

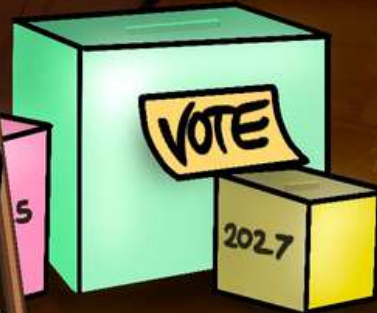


SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL
FOR LIBERAL ARTS



THE NEWSLETTER

concise. committed. understated.



VOL. VIII | ISSUE NO. 2 | '23 - '24



Illustrated by: Aryan Gupta

INDEX

01 **A Glimpse into
Student Body
Elections**

*Written by Yashwin Jain &
Edited by Aditi Agarwal*

02 **Navigating
Interpersonal
Relationships**

*Written by Chiranshie Vyas &
Edited by Abhinav Viswaroop*

03 **The Slovakian
Cyborg and Her
Ways of Seduction**

Written by Anushka Satpathy

04 **The Bhoot Bazar
Chronicles**

*Written by Sangana Ghosh &
Edited by Lavanya Joshi*

05 **A Halloween on
SSLA's Street**

*Written by Shaunak Chodankar
& Edited by Aditi Vaidyanathan*

06 **Exploring the
Inner World of
Artistry and Cinema**

*Written by Harshita Jindal &
Edited by Mourya Sai*

07 **Dandiya Night:
Dance the Night
Away**

*Written by Athira Narayan &
Edited by Ananya Ray*

08 **Club & Cell
Engagements**

*Written by Anobita Dutta &
Edited by Hashita Dandamudi*

09 **Tips & Tricks!**

*Written by Yashwin Jain &
Edited by Aditi Agarwal*

11 **The TNT
Crossword**

Illustrated by Angad Malhi

10 **Faculty &
Student
Achievements**

*Written by Rugmini Kalithodi
& Edited by Sanjana Rajesh*

12 **Found in Translation:
An Exchange with the
Exchange Students**

*Written by Miva & Edited by
Aditi Vaidyanathan*

EDITORS' NOTE



Greetings SSLA!

One could argue that we have a faster response time than F1 drivers - yes, we're back again! And we bring to you SSLA's freshest news, replete with interesting quotes that will make you wish you too were on campus.

The second half of the first semester was as exciting as the first one - read on to learn about the student council elections, our exciting Halloween celebration, and field trips galore. If you're a fashion enthusiast, our column is a must read for a refreshing and lesser known story. Make sure to solve the TNT crossword too! We assure you that you would understand the Cells in SSLA much better.

Also note that, if you've ever wished to climb the ranks at SSLA, we suggest that you ensure you read the Tips and Tricks this time - we promise some sound advice that'll hopefully pave the way to your success.

Finally, we would like to thank our Faculty-In-Charges, Prof. Ananya Dutta and Prof. Damini Kulkarni for taking all our ideas on board and supporting us through this process. We also want to emphasise on the efforts made by the entire Newsletter team, who strived to bring you the updates of the remaining semester!

This is also your quarterly reminder to follow us on Instagram in case you aren't already - we promise to make it worthwhile -> [@tnt_ssla](https://www.instagram.com/tnt_ssla)

Over & Out,
Ananya Chaure and Shreya Iyer
Co-Editors, TNT Volume VIII

A Glimpse into the Student Body Elections

Written by Yashwin Jain, Edited by Aditi Agrawal



The posters hung all over campus and candidates lobbying for votes indicated the commencement of election season for the year.

In the whirlwind of activity and excitement that began with the release of applications, SSLA witnessed a robust display of democracy during the 2023-24 elections of the Core Committee of the Student Council.

October 10th marked the beginning of the process of determining SSLA's leadership for the upcoming academic year, as that was the day the applications officially opened. The pivotal role of the Student Body President, along with the responsibilities of the four respective Batch Representatives were up for grabs. The names and SOPs of the candidates were released on 24th October, which gave the student body a glimpse into their vision and goals. The stage was then set for an interesting round of Batch Interactions and the Presidential Debate.

Batch Interactions, held on October 26th and 27th, served as a platform for the candidates to convey their plans directly to their peers. They candidates underwent rigorous questioning, with presenting of their ideas, engaging in intra-candidate questioning, and facing questions and concerns from their batchmates.

The highlight of the elections though, was definitely the Presidential Debate. Held on 28th October, in the MPH, it was a stage where the three contenders - Ahana Bhattacharji, Ahaanaa Singh, and Sruthi Venkatraman, presented their introductory and secondary notes. The debate saw candidates intensely question one another, followed by questions from the student body. The candidates then submitted their manifestos for the student community to make decisions and raise further questions.

The elections reached their peak on 30th October, marked by the voting hours, following which the results were announced.



The candidates engrossed in the Presidential debate



The all-important ballot boxes set up for the elections

Savni Apte was elected as the Batch Representative 2027, Shaunak Chodankar emerged victorious for Batch 2026, and Samikshya Panda clinched the position for Batch 2025. Unexpectedly, the Batch Representative 2024 post faced a 'NOTA' decision, and the decision to choose the candidate is now in the administration's hands. And finally, the overall responsibility of the student body was entrusted to Sruthi Venkatraman, who garnered the highest votes among the presidential contenders. "When I heard the results, I was really shocked and it honestly took me a while to process the fact that I won by such a wide margin. I consider it a great honour to be chosen by the student body and can't wait to get to work," she shared.

Samikshya Panda, the new Batch Representative 2025, expressed gratitude for the transparent communication from the student body Secretary Sheuli Banerjee, "I liked how there was always clarity in communication - thanks to that, I was aware of deadlines and procedures as I applied."

The winds of change are blowing, and SSLA's new student body leaders are tasked with ensuring the needs of their peers are fulfilled while upholding the spirit of SSLA.

