2016 COLLEGE PLAY

The College Play presented by Daughters of the Stage—an annual Department of English endeavour—was staged on 11th and 12th February. The epoch-making Indian play, Kalidasa’s Abhijnanasakuntalam, was a marvellous medley of student-actors from varying departments. The aptly chosen period costumes recreated the atmosphere of a bygone era to near perfection. The scintillating scene-specific scores added to the beauty of the overall performance. Not forgetting the serene stage setting that beautifully evoked the surroundings of a hermitage.

The biggest surprise of all was that the role of Shakuntala was enacted by Rasha (III Physics), a Muslim student; King Dushyanta by Jennifer (II English), a Christian student; and the role of Bharata, their offspring, by Ishwarya Saran (II Business Administration), a Hindu student. Imagine my delight when I discovered this amazing fact while directing the play. So much for the divine hand at play! The resounding success of Abhijnanasakuntalam, despite the odds, is a testimony of talent and toil, fraternity and faith.

– Dr. Beatrice Anne D’Couto

Department of English
CREATORS’ CREATIONS

A woman is the most extraordinary creature of God. It is she who gives birth to life. It is she who ensures the survival of each one of us. Yet, she by nature faces many problem and challenges. Her creations fail to understand this and hurt her. Why are women targeted by society? What are the issues affecting women globally today? These questions were addressed in a discussion initiated by the International Study Center, the Center for Women’s Studies, and students of Oberlin College’s Dance Diaspora dance troupe.

The event took place on 22nd March, 2016. We were happy to see a large number of students turn up for the discussion. Since the panel itself was multi cultural, each panelist was able to project their ideas strongly to the audience. The students from Center for Women’s studies represented Indian women and raised their voice against the violation of women’s rights, discrimination prevailing in their society; denial of freedoms of speech, life, and dress; eve teasing; and also sexual harassments. They ended up quoting that women have the ability to do anything and are the best.

I represented ISC and spoke about female genital mutilation, a serious issue that threaten more than 200 million women, especially in South Africa and the Middle-East. The Oberlin students Donnay Edmund, Cassandra Brown, and Daniel Speerman focused on issues faced by African American women in U.S. They prepared a presentation and also showed us two case studies to help us understand better.

An hour of heated discussion ended up with a good response from the audience. We succeeded in sparking an awareness. Finally we pledged together to strive our best to contribute to the improvement of the lives of women all over the world.

- Asma Parveen A., II U.G. Math

LET THE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

The 2016 ISC Week celebration took place between 22nd and 26th February. Each day a different event was held. The events are not competitive. The sole purpose of ISC week is entertainment and fun! It is not just for ISCers, it is open to all. The events give students an opportunity to have fun and mingle. It gives the non-members a chance to explore and learn what ISC is all about. This year the timing for Self-financed students was 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and for Aided students 2:45 to 4:00p.m. The timing is convenient for all the students so the events do not clash with their classes.

The theme for the first event (22nd Feb) was PROPERTY DAY. It was an OPEN MIC where students were given a chance to sing solo or in group, to share their experience, and to express their thoughts. Many students enjoyed singing and telling stories. The best thing was that it was not a place for stage fear but just for fun.

The second day (23rd Feb), the event that was celebrated was KARAOKE and the theme was MIX AND MATCH DAY. The students came in funky dress and made the event colorful. The students were again, given a chance to sing but this time, they sang along with karaoke and added more melody to the tunes.

The theme for the third day (24th Feb) was RETRO DAY. The event was JUST DANCE. The stage was now turned into a dance floor where the students grooved to their tunes. They had a great time dancing to the beat.

The fourth day (25th Feb) was SPORTS DAY. Games like lemon and the spoon, and frog racing were conducted. It was a chance for students to play. Although this event was a competitive one, all the participants got involved and enjoyed playing the games.

The events motivated the non-members to join ISC because it is a place where one can gain knowledge, interact, and enjoy. The ISC Week was full of fun and frolics!

- Rachel K., II U.G. English

DETECTIVE WRITER

The skillful writer with simple style was born in Madurai. She has loved writing from childhood. As a child she watched and analyzed people, some of whom were added to her stories.

She is a very good character chooser. Her first collection of mysteries was titled The Open Gate. In the story, there are these unassuming detectives. One of which is the character “Old Man”, who is actually her landlord. Yes, she is the kind of writer who creates the characters of her stories from her surroundings.

She could write a very good climax for the cooked-up stories too. That is why she is so skillful. She was also a poet and a composer of music. She has started writing poems in which she could be popular.

