sarfraz for students of ELL on "Plagiarism and Citation." It helped students learn about techniques of citation and provided them with information regarding plagiarism and the ways to avoid it.



# CREATIVE WRITING AND LITERARY GENRES



(Writing for Web, Fiction, Crime, Writing for Children, Copyright, Scriptwriting for TV and Radio)

An exhibition was arranged by BS Linguistics students under the supervision of Ms Faiza Abid on January 11 and January 18, 2023. It highlighted the practice of journaling for creative writing that helped students express their feelings about a certain person or a situation that is troubling or inspiring them.





## DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION

Students of English II and English III made short documentaries under the supervision of Ms Sadia Riaz Sehole on prevalent social issues to raise awareness and impart insight into these problems. They also presented Ted Talks narrating their personal experiences on January 2, 2023.

## SOCIAL AWARENESS MESSAGE



A documentary competition was held under the supervision of Hafiz Muhammad Yasir to spread awareness about social issues. This activity enabled students to practice their research skills to find the relevant facts and figures backed up by solid references, while also enhancing their skills in organization, content selection, and communication. Students were appreciated with certificates and prizes as well.







### LESSON PLAN AND TEACHING

Dr Amna Khalid planned a Lesson Plan and Teaching activity in the class Psycholinguistics on December 22, 2022. Students designed a variety of lessons by keeping in mind learners' differences.

This allowed them some hands-on practice by giving them a chance to prepare and conduct their lessons in a real classroom environment.





## DISPLAY OF FARSI PROJECTS









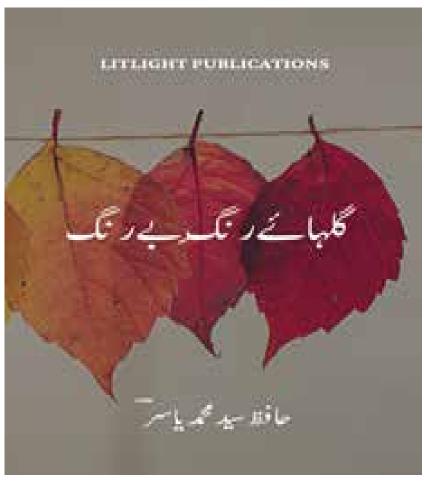




Students in the Farsi sections taught by Dr Muhammad Samiullah in Fall 2022 prepared final projects depicting different themes and explained their ideas to guests using conversational Farsi that they had learned throughout the semester.

### FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Dr Muhammad Asif, Chairperson DELS, participated in Wiley's Research Trainings in October and November 2022.
- Dr Muhammad Asif organized a Taylor Francis webinar on "Peer Reviewer Motivation and Recognition" on Zoom on Nov 20, 2022, and also participated as a Session Chair at the UMT-ILA's "First International Conference on TESOL, Linguistics, and Literature" (ICTLL 2022), University of Management and Technology, Lahore, held on November 28–29, 2022.
- Dr Muhammad Asif participated in PakTESOL and RELO's "1st International Conference on English



Language Teaching Practices in Higher Education Institutes", University of Central Punjab, Lahore, held on December 1–2, 2022 (Dr Muhammad Asif)

- Ms Mah e Nao secured second position in an Iqbal Day competition held at UMT by Team Employee Relations & Engagement for the faculty members on November 14, 2022.
- Ms Mah e Nao was invited to Public News Channel on December 16, 2022, where she talked about her author journey and recited her poetry, including a nazm called "Roshni" paying tribute to the martyrs of the APS incident.
- Ms Mah e Nao was invited to the Civil Services Academy for a program called Sham-e-Sukhan held on February 8, 2023, to recite her poetry to a large audience.
- Meesum Alam, Lecturer in DLC is enrolled in a PhD program with a Fulbright Scholarship in the US.
- Sadia Ashraf, Lecturer at DLC is

completing her Language Teaching Program through a Fulbright scholarship in the US.

- Ms Ayesha Zafar, Lecturer and Coordinator at CFL is completing her PhD at the University of Konstanz, Germany.
- Dr Waqas Sajjad, Head of the CFL, had an article published in the journal Contemporary South Asian Studies.
- Dr Waqas Sajjad presented a paper at a conference sponsored by the British Academy on the history of Pakistan 1947-1971, in January 2023.

