

Ever since its re-launch in 2014, *Crossings* has created a stir among the academic community. The launch of Volume 6 coincided with the two-day international conference on “Language, Literature and Community” jointly organized by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB and the local chapter of the American Center.

Professor Jenny Sharpe of Comparative Literature and Gender Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) presented the keynote paper at the conference held at ULAB on July 10-11, 2015. The two-day conference was inaugurated by the secretary to the Ministry of Education, Md. Nazrul Islam, with deputy chief of US Embassy in Dhaka, Ms. Ann McConnell, in attendance.

A total of 75 speakers, representing Bangladesh, India, South Korea, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, took part in the conference. For this special volume of *Crossings* we have peer-reviewed the papers submitted and selected 23 articles for publication. The underlying themes that connect these papers involve an exploration of the relationship between language and literature within the frame of English Studies.

We are living in a time when liberal arts are threatened by the rise of new consumerism and conservatism. English Studies is responding to the threat by opening up its avenues and becoming interdisciplinary in scope. It is more than a department that teaches language or literature; it is a discipline that shapes and influences our community here and abroad. The papers collected here actively respond to such changes in English Studies. We hope these articles will offer fresh ideas and perspectives, and contribute to the ongoing debates about the questions of language, literature and community.

We must thank our ULAB VC Professor Imran Rahman and Pro-VC Professor Jahirul Haque as well as our friends at the American Center, Ms. Ann McConnell, Mr. George Mesthos, Mr. Calvin Hayes, Ms. Sara Denne-Bolton, and Ms. Raihana Sultana, for their wholehearted support in making the conference and its consequent outcome, this special issue of *Crossings*, possible. We hope our collaboration and cooperation in mutually beneficial areas will strengthen in the future.

Finally, we would like to invite scholarly papers, articles and book reviews for the next volume of *Crossings*. For details, please consult the Note to Contributors.

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