



Prof. T. B. Subba
Vice-Chancellor

Message From The Vice-Chancellor's Desk...!

Dear Members of SU Family,

Greetings to you all!

You would have noticed the change of guard in the office of the editor of SU Chronicle. The University is grateful to Dr. Krishna Ananth, Head of the Department of History, for taking care of the newsletter for almost two years and welcomes Ms. Jasmine Yimchunger, Assistant Professor at the Department of Mass Communication, as the new editor. With this change there may be other changes in the newsletter such as its editorial team, its coverage and its style, which are but natural. We all arrange the world around us in the manner it makes sense to us; we cannot be expected to do it in a manner it makes sense to someone else.

The importance of a newsletter cannot be underestimated for any institution. It is necessary and desirable to reach the stakeholders of an institution in time with news that are authentic. There are suggestions to print the newsletter, but printing costs public money and if the stakeholders do not pay attention to freely distributed copies of the newsletter, it will be an insult to the hard work put in by the editor and the editorial team; and if it is priced, hardly any one will buy it. Printing should also be avoided as far as we can, as it leaves a deeper carbon footprint.

I will be happy if the newsletter comes out regularly and on time even if it has just one page in some of its issues.

T. B. Subba,
Vice-Chancellor
Sikkim University

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2015, April 17 : "Juvanis-2015" - Management Fest. Organised by the Department of Management, Sikkim University.

2015, April 25 - 27 : International Conference on Cultural Heritage of Sikkim. Organized by the Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University

2015, April 25 - 26 : National Seminar on "Police, Internal Security and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges in North-East India". Organized by Sikkim University

2015, May 01 - 03 : Three-Day Interdisciplinary Inter-School National Seminar on "Trends in Contemporary Literature : Issues and Perspectives".

For Details: Log on to www.cus.ac.in

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Editor's Note

Much water has flowed under the bridge since the last issue of *SU Chronicle* was published and it's my privilege to re-launch it with my team. With departments and other wings of the university not enjoying a contiguous space, *SU Chronicle* would strive to connect the dots, albeit virtually. And this would be possible only with the contribution of the faculty, students and staff of the University. We appreciate the efforts of contributors to this issue of *SU Chronicle*, and hope that our readers are informed. We shall be looking forward to many more contributions for the following issues. Together we can make this newsletter vibrant and informative. Stay Connected!

Jasmine Yimchunger

Publications

Dr. V. Krishna Ananth, Associate Professor, Department of History, "Achutanandan's Splendid Isolation", EPW, Commentary, March 28, 2015 Volume 1, No. 13.

**NEVER STOP LEARNING,
BECAUSE LIFE NEVER
STOPS TEACHING**

Endless Love



Photography by: Dorjee Sherpa

Field Visits



Students of Department of Political Science during their visit to SLA

Students of the Department of Political Science visited the office of State Legislative Assembly from 16-17 March, 2015. During their visit, they also got the opportunity to attend The Ninth Sikkim Legislative Assembly Session. The Department of Political Science believes that such exposure enables the students to understand the state political scenario better. The students caught a glimpse of the government in action and witnessed live parliamentary debates and policy-making in the Assembly.

Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

Dr. Samar Sinha, Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali, presented a paper titled "Don't lose sight of the forest for the trees: Language vitality and other adventures in the Darjeeling-Sikkim Himalayas" in a conference, Revitalising Endangered Languages: Objectives, Issues, and Strategies, held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, 9-10 December, 2014

Dr. Samar Sinha, Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali, presented a paper titled "Indian Sign Language: Problems and Prospects" at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, 29 December, 2014.

Dr. Dhriti Roy, Assistant Professor, at the Department of Chinese presented a paper titled, "Northeast India and Southwest China, Re-visiting the Unexplored Domain of Historical Contact, Re-thinking Colonial Space" in an international conference on "Reimagining India's Northeast: Narratives, Networks and Negotiations", organized by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia, 4-6 February, 2015.

Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, presented a paper titled "Policy Vision and Initiatives of Sikkim Organic Mission-Strategies and Action Plans" in the Symposium on "Management and Procurement of Integrated Waste Management System" organized by Knowledge Incubation Cell, Centre for Educational Technology, IIT, Guwahati, 6-7 February, 2015.

Dr. Samar Sinha, Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali attended workshops "Introduction to Optimality Theory" and "Child Phonological Acquisition" held at Jawaharlal Nehru University on 9-10 December, 2014.

Dr. Samar Sinha attended a Two-Day Seminar-cum-Workshop on "The Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multilingual Classroom" held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, 21-22 February, 2015.

Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, participated in an "Orientation Programme for Untrained NSS Programme Officers" organized by Training Orientation and Research Centre, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata, 8-14 February, 2015.

Bishnu Lal Bhujel and **Suman Rai**, MPhil students, Department of Nepali, attended Capacity Building Programme on Cultural Resource Management at Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh from 9-12 February, 2015.

Achievements

Biplove Kumar and Monica Lakandri, students of Political Science department bagged the first and second positions respectively at a national level debate competition held in Kolkata recently and organized by the Observer Research Foundation, a leading think tank of India on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing of Panchsheel Agreement between India & China. The motion of the debate was "Panchsheel and Its Relevance in 21st Century". As winners, they will be entitled to two months' internship with the Foundation.

Hemant Kumar Yadav, Ph.D student of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management was felicitated by Hon. Minister R.B. Subba, Minister of Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim on 17th March, 2015 on behalf of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gangtok, Sikkim Zone for his continuous voluntary initiatives in the field of Youth Empowerment in Sikkim. Hemant is an awardee of Indira Gandhi NSS award 2004-05, National Youth Award 2006-07, both from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and Karmaveer Puraskar for Communal Harmony by International Confederation of NGO in the year 2013-14.

Kachyo Lepcha, PhD Scholar in the Department of History and Mr. Ugen Bhutia, who had completed his MPhil dissertation at the Department of Mass Communication had been selected for a workshop on Contemporary Marginalities: History, Knowledge, Theory that was held at CSDS from 9 March to 20 March 2015. The programme was paid for by CSDS.

The Saga of Cultural Translation Carnival this Winter

This winter has been the season of literary festivals, seminars, workshops and activities related to cultural translation across the country. It was the National seminar-cum-workshop, titled, "Memory and Cultural Translation: Poetry and Praxis" on 7 - 8 November, 2014, organized by the English Department, Sikkim University, which marked the very beginning of these events. The students of various departments participated in the workshop, learnt the art of ghazal composition in English and engrafted it with the Nepali folk content, which were set to tune in the workshop itself. This was coupled with an academic session on cultural translation, where students and scholars from the nation were participants. As great ideas spark off at the same time elsewhere, soon after this event which met with tremendous enthusiasm of the university, the Indraprastha University in Delhi in the month of December, 2014 and the West Bengal State University in the month of February, 2015, organized seminar-cum-workshops on cultural translation on different perspectives. The fever of cultural translation could be avidly felt in the two major literary festivals in January, 2015 at the same time. While I could not



go to the Jaipur Literary Festival, I was invited to the Hyderabad one. The Hyderabad Literary Festival took up Urdu as its special language and Poland as the guest country in focus. The revival of the Dastangoi tradition was celebrated through performance in the inaugural session and the festival had for its closing ceremony a brilliant musical presentation of Sahir Ludhianvi's creative life, by Tom Alter, who acted as elderly Ludhianvi himself. In this presentation, some of the compositions by Ludhianvi in S.D. Burman's tune many eyes. I was invited by the organizers of the festival privileged to participate in the panorama of the poetics creative artists, publishers and stalwarts in academics "Endangered Languages of the Nation" included some ways the theme of cultural translation in our Sikkim University workshop. To agree with his epiphanic discourse, languages and cultures are perpetually caravan like in their translation in geographical and temporal space, blurring boundaries and identities into a consciousness of composite "now".