-Nandhini B., II U.G. Math
The month of January marked the beginning of a brand new year and the blooming of new relationships. Ten students from Seoul Women’s University landed in Madurai to take part in the International Student Exchange Program. Of course, LDC students were pretty excited. They would meet visitors coming from the land of K-Drama, which is pretty much the craze now! The service learning experience started off with an emersion into Indian culture. From the metropolitan city of Seoul to the “thoonga nagaram” Madurai, there were certainly some cultural shocks for these city girls.

What were their first impressions? You might ask.

The Korean students saw Madurai as a curious little town plunged into heat waves that seemed to prevail forever—where people honked a lot in a fascinating traffic system! Fast forward, a brief session on the basics of Tamilian culture and visits to the houses of fellow LDC girls gave the visitors a peek into Indian households. Similarities were found in the feeling of warmth on the part of welcome and one’s friendliness with neighbours was familiar. Even though people looked at them with curiosity, they were greeted with a smile wherever they went. This made them feel at home away from home. Other peculiarities that caught their eyes were silly yet important. Things like the range of colours Indians wore everyday, thought Haejin Roh. Seo Hye Seung found it cool that women rode motorbikes. Na Yu-ri and Hyunhee Hwang felt that Indians behaved in a composed manner compared to Koreans.

So, they had a relaxed time here. But on the other hand, they struggled with spicy foods and mosquitoes. Ho Hanbyeol called it, “giving up blood for the puny insects” but at the same time thought it to be a memory which she might never forget.

Cultural nights and lectures gave the chance to further understand Indian culture. They had fun draping sarees, taking part in festivities, and mingling with locals. They visited organizations that specialized in social work to inculcate the way Indian society works. This both inspired them as well as made them ponder.

Lee Kyung Hyun was amazed at the number of organizations that worked to improve the rights of women and Park Jisu found the speeches given at these organizations encouraging. They face similar problems in both societies. Jisu observed that volunteering at Korean NGOs was tougher but was thankful for getting insight into their workings.

Finally, it was time to go back. Moments so fresh, was soon etched in their hearts and minds as memories. Everyone had something to say:

“Healing Time” – Na Yuri  “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” – Haejin Roh
“Treasure” - Seo Hye Seung  “Warmth” – Lee Kyung Hyun  “Harmony’ - Ho Hanbyeol

- Mrudhula Pandian S., I U.G. English

SCRATCH A STORY

On 11th February, at the Madurai Junction railway station platform no. 1, a group of students assembled to board a train to Chennai for a storytelling festival. The students were eager to learn the tactics and techniques of narrating a story. After waiting for an hour, the train came. Rushing like the wind, the team got into the compartment. The scorching sun was not a hindrance for their fun. At 4:00pm there awaited a shock for them. Their instructor announced that the students have four prompts to be completed. Unexpected surprise attack, it was! Accepting the fact of surprise they started scratching the words of stories before even taking part in the story telling festival. Two days of absolute fun filled learning was experienced by them.

Bed time stories and creative criticism added spices to their knowledge. Here are a few of the tips that they shared:

The first steps to becoming a good story teller are to choose a story, draft it, and deliver it. “How to deliver a story to big audience?” Is the major disastrous question of us all. I have the answer for you. Narrate the story with voice modulation, body language, gesture, song and repetition. Take audience with you! Never ever recite a story in monotone, employ different voices for the varying characters. Engage with facial expressions to hand over the emotions to the audience.

Write your story always. Give it a shot, it’s worth it!

- Jaisha Priyam, II U.G. English  
Co-Editor of ISC Newsletter
प्रकृति का संदेश

पर्वत कहता है शीश उठाकर,
तुम भी ऊँचे बन जाओ।
सागर कहता है लहराकर,
मन में गहराई लाओ।
भर लो, भर लो अपने मन में,
मीठी-मीठी मृदुल उमंग।
पृथ्वी कहती है धैर्य न छोडो,
कितना भी हो सिर पर भार।
नमक कहता है फैलो इतना,
ढकलो तुम सारा संसार।

- Sridhivy M., II U.G. English

Call for art work!

Here, I have written something that you should make. Make it fast and do it in hurry. I hope your mind is rushed with thoughts. Pen down your pompous words and shade your paper with pencil art and a colorful sketch. Give it to us and we will give it to all. Email scans to isc@ldc.edu.in or stop by the office.

- Divya Dharshini S.S.
II U.G. English

- Christy Priya P.
II. U.G. English

- Ms. Jansi Rani C.
ISC Admin Staff