Student Council 2023/24

President of the Student Council	Sruthi Venkatraman
Batch Representative (2024)	Abhinav Viswaroop
Batch Representative (2025)	Subarna Maitra
Batch Representative (2026)	Shaunak Chodankar
Batch Representative (2027)	Savni Apte
Secretary	Akaansha Singh
Campus Officer	Khwahish Vig
Cultural Officer	Rudraksha Kenge
Events Coordinator	Yayathi K P
Grievance Officer	Drishti Shukla
Hostel Representative	Yuvakshi Gupta
Sports Coordinator	Reva Shah

Lecture on Navigating Interpersonal Relationships

*Written by Chiranshie Vyas
Edited by Abhinav Viswaroop*



On the 10th October every year, World Mental Health Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of mental well-being, and to strive towards ensuring that every individual has access to mental healthcare. This also marks the day the SSLA's Psychological Association (SPA) was founded four years ago. To mark this occasion of dual significance, SPA hosted a guest lecture titled 'Navigating Interpersonal Relationships'. The speaker invited for this lecture was Prof. Chaula Patel, a visiting faculty member at SSLA who has also been practising as a professional counsellor for over 30 years. Conducted in the MPH, the lecture was attended by students and faculty members who were each presented with a green ribbon that symbolises mental health awareness. Before Prof. Patel took to the stage, SSLA's director, Dr. Shweta Sinha Deshpande, addressed the audience and stressed upon the importance of mental health in a post-pandemic world.

Prof. Patel began her lecture by mentioning the existence of various kinds of relationships and acknowledging that relationships with others and oneself are an important facet of every individual's life. She spoke about how, among all kinds of relationships, the relationship with the self is the most neglected. Through her lecture, she tackled various questions and doubts people have about relationships and love, as well as the purpose of relationships, barriers in love and self-love, conflicts in relationships, types of communication, and gender differences.

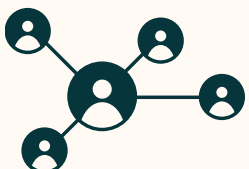
Following the lecture, students were invited to ask questions publicly or anonymously. Students posed questions like "How to navigate through relationships with people-pleasing tendencies?" and "Is it important to label relationships?". Prof. Patel answered the audience's questions and encouraged them to ask more. Though the allotted time for the lecture was over, the session did not conclude just then. Interested students and faculty who did not have classes continued the Q&A session with Prof. Patel, moving from the MPH into an unused classroom. Ananya Bhagwat (Batch 2025), co-editor of Psyche, SPA's magazine, said, "Professor Chaula very insightfully placed one's relationship with oneself at the centre of all interpersonal relationships. The lecture was thoroughly enjoyable from start to finish". This lecture successfully kicked off SPA's activities for the academic year 2023-24.



The SPA team and faculty members post the event

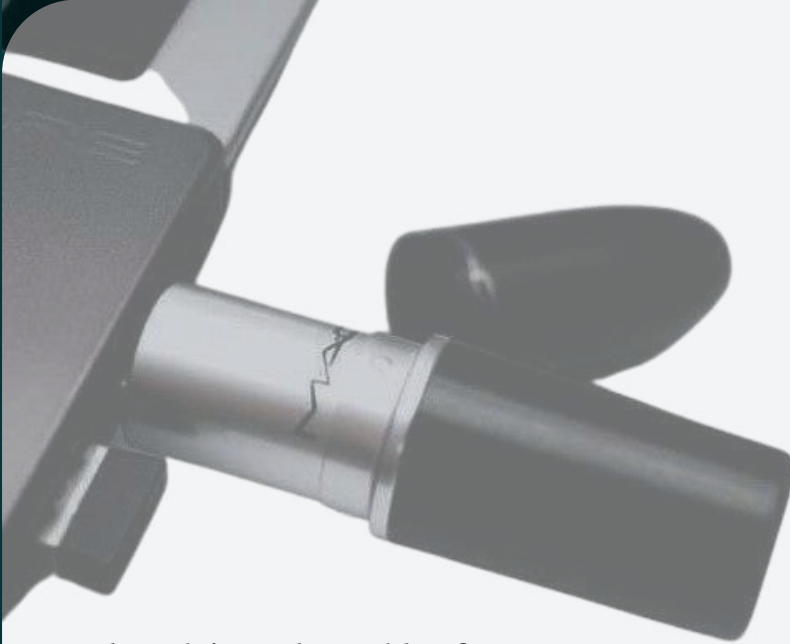


Prof. Patel engaging the audience with a lively discussion



The Slovakian Cyborg and Her Ways of Seduction

*Written by Anushka Satpathy,
Edited by Ananya Chaure & Shreya Iyer*



young to comprehend, they smiled, thinking of her as a young girl with a bright future. And while Katrina's parents naively thought of her as a delicate and docile girl, she was spying for the Czechoslovakian government.

At the tender age of 14, Katrina was discreetly recruited as a spy to embark on a journey into the realm of espionage, unbeknownst to her family. She underwent a transformative programme that not only equipped her with physical resilience, but also taught her the artistry of psychological manipulation, weaving it with a flair for both offensive and defensive driving manoeuvres. It was in this curriculum that she mastered the covert skills of escape and evasion.

During her formative years, she juggled her life as a spy along with a modelling career on the side in addition to her education, compromising on none of them. She was the perfect spy, for her reserved demeanour prevented her from drawing the attention of the public, and her modelling career shielded her from the very possibility of suspicion.

Shortly after turning 19, Katrina was recruited to work for a private security and investigation firm, specialising in executive protection, surveillance, anti-industrial espionage and international investigation, successfully completing over 100 international missions - a testament to her intelligence. After the dissolution of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia, she moved to America. Despite her petite build, her intellectual prowess landed her jobs of bodyguards to millionaires, through which she waltzed her way into the elite social scene of Bushwick, Brooklyn and Manhattan.

In the cloistered world of 90s couture, Katrina Barillova emerged as a fashion rebel by anachronistically taking to modern minimalism through her line of "wearable computers". Her intellectual prowess, aesthetic vision and petite build caught everyone's attention - including the government's.

All Katrina knew of as a child were surreptitious visits to foreign buildings, intriguing devices that seemed like they had arrived from a far, unlivable future that felt almost alien, and a life filled with strangers in an inhospitable land. Katrina's parents did not have the slightest idea of her double life. The political climate of her times compelled Barillova to start sewing clothes for herself from a young age. The salaries remained low and international trade was limited, leading to a lack of access to a range of choices in terms of fashion. While she quietly sewed clothes, they were under the impression that she was just a young girl exploring hobbies. While she quietly solved what seemed to be mathematical problems that she was far too



She carefully utilised her newfound status of a fashionable New York socialite and the connections it entailed - one of them being her future business partner Alex Lightman (with whom she founded Charmed Technology, an MIT Media lab spinoff based in Beverly Hills, California, that aimed to make chic, wearable computers). Katrina combined the art of inconspicuously incorporating technology in clothing that aided her former investigative career, along with her now refined sense of American aesthetics. It was the late 90s in an America that did not believe in tackiness, embracing glitter and glamour with unwavering fervour. With the arrival of the Macbook, the Internet and Facebook, she could sense the arrival of minimalism in aesthetics that would soon plague modernity. A visionary. She seized the opportunity, and thus was born her career in haute couture.

