

A Profile

Dept. of English, Bhattadev University, Bajali

The Dept. of English, Bajali College synchronizes its existence with the establishment of Bajali College itself which has recently been upgraded to Bhattadev University, Bajali (25 June' 2019), after the doyen of an illustrious son Assamese literature Baikunthanath Bhagawat Bhattacharya. It came into being as a natural corollary of the establishment of the College in 1955, August 16. It has been an integral part of the college since then. For more than six decades, it has rendered yeoman's service in the academic domain apart from contributing to the social and cultural milieu of the locality. At the initial stage, only I.A./P.U.(under G.U.) and later H.S.(under A.H.S.E.C.) along with B.A./B.Sc. pass course were offered by the dept. Later, B.A.(major) course was introduced which is presently the Hons. course under CBCS system. The Dept. has shown exemplary performance in teaching and guiding the students in different academic activities for more than six decades.

Since Prof Nambudari, who was the first faculty to serve the dept., it has been fortunate to have had many hard working teachers who served the department with great distinction. Some of the former faculties have retired and some have gone to other services. Prof MM Dutta, a former faculty of the Department, became Principal of North Kamrup College, Baghmara and then he became the Principal of MNC Balika Mahavidyalaya, Nalbari, where his contribution to the upliftment of the college was substantial. Prof R N Sharma, former HOD of the department (now late), went to Sonapur College as principal and served with distinction. Another former HOD, Dr DK Mahanta did his research on *the Problem Comedies of Shakespeare* under Dr Hiren Gohain, a scholar of great international repute. **Dr Mahanta is widely respected as an authority on Shakespeare.** . At present, the faculty of the department consists of the following teachers:

(1) D.P. Mishra, Associate Prof and H.O.D.- Language and

Essay

(2) Mrs. C.R.Deka, Assistant Professor- American Literature

(3) Dr. A.K.Sharma, Assistant Professor- American Literature

(4) Jnanesh Roy Choudhury Assistant Professor- Indian English Literature

(5) Aniheeta Langhasa Assistant Professor- American Literature

(6) Jugabrat Choudhury (Guest Faculty)- Literary theory and Criticism

(7) Sima Kalita(Guest Faculty) - Literary theory and Criticism

"The Wheel of Thought", an annual wall magazine is also brought out regularly by the department. It is believed that there is life in movement and death in stagnation. The wheel denotes motion."The Wheel of Thought", thus, stands for the movement of ideas. It is a humble attempt on the part of the department, to encourage the ***germination of creative thoughts or ideas and their progression thereof.*** It is worth mentioning here that its maiden edition was adjudged the third best wall magazine in the Inter- departmental Wall Magazine Competition in the Annual College Week Festival, 2011. The students, who worked with exemplary zeal for its publication, deserve kudos for this achievement.

Departmental Seminars/Activities

The department organizes workshops, talks and seminars regularly for the benefit of the teachers and students alike.

- In October, 1997 a state-level seminar was held on ***Problems of teaching English in the Rural Colleges of Assam.*** Prof Tabu Taid and Partha Sarathi Mishra, then lecturer, Cotton College graced the seminar as resource persons. SN Talukdar, the then principal, acted as the director of the seminar while MC Das, the then MLA, Patacharkuchi LAC was the chief guest. A souvenir was also published.
- In 2003, while inspecting the Department, ***the NAAC Peer Team*** praised the Departmental Journal. Only the Department of Philosophy, apart from it, had a journal to its credit at that time in Bajali College
- In 2007, a comprehensive workshop on the proficiency in English was held in order to equip the students of Bajali College and the neighbouring

colleges for competitive examinations and campus interviews. This two-day long programme was held on December 6 & 7, where Partha Sarathi Mishra, Swapon Dowereh and the teachers of the English Department of Bajali College acted as resource persons and trainers. It was inaugurated by Mr. C.M. Sarma, the then president of the G.B. of Bajali College.

