

BERTRAM DA'SILVA

Prof Da'Silva joined the Department of English in 1983. He was appointed Head of the Department in 1999, a post he held till 2006 when he was made the Dean of Arts, a new position created to handle the extra volume of administrative work with the granting of Autonomy status to the College. He held the post till 2011 when he was appointed Vice-Principal of the Arts and Science Departments.

In his different administrative capacities, Prof Da'Silva has engaged with English department syllabus change and revision, PG syllabus creation, curriculum restructuring of Arts and Science departments, and in 2017-18 formulating, ideating and implementing the CBCS curriculum structure and pedagogy. From June 2020 he has been involved in setting up, running and administering a virtual campus for teaching-learning and examination systems on the MS Teams platform.

In his capacity as Vice-Principal, Prof Da'Silva is an ex-officio member of the Arts and Science PhD committee.

Prof Da'Silva was invited to join the Dept. of English, University of Calcutta, as guest faculty immediately after the completion of his M.A. at the same University. He continued to lecture there from 1983 to 1992, when his teaching assignments and administrative responsibilities in St. Xavier's College required him to give up his University teaching assignment.

His current research interest, connected to his UG and PG lectures on poetry, is in theory of narrative in lyric poetry. He is also currently involved in investigating the possibilities of potential educational systems based on a hybrid model of traditional and digital forms of knowledge delivery and sharing. As an administrator, he is preparing blueprints for educational reforms including greater student involvement and inclusiveness in the teaching-learning process.

Prof Da'Silva has delivered select lectures on American literature and music, and chaired sessions on American fiction. He has organised and chaired seminars and workshops on Literature and Cinema, New Literatures, and on American Country Music. He is closely involved with student cultural events in theatre and the Fine Arts. He has directed numerous plays for the college including Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. In collaboration with Prof Mirza, he formed and has conducted the St. Xavier's College choir. Himself a prolific song-writer and performer, Prof Da'Silva is an inspiration to his students as an example of how academic quality and involvement can be complemented by other talents and interests.