The “Writer in a Fashion Magazine in New York” syndrome had taken over the 90s, wherein beautiful romantic summer dresses and frilly and feminine hems were all the rage. Katrina emerged as an avant-garde rebel in these times. Her models donned sleek and futuristic eyewear and belts with built-in technology, with minimal to almost no additional detailing on their garments. Barillova’s clothing looked nothing short of the exaggerated idea of a spy from a film in the 2000s. Maximalism in 90s fashion died a slow death, and Katrina’s artistic direction was an elegy to it. Sadly, despite her ingenuity, Charmed Technology remained ungratifyingly shrouded from the public, eventually disappearing into oblivion.

Niche fashion archives and engineers from the 90s remember Charmed Technology as an ambitious startup with a brief stint in success, that eventually failed due to its lack of an organised marketing team and investors. Perhaps her designs were a bit *recherché* for the public, but not for the engineers of Bay Area who couldn’t get enough of words like “Big Data”. Scruffy Computer Science boys from Vanderbilt University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology were modelling for Charmed Technology in Manhattan’s fashion shows, much to the chagrin of the mysterious elites seated in the audience, who were expecting glamorous New York socialites instead.

After her lifetime as a spy for a government, a model, bodyguard to millionaires and an entrepreneur, Katrina eventually retracted from the spotlight after making millions. She now spends most of her time accelerating the development of cruelty-free products across multiple industries. There is very little of her that one can piece together through obscure parts of the Internet. She has not been immortalised in a Wikipedia page yet, but this elusiveness does not stall her creative and marketing genius.



THE BHOOT BAZAAR CHRONICLES

Written by Sangana Ghosh

Edited by Lavanya Joshi

From 16th to 31st October, the nooks and crannies of Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts (SSLA) became a haven for the strange and the eerie. After all, that was when Bhoot Bazaar, the spookiest event of the year, was held. Bhoot Bazaar was a collaborative venture hosted by Tapestry, the creative writing publication at SSLA, and Natak Society, SSLA's theatre club. The aim of the event was to celebrate the mysterious with a collaboration of creativity and thespian artistry. Tapestry organised a writing contest from 16th to 20th October, inviting students to submit stories based on nine objects they had arranged evocatively in the SSLA Common Area. The display included a ghungroo, a lock, a white dupatta, a mirror, mismatched *jhumkas* (earrings) in a wooden box, a broken sickle, a wad of letters, a plate-pot with flowers scattered in it and a lamp. The students were fascinated by this exhibition and it soon became a focal point in the Common Area. Over the span of four days, the students could often be found engaged in conversations with their peers about these objects. The Tapestry representatives who were present during the exhibition encouraged people to weave tales about the uncanny.

After a thorough examination of the submissions received, Aditi Agrawal (Batch 2026) and Chinmaye Devireddy (Batch 2027) were announced as the winners of this contest by Tapestry.



The Natak Society then carried forward the Bhoot Bazaar event, spreading its haunting melodies throughout the campus. The members of the club put up a play for Halloween at 7:45 pm in the Performance Studio. The Natak Society built upon the stories written by Aditi and Chinmaye to establish a setting and form for their play. The narrative delved into the persistent cycle of tapris or roadside stalls encroaching on roads and pavements, their relentless demolitions, and their haunting reappearance. In the play, the tapri was a human-formed structure by four people; in fact, so were the benches in the tapri. The play's brilliance lay in its dialogue-light approach, where every emotion and story beat was conveyed through evocative physical movements. The play also broke away from the conventional mould by not assigning the audience fixed seats. The production allowed the audience to play an active role by compelling them to move with every shift of the tapri's dynamic presence. The ghungroos displayed by Tapestry were retained in the play and their sound became a motif, ringing every time the tapri was demolished. The lighting in the performance studio also added to the spectral atmosphere with singular spotlights casting a glow on the tapri. The lights blacked out as the play ended, allowing the audience to linger in the immersive experience, creating the perfect spooky ending to Bhoot Bazaar.



The assortment of bewitching items

A HALLOWEEN on SSLA's Street

Written by Shaunak Chodankar

Edited by Aditi Vaidyanathan

As the mist began to rise and the thick air began to creep, the SSLA community was drawn into the wonders and witchcraft of ye olde Hallow's Eve! 'Twas the 31st of October and everyone on the Third Floor was all for the spooky spirit on campus.

One spotted students adorned in costumes and faculty dressed as ghosts. The festivities were initiated in the Common Area during the lunch hour, with the performers from Bandemonium (SSLA's Music Club) putting together a spectacle by performing popular spooky hits such as 'Animals' and 'Muskaanein Jhooti Hain.' Kari, SSLA's in-house art and design magazine, set up a tarot-themed immersive experience, which intersected psycho-analysis and gothic horror art, literature and films, for those who dared to risk knowing their own future!

Other activities and decor included a mugshot stand, which was set up by Shutter Up (the photography club). Here, students got to make mementos of the day by having pictures taken in their creative costumes. They also got to show off their creativity by coming up with the various crimes they committed, displayed on a board as they lined up to take a mugshot. To add to their costumes and spooky looks, the Art Club invited students to have their face painted as if their 'zombie' skin were falling off, or have whiskers and fangs, among other fancy designs of their desire, to represent their hidden wild side.



The tarot card reading sessions keeping the students enthralled



One of many unique games set up by the Art Club

The stalls were coupled with a dash of competition to amp up the engagement – The Art Club set up an 'Eyeball Toss' game, whereby students throw balls designed to look like eyeballs into cups at varying heights along with a cybersecurity quiz set up by the students of the *Network Security Essentials* elective, to commemorate 'Cybersecurity Awareness Month.'