- In 2009, a state-level seminar was held **on *Problems of Teaching and Learning English***. Prof GP Sarma, former Head, Department of English, Gauhati University, Prof Anita Tamuli, Dept of ELT, Dr Madan Sarma, Head, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University and Dr Gautam Bora, Associate Prof, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur university, and Thaneswar Malakar, a senior administrative officer, Govt. of Assam and a well known writer, participated in the seminar as resource persons. Teachers from several neighbouring colleges actively participated in the seminar.
- The English department of Bajali College organized a day-long student centric departmental seminar on **November 4, 2011** on two topics viz. (a) ***The Universality of Shakespeare and (b) G.B. Shaw as a Social Reformer with special reference to Saint Joan***. Inaugurating the seminar Dr.D.N.Sarma, Principal, Bajali College opined that academic activity such as seminar, symposium, workshop etc. which involves both the teacher and the taught should be so designed as to cater to the needs of both. He also emphasized the need for the students to comprehend the objectives for which it is organized. Dr.D.K.Mahanta, Retd.H.O.D, English, Bajali College and Dr.R.P.Singh, H.O.D., Barama College graced the event as resource persons. DP Mishra, HOD, English coordinated the seminar. The faculty of the department took part in the discussion on both the topics. There was a lively interaction among the participants of the seminar. It was acknowledged, by one and all present in the seminar, to be a laudable effort on the part of the department.
- A departmental seminar for BA 1st Semester(Major)students was held on **October 18, 2012** on ***Modern Elements in Chaucer***. Dr DK Mahanta, the resource person, shared his vast knowledge and deep insight on Chaucer in particular and Literature in general with students and teachers of the department. D.P.Mishra, HOD, English moderated the seminar. In his

speech Dr. D.K. Mahanta explained and clarified how Chaucer achieved the sense of realism and anticipated the modern taste in literature. In his opinion, realism is typical representation of characters under typical circumstances and Chaucer achieved this type of realism in his literary works. He also highlighted on Chaucer's marvelous gift of characterization and humor and stated that all the categories of humour: wit, pure humour and fun were invariably present in his "The Canterbury Tales." There is no doubt that all the participating students were greatly benefitted by this discussion.

- **On May 10, 2013**, a departmental seminar for B.A. 2nd Semester (major) students on **(i) Salient Features of the Augustan Age or the Age of Reason & (ii) Salient Features of The 19th Century Romanticism** was held in room no CR-13. Dr. DK Mahanta, who acted as the resource person dwelt elaborately on both the topics. His inspired speech, full as it was of his trademark witticisms, scholarly precision and clarity was of immense benefit to the students who participated freely in the discussion. Moderated by DP Misra, HOD, English, HC Haloi, CR Deka and AK Sharma, all faculties of the department of English, also spoke on specific issues of the relevant topics. Earlier Dr. DN Sarma, Principal, Bajali College, while inaugurating the seminar laid emphasis on the need for updating the students' literary knowledge.
- **May 20, 2013**: A departmental seminar was organized for the students of 4th semester, (Major) on **Defining Postmodernism, with special reference to Ragtime and Literature of Exhaustion**. Dr. DK Mahanta, Retd. HOD, English, Bajali College presided over the seminar while Dr. RP Singh, HOD, Barama College acted as the resource person in the same. Dr. RP Singh's consummate scholarly and teaching skills were in abundant display when he eased all the students and teachers alike into the complex yet fascinating aspects of post-modern literature. DP Misra, HOD, English made a special mention of this in his vote of thanks.
- **September 28, 2013 :The Wheel of Thought**", the annual wall magazine is brought out by the department. Dr. DN Sarma, Principal, Bajali College, Bajali College, Pathsala unveils this 2nd autumnal issue of the wall magazine.
- **February 16, 2014**: Prof. Avinash Binniwale, former Professor of German Literature, Mumbai University, Mumbai visited the department. He was

formally welcomed by Dr.D.N.Sarma, Principal, Bajali College. He stressed on the need for exploring other languages and literature as it widens the horizon of the mind. Moreover, he pointed out, it paves the way for students to explore various career options. The students as well as the teachers took a keen interest in his suggestions and there was a lively interaction with him. DP Misra, HOD, English offered his sincere gratitude to Prof. Binniwale for sharing his vast knowledge of German language and literature with the students and teachers of Bajali College.