### **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT**

PROGRAM Capacity Building Workshop on Outcome-Based Education (OBE)

A workshop was conducted for the faculty members of DLC to train the faculty to learn about the technicalities of the OBE system on February 17, 2023. The committee head Dr Bisma Butt introduced the system with its foundation and purpose of implementation along with the working of the grading portal. Mr Hafiz Syed M Yasir (Member, of the OBE Committee) continued to explain the conceptual framework of OBE which takes Bloom's Taxonomy as an integral part followed by a discussion on the set PEOs and PLOs of the degree programs offered by the department. The interactive environment made the workshop beneficial for the faculty to learn constructively as commented by Dr Arshad Ali Khan (Chairperson, DLC). Ms Sidra Haroon (Member of the OBE Committee)

helped the attendees resolve their queries







### CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DELS organized two interactive Continuous Professional Development (CPD) workshop sessions on February 13 and 14, 2023. The first session was titled Outcome Based Education Report. The workshop focused on uniformity in designing course outlines while familiarizing the faculty with Bloom's taxonomy. Implementing Bloom's Taxonomy will aid in enhancing UMT's ranking while improving the quality of education.

The second session, Effective Classroom Management Techniques: Teacher Preparation and Professional Development, was organized by Dr Nadia Anwar, Dr Muhammad Asif, and Dr Sameer Ahmed. It focused on

the core issues that the students had brought forward in the past two months. The central objectives of the session were to emphasize the importance of prioritizing and the basics of time management while instructors need to adapt their approach to the changing classroom challenges. The session



occurred during the semester break so the faculty members could understand the learners' concerns and share ideas and experiences to improve their skills and provide a better academic environment.

### DEAN'S MERIT AWARD CEREMONY

Dean Merit Award is a prestigious honor given to high achievers of the semester who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance. This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of students who have excelled in their studies. Receiving the Dean Merit Award is a significant achievement that highlights a student's dedication to academic excellence. The ceremony for Spring 2022 was held on January 03, 2023.







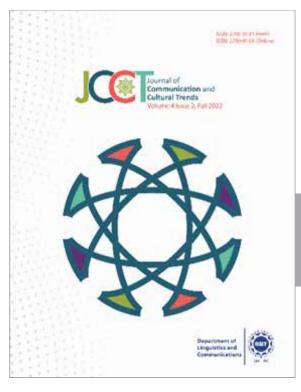
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- Faheem, A. (2022). Postcolonizing Bildungsroman, Erziehungsroman, and Zeitroman: Reexamining the (anti)colonial tropes in The Reluctant Fundamentalist. Forum for World Literature Studies. 14(4). 576-586. [Scopus Q2]
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- Zafar, A., Zahra, K., Kiani, Z., Role of Administration in the Implementation of E-Teaching in Pakistani Educational System" Kashmir Journal of Language Research, VOL. 24 NO. 2 (2021)
- Zafar, A., Habib, A., Pragmatic Competence and Its Development among ESL Learners in Pakistani Context, Hayatian Journal of Linguistics and Literature, Volume 6, No. 1 (2022)
- Zafar, A., Mushtaq, F., Gender Stereotyping in the Illustrations of Urdu Textbook of Punjab Textbook Board, Pakistan Journal of Languages and Translation Studies, Volume 10 Issue 1 (2022).
- A. Saeed., Zafar, A. Saba, Noreen., Evaluation of Integrated ESP Course Using Hypermedia Software for Effective Learning and Teaching in Pakistan. Indian Journal of Economics and Business, Vol. 21, No.3. (Category X., SCOPUS)
- Mohammad Waqas Sajjad, "Contesting the Milad: Deobandis and Barelvis in British India and contemporary Pakistan" (accepted for publication in Contemporary South Asia)
- Mohammad Waqas Sajjad, "Writing History in Deobandi–Barelvi polemics: Conflicting Views of Shah Ismail and Fazl–e–Haq Khairabadi" (accepted for publication in South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies)

## JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Linguistics and Literature Review
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Desertment of Linguistics and Communications

Linguistics and Literature Review (Y Category)



Journal of Communication and Cultural Trends

### **ABSTRACT BOOK - ISSUE 2**

This compilation of thesis abstracts of PhD, MPhil, and BS students as an Abstract Book enables easy access to faculty, current and prospective students, and researchers and scholars from around the world to a variety of topics and content produced by our graduates.