The spooky spirit continued into the after hours of the college day, with the Karaoke Club organising a Halloween special Karaoke night for the students and a much anticipated performance by Tapestry (SSLA's creative writing publication) and the Naatak Society. And it was on that spooky note that Halloween 2023 came to an end.

Exploring the Inner World of Artistry and Cinema

Written by Harshita Jindal

Edited by Mourya Sai

With the crack of dawn on 12th October, 2023, the Art, Philosophy & Society class embarked on their journey to Mumbai, where they visited the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre [NMACC] exhibit and the Chemould art gallery. The class saw 'Run as Slow as You Can', a show curated by Italian surrealist photographer-art director duo Maurizio Cattelan and Pierpaolo Ferrari, which showcased unconventional pieces spanning across four floors of the art gallery at NMACC. It displayed an amalgamation of surreal, different and impressive pieces. The idea behind the exhibit was to make its audience sit with the art they were witnessing. Rachana Jadhav from Batch 2025 stated, "The NMACC exhibition drew from the surrealist art movement and left me completely overwhelmed by the end. The images were vibrantly absurd and were meant to disorient the viewers. It was also interesting to come up with our interpretations of these images. We were also able to connect the theories of the philosophy of art to what we were seeing."

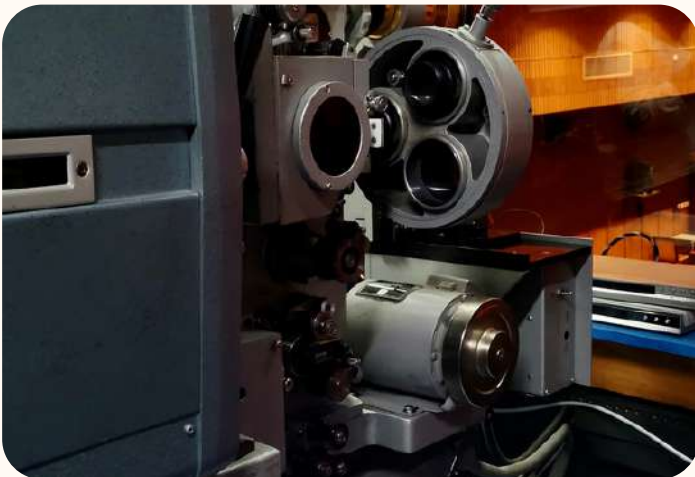
The second exhibit at the Chemould art gallery was part one of the 60 Years of Chemould celebration, titled 'CheMoulding - Part 1 - Framing'. It consisted of various artworks from multiple artists focalsing on the theme 'time and memory', essentially mapping the journey and various milestones of chemould as an art gallery. Another student said, "Both the exhibitions were wonderful examples of what we had been learning in class. The setting in which it was exhibited was also interesting to analyse."



SSLA students studying the art displays at the NMACC centre

The exhibition at Chemould was a different experience as we got the opportunity to talk to the curator of the exhibition, who walked us through the various artworks and answered the many questions that we had". Overall, the field trip not only brought to reality the discussions of the classroom but also offered a space for students from the different batches to interact with each other.

On 26th October, 2023, Film Studies and Hindi Cinema students visited the National Film Archives of India [NFAI]. The visit lasted from 2 pm to 5 pm and included a detailed account of the inner workings of the Archive. The students were split into two groups and taken to the vaults, projection room, library and documentation & research centre. In each section, a person in charge of the designated area told the students about their work, the materials they used, and the history as well as future scenarios. The archive comprised a variety of carefully curated posters, celluloid, lobby cuts, photographs, projectors, trade guides, magazines and rare artefacts. Students were able to acquire knowledge from people who are an active part of the preservation process. This opportunity enriched the understanding of the world of cinema and invited a dynamic lens into what happens behind the curtain.



The National Film Archives of India with an impressive array of film tools

DANDIYA NIGHT :

Dance the night away

Written by Athira Narayanan

Edited by Ananya Ray



On 16th October, the usually empty quadrangle of the Symbiosis New Viman Nagar campus transformed into a vibrant spectacle as SSLA (Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts) organised a series of festivities related to Navratri. The annual SIU 'Dandiya Night' unfolded with a symphony of excitement, cheers, and garba moves, with students and staff from SSLA, SLS (Symbiosis Law School), and SSIS (Symbiosis School of International Studies) all gathered together. The event commenced at 7:30 pm, as students entered the quadrangle adorned in colourful outfits and accompanied by dandiya sticks. As the music played loudly, both staff members and students found themselves drawn into lively circles, where they danced the night away. Witnessing staff members let loose and embracing a celebratory spirit was one of the highlights of the evening.



Students decked up for the Dandiya night festivities



Students across Symbiosis assembling for the Dandiya Night celebrations



Students dancing till their feet hurt

The DJ experimented with Gujarati, Bollywood and even English music, feeding off of the energy of the crowd that was enthusiastically grooving and cheering to the beats. As the last notes faded away, the students came together to take pictures in an attempt to seize the experience for the sake of memories (and social media!) before they reluctantly began moving out of the quadrangle, pulling curtains on the event.

CLUBS & CELLS ENGAGEMENTS

Written by Anohita Dutta

Edited by Harshita Dandamudi



ICBV

SSLA's Poetry Club, ICBV, held a session on performance poetry for Batch 2027 on 13th October. The session focused on the process behind performance poetry in order to help students prepare for the Writing Across Genres' (core course) SEE.

A follow-up workshop was held on 17th October. During this session, students were divided into three groups and handed five slips of paper printed with prompts. They had to identify the emotion of the prompt and perform their piece in a tone that differed from the same.

The activity was engaging and resulted in discussion around tools used in performance poetry, such as body language, tone, and facial expressions.



ICBV club members participating in the Writing Lab session

Photography Club

SSLA's Photography and Art Club collaborated to put on the Halloween Photo Booth. As part of this activity, the clubs set up a stall allowing students to get their pictures clicked with a variety of props made by members of the Art club.

Everyone who posed for a picture was given a printout of their pic, ensuring that the memory of Halloween '23 at SSLA was locked in!

Orator's Club

In this academic session, the Orator's Club has been revamped into a space for anyone who enjoys coming together to have a good time, as opposed to what it was once perceived to be - a space only for 'speakers'. Head and Secretary Athira Narayan and Tanisha Menon introduced the concept of an 'Orator of the day' for each meeting, wherein club members could host meetings with an activity of their choice.