- **August 18, 2014:** An extensive interactive lecture on ***The Efficacy of Functional English in an era of globalization*** is arranged for BSc 1st Semester students. Prof. D.P. Misra, Associate Prof. & HOD, English, Bajali College conducted the session while Prof. H.C. Haloi, Retd. Associate Prof., English, and Prof. A.K. Sharma, Asst. Prof ,English, Bajali College explained nuances of Functional English as a discipline.
- **September 26, 2014 :** A departmental seminar each for BA 1st Semester (M) on (i) ***The Universality Of Shakespeare*** & (ii) ***Evaluating Chaucer : Modern Perspectives*** and For BA 5th Semester (M) on ***Life Writing as A Literary Genre*** organized. Dr. DK Mahanta, Retd. HOD, English, Bajali College and Dr. C. Dencing, Associate Professor &Head, Dept. of English, B.H.B. College, Sarupeta acted as the Resource Persons for the former and the latter respectively. Dr. DK Mahanta presided over the seminar. ***The Wheel of Thought***”, the annual wall magazine is also brought out by the department. Prof. H.C. Haloi, Retd. Associate Prof., English, Bajali College, Pathsala unveils this 3rd autumnal issue of the wall magazine.
- **January 28, 2015 :** A departmental seminar each for BA 2nd Semester (M) on ***Augustan Age in English Literature*** and For BA 6th Semester (M) on ***New criticism and its characteristics*** organized. Prof. M. Prasad, Retd. HOD, English, North Kamrup College, Baghmara and Dr. C. Dencing, Associate Professor &Head, Dept. of English, B.H.B. College, Sarupeta acted as the Resource Persons for the former and the latter respectively. Prof. D.P. Misra, HOD,English, Bajali College presided over the seminar.
- **April 22, 2015:** A departmental seminar for BA 4th Semester (M) on ***Literature of Exhaustion- A postmodern Approach*** organized. Prof. H.C. Haloi, Retd. Associate Prof., English, Bajali College, Pathsala and Dr. R.P. Singh, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of English, Barama College,

Barama acted as the Resource Persons for the same. Prof. D.P. Misra, HOD, English, Bajali College presided over the seminar.

- ***The Wheel of Thought***, the annual wall magazine is brought out by the department. Prof. S.N. Talukdar, Retd. Principal i/c, Bajali College & President, GB, Bajali College unveils this 4th autumnal issue of the wall magazine.
- ***September 29, 2015*** : A departmental seminar for BA 3rd Semester (M) on ***Browning and The Dramatic Monologue*** organized. Prof. A.K. Sharma, Asst. Prof, English, Bajali College, Pathsala and Jugabrat Choudhury, Lecturer, English, Bajali College, Pathsala, acted as the Resource Persons for the same. Prof. D.P. Misra, HOD, English, Bajali College presided over the seminar.
- ***November 20, 2015*** : A departmental seminar each for BA 1st Semester (M) on ***Modernism in Chaucer*** and For BA 5th Semester (M) on ***Biography and its Generic Significance with special reference to Life of Pope*** organized. Prof. M. Prasad, Retd. HOD, English, North Kamrup College, Baghmara and Prof. H.C. Haloi, Retd. Associate Prof., English, Bajali College, Pathsala, both guest faculties in the Dept. of English, Bajali College acted as the Resource Persons in the seminar. Prof. A.K. Sharma, Asst. Prof, English, Bajali College presided over the seminar.
- After the upgradation of the College into Bhattadev University, a day long seminar on the topic "Indian Classical Literature" was held on 15.11.2019 in the digital conference hall of the University. The Seminar held under the chairmanship of Prof. B.K. Das, Vice Chancellor of the University was addressed by Prof Shrutidhara Chakravarty, Professor of Sanskrit, Gauhati University. All the faculty members of the English department including the Hons. students of 1st year CBCS course actively participated in the seminar. A Faculty member of Bhawanipur Anchalik College along with the students actively participated in the seminar.