JAYITA SENGUPTA
Associate Professor
Department of English

Sahitya Akademi in the same spirit, organized a Short Story Festival for the first time in Gangtok, in the month of February, 2015, where once again invited as an upcoming writer and academic, I enjoyed reading my short story among the creative writers and listening to a thousand tales in English translation from diverse cultures and contexts within the nation. As vibrations of similar tenor always attract each other, I met Aidan Soder, Professor of Voice, UMKC Conservatory of Song and dance, USA, in Kolkata. She shared with me her work on the cultural translation of Tagore's compositions in Western Classical music, and I was privileged to attend one of her performances in the city. She also came to Sikkim University, as a Fulbright scholar to the English department in February, 2015, to deliver a lecture on the semiotic translation of Shakespeare in opera.

My intellectual and creative pursuits related to cultural translation by sheer chance and co-incidence, took me to the Mizoram University national conference, in early March, 2015, which as a grand closure to the conference, invited the delegates to the Chapchar Kut Spring Festival. The festival resonated with songs betraying Latino and Spanish colonial influences and echoing processes of cultural translation through historical space.

This season of literary festivals, seminars and workshops, with its cultural interface, indeed has been an intellectual and creative carnival of sorts. My mind now experiencing a caravan consciousness feels the explosion of time and space, as I grapple with my epiphanic sensibility of modernity as my existential reality.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy...

TAMANNA TAMANG
IInd Semester
MA (Mass Communication)

Sikkim University in collaboration with Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association organized a 6-day Basic Rock Climbing and Search & Rescue Course from 30th March to 4th April. Forty students from the University took the course.

The course was initiated to equip them with basic ideas about the rock climbing and rescue operation considering the topography of the region and frequent occurrence of natural calamities like landslides and Earthquake.

Vice chancellor of Sikkim University, Prof.T.B Subba was the chief guest for the valedictory function. The Registrar of the University, T.K Kaul also attended the function.

The Vice Chancellor of Sikkim University has been keen to have a trained team in the University who would be available for rescue operations during natural calamities. Addressing the students, Prof. Subba congratulated the students and urged them to inculcate team spirit and be competitive in life and to be able to face challenges.

"Rock climbing also teaches you to be humble and be competitive as well as work with a team for achieving success in life" added Prof Subba. Prof Subba also witnessed the demonstration by the students and

appreciated the efforts of the team of instructors from SAMA who guided the students to complete the course.

The Vice Chancellor handed over the certificates to Ashim Subba and Ongdup Iepcha who were adjudged as the best female and male climbers.

The President of the SAMA also appreciated the demonstration and announced to sponsor the two best climbers from the Course for the upcoming national bouldering competition to be held in Sikkim in May.

K.G. Bhutia, Course Director SAMA, led the course as senior instructor along with a team of other instructors.

Jigme Wangchuk, Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism, and Coordinator, Sikkim University Sports Board, coordinated the training for the students. He said that the objective to organize the course is to train the students on the basics of rock climbing and search and rescue techniques to keep them on stand-by for search and rescue missions in case of any eventuality.



An Awareness Programme on Swine Flu

The Department of Microbiology, Sikkim University, in collaboration with Department of Health Care Human Services and Family Welfare, STNM Hospital, Government of Sikkim, organised an awareness programme on Swine Flu on 11th March,

prevention of swine flu among the students and staff of the University and community at large. More than 100 students and staff members of our University attended the programme.

The resource persons for the programme were Medical Specialist, Dr. Sanjay Upreti, and Microbiologist, Dr. Tara Sharma from the STNM Hospital, Gangtok. They delivered their talk on the clinical and microbiological aspects of Swine Flu, respectively. Dr. Sanjay Upreti gave a general concept

Dr. Tara Sharma delivered the lecture on current status of H1N1 virus in India and on the microbiological aspects of Swine Flu. Moreover, she also reported that Sikkim has no reports of Swine Flu as yet.

Dr. Tara Sharma also demonstrated the method to



Address by Dr H K Tiwari, HOD Microbiology on Swine Flu

2015 at Lecture Theatre 3, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS), Gangtok from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. The programme was chaired by the Dean, School of Life Sciences, Sikkim University, Prof. Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang.