Natak Society

Natak Society teamed up with Tapestry to put together Bhoot Bazaar, a collaborative endeavour in which students were asked to submit stories based on several prompts designed by Tapestry members. Out of these submissions, two winners were chosen (Aditi Agrawal of Batch 2026 and Chinmaye Devireddy of Batch 2027), and Aditi and Chinmaye's stories served as a foundation for the Natak Society's play, providing the backdrop and framework.

Karaoke Club

The Karaoke Club hosted an exciting Halloween karaoke night on 31st October, in which participants were encouraged to come dressed as their favourite music artists. The event took place in the MPH and was attended by numerous enthusiastic participants.



The students getting their queries addressed at the COP session

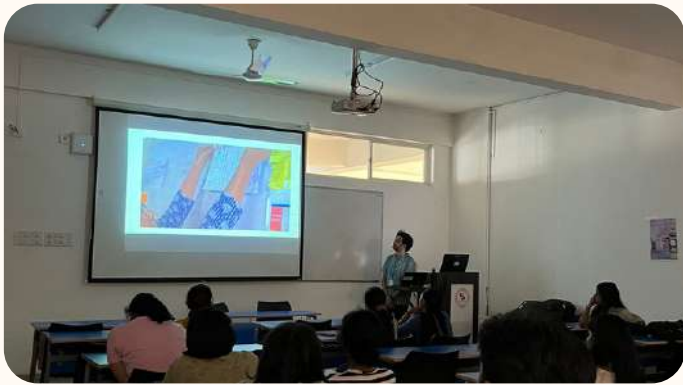
CO CELL



Since September, the Community Outreach Cell has successfully carried out two individual Community Outreach sessions for Batch 2027 to equip them for their upcoming Community Outreach Project.

These two sessions were held on 8th September and 7th October in the MPH. The first provided background into Project Ecology; a longstanding collaboration between SSLA, Society for Christ Jesus, and Ecosphere Connect. The second was centred around 'Exploring Connectedness,' looking into the connections between human beings and understanding how we are even more connected than we think.

Both sessions were engaging and interactive, helping our first years better understand the Community Outreach Project and its importance.



Engaging sessions with the Career Cell

Career Cell

The past few months have been a busy time for the Career Cell as they hosted several interactions. These sessions were hosted in the MPH and attended by students from several batches.

The session held on 29th August was part of SSLA's lecture series *Navigating Your Career*. The speaker, SSLA's visiting faculty and Associate Professor of Marketing at DePaul University, Chicago, Dr Zafar Iqbal, was invited to provide guidance and direction to students of SSLA.

The next session was a workshop on the writing of Statements of Purpose aimed at educating students of batches 2024, 2025, and 2026 on how to write effective CVs and SOPs.

On 5th November, Teach for India hosted a session to elaborate on the importance of the social impact sector and the scope of social work as a career.



Volunteers ready up and early for the cleanliness drive

Evergreen



On October 1st, the Evergreen Club hosted a cleanliness drive along New Airport Road. This event was carried out under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaign called 'Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta' by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Govt of India.

Students were given masks, gloves, and garbage bags as they moved along New Airport road to collect trash. This was gathered together and disposed of in a garbage trolley. Security guards and housekeeping staff aided them in this process.

The activity resulted in the cleaning of the area outside our campus.

Alumni Cell

On 6th October, the Alumni Cell hosted an address by Megha Siddhanta, an SSLA alumna currently pursuing clinical psychology at Yale University. The address explored some fundamental aspects of studying abroad, including the application procedure, and what one should expect.

The session was held online and attended by many students interested in studying in the US.

Bandemonium



SSLA's Music Club displayed the talent of its members during the Halloween celebrations, as they came together to perform several songs in the common area on October 31st. Everyone who attended enjoyed the melodious tunes, and some say that the spooky energy could be felt in the air!



Tips & Tricks!



A guide to moving up the ranks in your favourite clubs and cells!

Written by Yashwin Jain, Edited by Aditi Agrawal

"Which club or should I choose?" "How do I move up the ranks?" "What should I do?" "Will it be too much work? These are questions we commonly grapple with when it comes to joining clubs and cells at SSLA, and more specifically, wanting to lead them (*CV boost calling!*).

SSLA has a vibrant extra-curricular culture. The numerous options ensure that students are spoilt for choice. We feel we want to be a part of everything, but then face the quarterly existential crisis of balancing them with assignments and studies.

Since joining the Overtime Tribune (SSLA's in-house sports publication) in my first year, I knew it was special because it just stood out for me. I was struck by the desire to lead it and make things happen. Now in my third year, I was fortunate enough to get that chance as co-head. Along the way, I've realised and noticed many things that could be helpful for people in the same boat. So here's a curated list of tips to move up the ranks, or to just become a better member in the clubs and cells that you absolutely love:

