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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to present the November and December issue of the SU Chronicle. The month of November has been quite a significant one in the history of the University as we welcomed the Honourable President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind as Chief Guest to the fifth Convocation ceremony of the University.

We congratulate Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang on being conferred with the prestigious Mountain Chair Title for 2019-21 in an event that was held in Kathmandu on 5th December 2019.

An MoU was also signed between SU and SMU on 14th November 2019 with an objective to encourage collaborative research.

I hope we continue to witness such events and activities in the coming days.

Kunjini Prakash Darnal

Fifth Convocation 2019

The 5th Convocation of Sikkim University was held on Sunday, 3rd November 2019 at Mannan Kendra, Gangtok. Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was the Chief Guest during the Convocation. Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim and Chief Rector of Sikkim University Shri Ganga Prasad and Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) were present as the Guests of Honour in the Convocation. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) D. B. Shekatkar, Chancellor of the University, presided over the Convocation proceedings. During the Convocation degrees were bestowed upon the students who had passed out in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. More than 200 students were awarded Gold and Silver medals. Out of 122 Gold medals, 74 were received by girls. President of India handed over Gold medals to 11 medalists in person.

The Convocation was held in two phases at Mannan Kendra, Gangtok on 3rd November 2019. In the first phase, students who had passed out in the year 2019 were bestowed degrees and medals. The second phase of the Convocation was for students who had passed out in the years 2017 and 2018.



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National Seminar on Educational Psychology

The Department of Education organised a two day National Seminar on “Recent trends in Educational Psychology” on 11th and 12th November 2019. The inaugural session of the Seminar was held at the Cauveri Hall of the University on 11th November 2019. The Chief- Guest for the inaugural function was Dr. SM Sungoh, Department of Education, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Vimal Kishore, Associate Professor and Dean, School of Education, Central University of Jharkhand. The proceedings of the inaugural function was presided over by Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Dean, School of Life Sciences and the officiating Vice- Chancellor of the University. The Seminar aimed at focusing on the recent trends in Educational Psychology and aimed at exploring several themes that recur in the reforms of Educational Psychology. It also aimed at providing a platform to the educationists and research scholars to think over the changing scenario in the filed of Educational Psychology.



Music Workshop at Sikkim University

The Department of Music organised a four day Workshop on Dhrupad Music by Padma Shree Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar and Carnatic Instrumental- Violin by Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Mysore Manjunath from 13th to 16th November 2019. The inaugural function of the Workshop was held on 13th November 2019 at the Cauveri Hall of the University. The Chief- Guest for the programme was Shri Indra Hang Subba, Honourable Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Sikkim. Padma Shree Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar is a renowned Indian classical singer of the Dhrupad genre and the son of Dhrupad singer Ustad Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar. He was awarded the prestigious Padma Shree in the year 2010. Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Mysore Manjunath is an Indian Violinist. He has travelled extensively and performed all over the world. He is amongst the most popular musicians on this instrument and is especially popular with the younger generation for his creative improvisations. He is one of the youngest recipients of the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award by the Government of India. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare was extremely happy to welcome the music maestros to the University and hoped that the Worksoip would benefit the students in more ways than one.



Two Day National Seminar

The Department of History organised a two day National Seminar on “Reimagining the History and Traditions of the People of Sikkim” on 14th and 15th November 2019. The inaugural function of the Seminar was held on 14th November 2019 at the Conference Hall, Barad Sadan. The Chief- Guest for the programme was Shri Tsewang Topden, former Ambassador of India to Greece. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Dean, School of Life Sciences. Prof. Tamang highlighted ethnic fermented food of Sikkim and their similarities with the ethnic fermented food of the other parts of India and the world. The inaugural function was chaired by the Registrar Sh. T.K. Kaul. The history of Sikkim spans across the traditional knowledge of the indigenous people, their encounters and interactions with Tibetans and Namgyal Dynasty, education and governing system of the British and missionaries and of late the political culture and system of the Union of India. Ruled since 1642 by the Chogyals of the Namgyal Dynasty, the erstwhile landlocked kingdom of Sikkim merged in 1975 as the 22nd state of the Union of India. The presence of the British Political Officers in Sikkim and their policies brought many changes in the history of the state which had a lasting impact. In order to understand the history and culture of Sikkim it is essential to know Sikkim’s relation with the neighbouring kingdoms like Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet. The democratic movement and the rise of political parties in Sikkim have opened a plethora of opportunities and a new chapter in the history of Sikkim. The Seminar aimed at narrating the lifestyles, cultural practices and knowledge systems that are untapped by the academia and encourage the scholars to reimagine the history and traditions as it is practised. The Seminar also aimed at looking into the different aspects of the history and traditions of the people of Sikkim.



MoU between SU and SMU

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Sikkim University and Sikkim Manipal University on 14th November 2019. Both SU and SMU have entered into an agreement to promote relations and mutual understanding to recognise their strengths in research and education in one or more disciplines of science, engineering, management and Medical and Allied Health Sciences. Through this MoU, both Universities seek to promote and develop academic co-operation by jointly engaging in research and training programmes and also to jointly organise seminars, conferences and workshops on topics of mutual interest. SU and SMU also agree to explore opportunities to exchange information on research and training/ learning material and other literature relevant to their educational and research activities.



The Tempest

On the 26th of November 2019, the Department of English staged Shakespeare's play "The Tempest" at Manan Kendra at 3pm. Students from schools, colleges, universities and the National School of Drama were invited to be a part of the in-house production. Local gentry and the staff and Secretary of the Cultur Department, Govt. of Sikkim were also present. Although it is well known that all Shakespear's plays take three hours, this play was shortened to a duration of one hour, keeping in mind the technicalities pertaining to the production. The play revolved around Prosperina's revenge after having been thrown out of her kingdom by her conspiring brother. It involved magic and romance and these were the elements that were highlighted in the production. This production was the first of its kind put up by the Department of English of the University. Vice- Chancellor Pof. Avinash Khare, the patron of the play emphasised the importance of English language in contemporary times. He also expresses his appreciation for the ffort of the Department in helping to keep theatre culture alive in the area.



International Recognition to Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang

Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Dean, School of Life Sciences, has been awarded the prestigious Mountain Chair Title for 2019- 21 by Dr. David Moldedn, Director General of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) at Kathmandu on 5th December 2019. It is an honorary title that is conferred to a prominent scholar with excellent track record and substantial experience on mountain issues in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region. The objective of this title is to promote inter- university co-operation to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative research and training for sustainable mountain development in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region.

Through a rigorous review of academic profiles and proposals and virtual interviews by an international panel of senior experts, the Selection Committee highly appreciated the outstanding achievements of Prof. Tamang in micro-biological studies of fermented foods of ethnic people in the Eastern Himalayas. It also recognised the inspiring role model that Prof. Tamang has advanced as a scholar who has passionately devoted his career for the documentation and promotion of indigenous knowledge and well-being.