The main objective of the programme was to disseminate the knowledge on the causes and



Demonstration of use of surgical mask by expert

on the causative agent, infective stages, mode of transmission, symptoms, investigation, treatment and diagnostic facilities provided by the State Government.



Participants for Swine Flu awareness program

use the surgical mask as a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to avoid infection. She also said that by following simple and effective preventives measures and a healthy lifestyle one can keep the disease at bay. According to her, vaccination strategy is not 100% effective and only those individuals who are at a higher risk to get the infection may require the vaccination. The lectures were followed by a short interactive session where students from different streams cleared their doubts related to Swine Flu.

An Awareness Programme on Tuberculosis on World Tuberculosis Day, 2015



Dr H K Tiwari giving the talk on Tuberculosis on World TB Day

On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, an awareness program on tuberculosis was organized by the Department of Microbiology, School of Life Sciences, Sikkim University on 24th March 2015 at the New Science Building, Tadong, Gangtok. The main objective of this program was to spread awareness on



Act on TB by MSc Microbiology students

the causes, mode of transmission, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis.

The theme of the programme was the slogan for the year 2015 for World TB day namely "Reach Treat and Cure Everyone." The participants for the programme were the students and faculty members of Department of Geology, Mathematics, Physics and Microbiology.

Tuberculosis still remains a disease with high morbidity and mortality rate. In the current scenario the case of spread of tuberculosis has increased along with incidence of multi drug resistance (MDR) cases. The MDR TB cases are caused mainly due to incomplete course of medication (DOTS) for tuberculosis. Thus, this type of awareness program helps to spread the message of danger related with this disease and information regarding its preventive measures and control. One of the objectives of this program was also to engage students to participate in such events which will not only increase their knowledge but also help to develop their communication skills and event



Audience of World TB Day celebrations

management which will help them in future prospects. The proceedings of the programme included a presentation on tuberculosis by Dr. Hare Krishna Tiwari, Head and Associate Professor of the Department of Microbiology followed by a skit performance by the students of the Department e n t i t l e d

"Reach, Treat and Cure Everyone." A presentation on medication of tuberculosis (DOTS) was

given by Ms Meera Ongmu Bhutia, PhD student of Microbiology. A poster competition was also organized and in this event the MSc II semester students of Microbiology have participated. The first prize for best poster was awarded to the team consisting of Mr Zeesan, Mr Minajul and Mr Rana. Second prize was awarded to Ms Pallavi Kumari and Ms Priyambada was awarded the third prize. The judges for the poster competition were Dr B M Tamang, Dr Bimala Singh and Dr Md. Abdullah Khan.



Judges evaluating the posters on World TB Day



Team of Organizer of World TB Day 2015

SU Celebrate International Women's Day



Mrs. Rehna Rai, Chairperson, State Women Commission, speaking at the International Women's Day celebrations at Sikkim University

Sikkim University, Department of Political Science celebrated the International Women's Day on 13.03.15 at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan. Mrs. Rehna Rai, Chairperson, State Women Commission (Sikkim) was the chief guest and the guest of honour was Ms. Yosa Lachenpa, Legal Officer, State Women Commission.

Two special lectures were delivered respectively by Mrs. Rai, and Ms. Lachenpa on the topic "State Women Commission: Performance & Role" and "Women in Sikkim: Issues & Challenges". Mrs Rai spoke on the various initiative and measures taken by the Commission for the promotion and protection of women's rights in the state of Sikkim. Ms. Lachenpa spoke about the various problems and issues the women in the state face. She said that the Department of Social Welfare is implementing various state sponsored schemes which are helping the women effectively. She also shared with the audience her practical experience in dealing with different types of cases and problems related to women in the state.

A video clip portraying the injustice prevailing in the society i.e. the practice of "dowry", "abortion practice", "sexual harassment" etc was screened. Poem recitation and speeches by the students of Political Science on women related issues and problems followed the screening.

Certificates were distributed to the students by the Chief Guest who participated in speech and poster competition based on women's rights and empowerment.