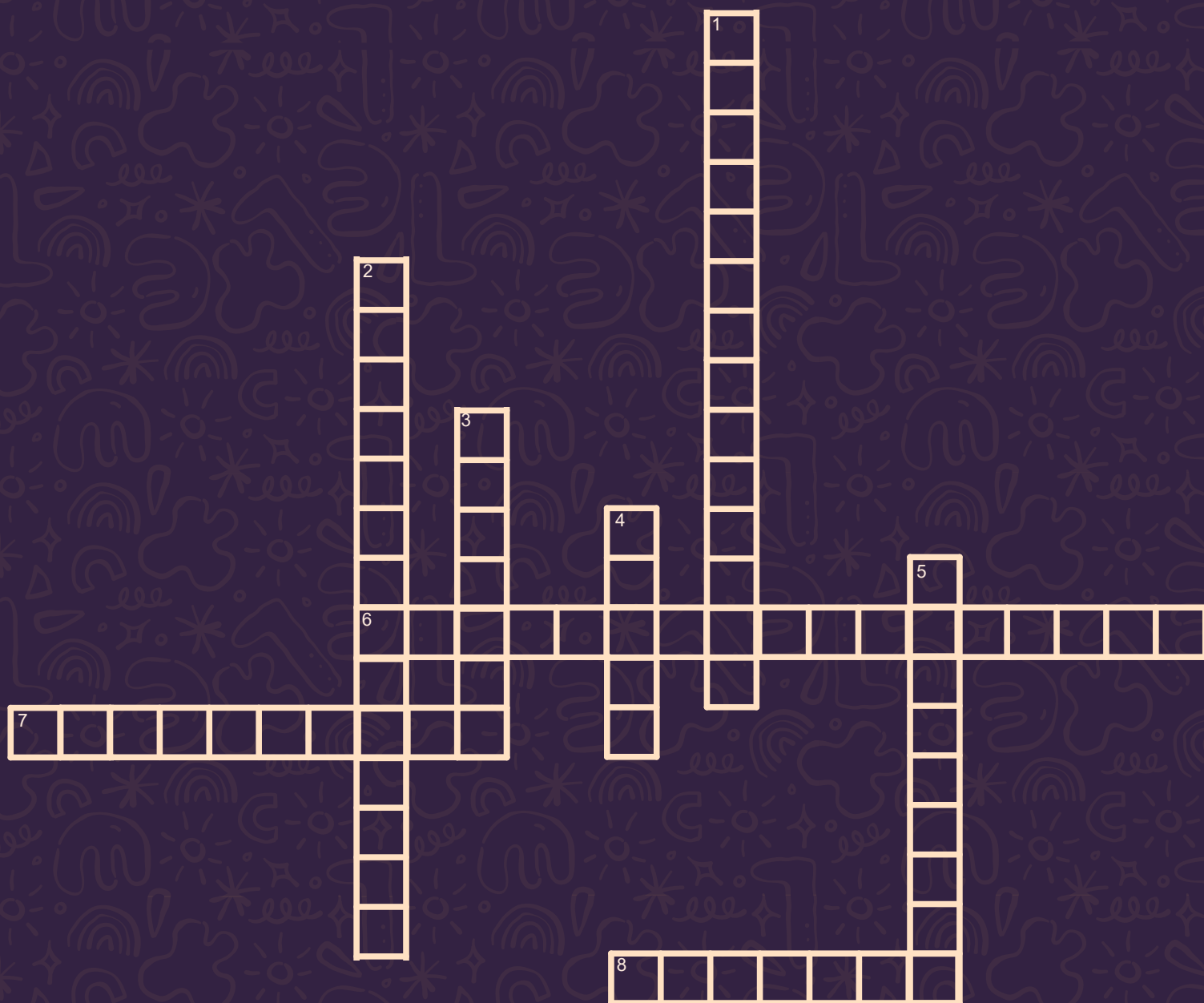
- **Prioritise quality over quantity:** We're all eager to join many clubs and cells, but then we hesitate because of a potential increase in workload and of course, academics. At this stage, making a list of clubs and cells that align with your interests and joining a few of them each semester is a good option to understand their functioning and goals. I would say, use your time in the first and second year for this.
- **Building a strong network:** This is a key ingredient if you want to move up the ranks. It's all about networking.
- **Proving reliability in initial roles:** Show commitment - learn to manage your time effectively alongside your other commitments.



- **Balancing and delivering on expectations** in a timely manner creates a good impression.
- **Open communication:** Create a good, dependable and trustworthy rapport with the club/cell's current heads.
- **Attend all team meetings on time, adhere to deadlines, and make sure that you acknowledge team texts on time...** Often taken for granted, these things go a long way in getting into the existing leaders' good books, and will make you stand out as dependable and passionate about the club/cell.
- **Problem-solving:** Coming up with possible solutions to any hurdles is crucial as it shows your commitment and care towards the club/cell.
- **Need for continuous learning to evolve and grow:** Strive to learn something new regularly and try taking small steps out of your comfort zone. This will make you confident and versatile.
- **Make an effort to come across as someone who is approachable.**
- **Become a good listener:** Following instructions is key. Don't just say it, do it.
- **Build a good rapport with the admin and faculty:** Talking to faculty and admin is a significant part in taking on roles of responsibility - you will need their help for obtaining permissions and approvals.

Though there's no strict formula for success, following these tips will help you strongly recommend yourself as a suitable fit for higher positions in the club/cell. Also, you'll feel extra motivated if you're passionate enough. Enjoy the process!

The TNT Crossword



ACROSS

6. Where hopeful MUNers aim for glory
7. The gateway to SSLA
8. Facilitators of Level I of your Big 4 submissions

DOWN

1. Your (official) Instagram liaison to SSLA
2. Official promoters of cross-country education
3. Enthusiastic advocates of SSLA nostalgia
4. Tired of answering "Why can't we mint more-"
5. Advocates of abstaining from emoji usage

FACULTY

ACHIEVEMENTS

Written by Rugmini Kalithodi, Edited by Sanjana Rajesh

DR. SHWETA SINHA DESHPANDE



Dr. Shweta Deshpande was invited as a speaker for the 'Knowledge India Visitors programme', on 4 to 6 December 2023 organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to address the concerns faced by Indian knowledge and language departments around the world.

DR. SULAKSHANA SEN



Dr. Sulakshana Sen travelled to DePaul University, Chicago, USA with support from both SIU and DePaul, to take forward the international collaboration between the Global Learning Engagement of DePaul and the Global Immersion Programme of SSLA.

Their article titled 'Curriculum and Community with Research, Action, and Service (CCBALwRAS), a Pedagogical Shift for Social Change' published in the journal 'Higher Education for the Future' puts forth a support strategy for participatory community-based interventions by formally inducting higher education institutions (HEIs) to achieve long-term sustainable, workable solutions for local communities.

MS. GAYATRI MENDANHA



Ms. Gayatri Mendanha's article 'Rending Delusion's Veil: Buddhist and Mystic Insights for a Polarised World' has been accepted for a review and will be published in the journal 'Applied Philosophy and Rational Ethics: Indian Perspectives'.

FACULTY

ACHIEVEMENTS

Written by Rugmini Kalithodi, Edited by Sanjana Rajesh



DR. RENU VINOD

Dr. Vinod published her book 'Modernity in India: Issues, Perspectives and Challenges.'

The book offers a sociological analysis of the impact of colonialism on the rise of modernity in India and its implications for the country's polity, economics, and society.

MR. UDAY SINHA

Mr. Sinha and his team of students, namely, Ishita Ghoshal, Ishita Ghosh and Saylee Jog published a paper titled 'FDI Inflows into Select Market Economies - A Macroeconomic Investigation Using Panel Techniques'. Their paper was published in 'The Economic and Political Weekly'.



DR. KISHORI KASAT

Dr. Kasat published a paper titled 'Implementation and Recognition of Waste Management System with Mobility Solution in Smart Cities using Internet of Things' in October 2023. The paper proposes a system with a user-friendly interface that can help to identify hotspots, forecast trends in garbage generation, improve collection routes, and produce alerts for upkeep and service needs.



SCIMATH LECTURE SERIES

The Scimath lecture series was recently organised by SSLA titled '1 Evening, 3 Talks: 2023 Nobel Prizes in the Sciences' on November 4th, 2023. The presence of the eminent guests, Dr. Kanaka Raju Pandiri, Prof. P K Khanna and Prof. Vineeta Bal made the session a huge success. The session was engaging, interactive and in true SSLA fashion, produced discussions connecting various disciplines.

FACULTY

ACHIEVEMENTS

Written by Rugmini Kalithodi, Edited by Sanjana Rajesh

MS. DAMINI KULKARNI

Dr. Damini Kulkarni, contributed a review of the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival to the digital archive Critical Collective upon invitation in November.

She was also invited to record three classes for the course, Film Appreciation: Genres, for the Ministry of Education's online SWAYAM platform on 8th and 14th December.



MR. AKSHAY RANADE

Prof. Akshay Ranade, conducted a workshop titled "Reflections on Rising India at the Global Stage" for Management, Economics, and Law students at PES University, Bangalore. Additionally, he presented his research at the Young Research Conference on "India and the 'Reformed' Multi-Polar World Order" hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, on October 6, 2023.



DR. BARRY RODRIGUE

Dr. Rodrigue and his team of SSLA students propitiously published the first volume of the SSLA ecology magazine, 'Parijat'. This issue discusses inspirations, future visions and a plethora of captivating articles on all things nature and human.



MS. IPSITA GAURI

Ms. Ipsita Gauri was invited to collaborate with the International Transport Worker's Federation to contribute to the ITF Mental Wellbeing Program. Under this collaboration, she conducted research on the mental health and well-being of transport workers around the world and recognised the unique challenges they face in their demanding roles.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Written by Rugmini Kalithodi, Edited by Sanjana Rajesh

KHWAHISH VIG



Khwahish Vig, a fourth-year SSLA student, was selected as a youth representative of the Indo-Greek Forum delegation. The event, organised on 20th October, 2023, was a cultural collaboration to improve relations between India and Greece. Khwahish received an award from Mr. Thanos Paraschos, founder of 'StartUp Greece', a non-profit organisation for Greeks in technology.

SSLA WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM



The SSLA Women's Football Team achieved third place in the SIU Football Tournament, led by Captain Atiriya Narayan (Batch 2024) and Vice Captain Zoya Parwani (Batch of 2026). Team member Amalya Moni (Batch 2026) recounts her experience, "Although we couldn't secure first place this time, I am so proud of how far we have come as a team. We will come back with twice the fervour next year."

SSLA's ever-enthusiastic spirit never dies, and we will be back in the next issue with more illustrious achievements. Congratulations to all those mentioned above for their incredible work!



Found In Translation

An Exchange with the Exchange Students

Written by Miva, Edited by Aditi Vaidyanathan



Amidst the halls of the Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts, three semester exchange students from Leiden University - Jort Gerrits, Marijn Menzel, and Francesca Zanlugo, gathered to share their intriguing insights into their experiences, revealing how they not only navigate their host setting but also influence and shape the spaces they enter, uncovering the reciprocal nature of their impact.

Can you tell us why you chose to participate in a semester exchange program?

Jort Gerrits

Well, my major back home is International studies with a specialisation in South and South East Asia. I'm also learning Hindi as a language. Intuitively, it just felt like the right thing to do. I was introduced to India through philosophy, and that sparked my interest in Buddhism, Hinduism, South Asian politics, and so on.

Francesca Zanlugo

Yes, our university really encourages the program. Jort and I share the same specialisation and language, so India was a natural choice for me.

Marijn, you have a different specialisation. Can you share your reasons for choosing a semester exchange?

Marijn Menzel

Sure. My specialisation is in East Asia with Mandarin as my language. I didn't want to go to China due to political reasons, so I chose another country that's economically booming. My love for economics has been a significant deciding factor.

If your host university or institution and SSLA were characters in a movie, how would you describe their unique personalities and quirks?

Jort Gerrits

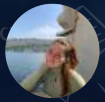
Institutionally, Leiden is stricter, while Symbiosis comes across as an ADHD kid, always active but managing to succeed.

Marijn Menzel

I think academically, it's like Jake and Amy from Brooklyn Nine-Nine. Amy feels more SSLA, due to the competitive nature of the people here, while Jake embodies our student body's relaxed demeanour.

Francesca Zanlugo

I was thinking more institution-wise. Amy personifies Leiden with her rule-abiding disposition. On the other hand, with his spontaneous attitude, Jake feels more SSLA.



During your exchange, what notable cultural differences and shocks did you experience, and what cultural or linguistic aspects did you learn or share?

Jort Gerrits

Before coming here, I already knew a bit about the country and language, but being a Westerner in India is a completely different experience. People stare, take pictures without asking – some even film you randomly. It's odd yet interesting. I'm sure I'll take some phrases home with me, like 'chalo' or adding 'na' in texts. Unlike the Netherlands, life here seems to be an ongoing celebration. From the diverse food to the constant buzz of activity, there's always something lively happening, like the vibrant Garba celebrations in Viman Nagar.



Francesca Zanlugo

Traffic was a significant challenge, no doubt about it. Even though we heard about it beforehand, experiencing it firsthand was a different story. Then there's the constant unsolicited picture-taking. Initially, we entertained some requests, but in crowded areas, we preferred not to, yet that didn't deter some from uncomfortably recording us. The diverse food options here surprised me, but nothing compares to the taste of food back home. Since my family lives in Italy, I've kept up the same level of communication with them as I did back in the Netherlands.



Marijn Menzel

So, one thing I've noticed is how frequently people socialise here, whether after classes or during breaks. There's also a much livelier party scene compared to what I'm used to. Interestingly, a friend mentioned I occasionally have an Indian accent! I was pleasantly surprised by the affordability and convenience of ordering items here without any minimum order requirement, such as that of around ₹1000. In the Netherlands, that amount could cover a day's dining out or a week's worth of groceries.



In what ways has SSLA facilitated your introduction to India, and how has this interaction influenced SSLA's perception of you?

Jort Gerrits

I'm genuinely grateful for SSLA's adaptable approach, which has significantly aided my introduction to India. Despite hearing unsettling accounts about engineering colleges here, my experience, while not exempt from challenges, has been a positive and enlightening one.



Francesca Zanlugo

While my course offered limited insight into India, being here has transformed that perspective, allowing for a more in-depth study of this fascinating country.

Marijn Menzel

I have regrets about not enrolling in courses specifically focused on India. However, my interest in business studies, unavailable in Leiden, aligns with my aspirations for future education. While I'm preparing for my Master's, my deeper understanding of this place mostly stems from the friendships I've formed here.

Finally, what advice or tips would you offer to students considering a semester exchange in the future?

Jort Gerrits

Try not to compare everything to your home country. Embrace the differences and be open to new experiences. It really helps in making the most of your exchange.

Marijn Menzel

It's a lot of fun, so go ahead and do it. Enjoy being away from everything for a while!

Francesca Zanlugo

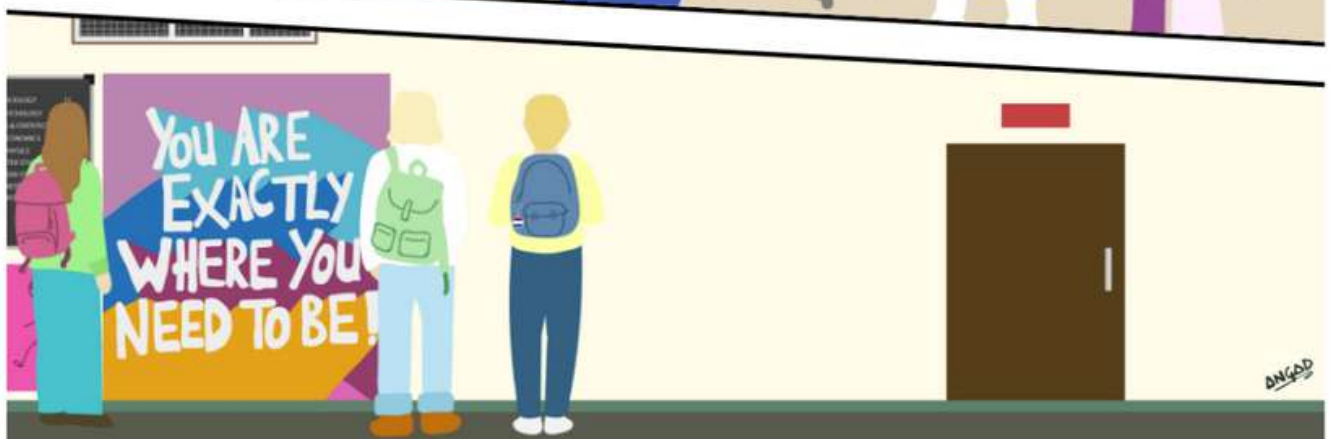
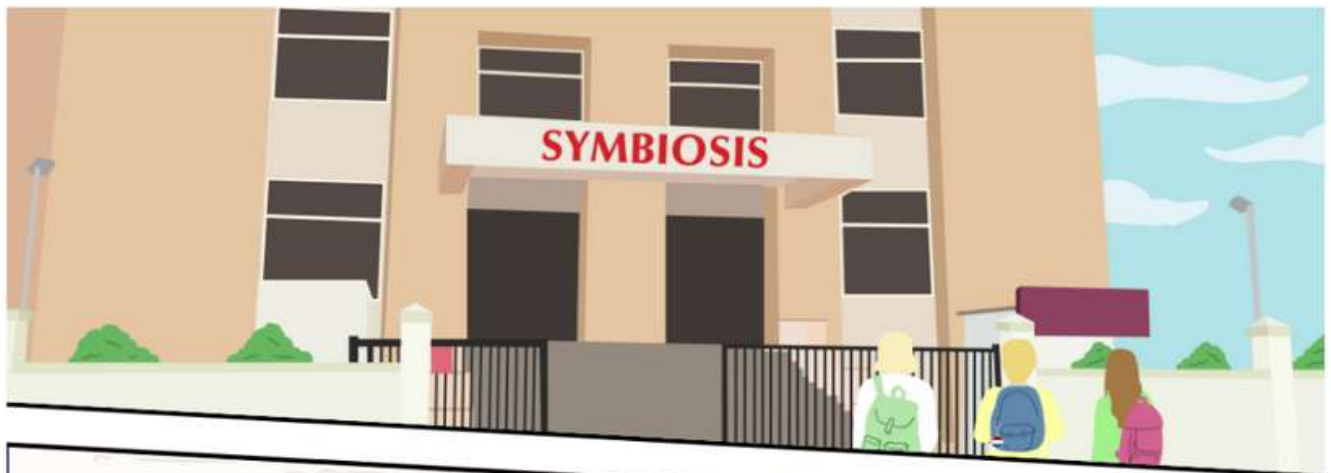
Especially if your program involves a cultural collision like International Relations, it's a great opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and explore.

Jort Gerrits



PANEL VISION #2

SSLA in Panels: The Exchange Student Perspective



the newsletter team.



Co-Heads:

Ananya Chaure and Shreya Iyer

Faculty In-Charge:

Ananya Dutta and Damini Kulkarni

Writers:

Yashwin Jain, Chiranshie Vyas, Harshita Jindal, Sangana Ghosh, Athira Narayan, Anohita Dutta, Miva, Riddhi Rohatgi, Rugmini Kalithodi, & Shaunak Chodankar

Editors:

Abhinav Viswaroop, Neha Pillai, Aditi Vaidyanathan, Harshita Dandamudi, Lavanya Joshi, Mourya Sai, Ananya Ray, Sanjana Rajesh & Aditi Agrawal

Columnists:

Sruthi Venkatraman & Anushka Satpathy

Designers:

Snehal Dasgupta, Sia Pandhare & Adri Mukherjee

Comic Strip Artist:

Angad Malhi

Digital Art Illustrators:

Aryan Gupta & Riya Sharma

Social Media Managers:

Gunreet Marwah, Yayathi KP & Tara Khanna

Photography Liaison:

Yashwin Jain