

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

It is with great pleasure that I am writing these few words upon the release of the English Department Newsletter *Gazzetta Anglorum 2019-20*. It is evident from these pages that their best minds have worked together to realize this memoir of pride and passion. These young talents have filled these pages with their most memorable events and activities from last year, thus creating a tome of ideas and emotions worth cherishing forever. This newsletter is a little piece of history, one that records the artistic and creative faculties of the students, one that speaks volumes about the department's work culture. I heartily congratulate the makers of this newsletter for their spirited efforts. I wish you all the success in the world.

Dr. Jochan Joseph

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Pride and delight fill my ink as I scribble these words because the academic year 2019-20 at the department of English was eventful with a handful of programmes, curricular and extracurricular, held within and outside the campus. The spine of this newsletter holds together the resourcefulness of our students and the dynamic potential of the members of the English faculty as reflected in all those events. Proudly presenting before you, *Gazzetta Anglorum 2019-2020*.



Dr. Gem Cherian

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE

The academic year 2019-2020 was really fruitful for our English Department. English Department Newsletter portrays the major literary activities of our department. We had Prof. Oommen Mathew and Prof. Sebastian Joseph Memorial Intercollegiate Literary Fest 'Rhapsodia Literaria.' We had Outreach Programmes under the auspices of RELP (Rural English Literacy Programme). We conducted extension activities like 'A Gateway to Better English' for different classes from VIII to XII standards. Our department is proud of having conducted a series of webinars, intercollegiate seminars and lectures. The All Kerala Intercollegiate Literary Quiz Competition in memory of Prof. P. V. Joseph was an epoch-making event. Our Student Kavya Balan scored 5th rank in university exams. Our students glittered like stars in curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. I am thankful to god almighty for all blessings. My sincere gratitude to the college management, Principal, dear teachers of English Department and other departments and my students.



Prof. Varghese P. J.

ENGLISH LITERARY CLUB ACTIVITIES

The English Literary Club is a platform to celebrate the literary geniuses of the world, to familiarise our students with the literary and artistic trends of our times and to help hone their diverse and unique skills. The club meets several times a year to discuss the life and works of an author and to put together a collage of articles, drawings and illustrated trivia based on the chosen author in an inimitable endeavour called the 'Creative Corner.' During the academic year 2019-20, the club met four times, discussing W. B.

ASSOCIATION INAUGURATION

The department kicked off its eventful journey of the academic year 2019-20 with the inauguration of the English Association on 03rd September 2019. The Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Prof. P. J. Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of English, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery. The veteran professor spoke at length on the topic "Digital Humanities." Principal Dr. Jochan Joseph expressed his high hopes for the department and his wholehearted support in all its activities. The students of the department amazed the chief guest and the audience with their performance of an excerpt from Girish Karnad's *Hayavadana*, staged in honour of the deceased playwright. The ensemble included Mr. Rahul Raj (III BA English), Mr. Jojo Mathew (II BA English), Ms. Sharon Celin (II BA English), Ms. Rosemary K. J. (II BA English) and Ms. Aparna Rajesh (II BA English).



Yeats (07/08/19), Toni Morrison (22/08/19), Perumal Murugan (25/11/19) and Ruskin Bond (07/01/2020). Among the students who got an opportunity to speak in the forum were Ms. Aiysha A. (I BA English), Ms. Rashmi K. S. (II BA English), Mr. Rahul Raj (III BA English), Mr. Ashlin Joison (II BA English) and Ms. Steffina Maria Thomas (II BA English). The discussion on Ruskin Bond was made special by a dramatic enactment of his short story "A Girl on the Train" and an interdepartmental Quiz on the author, organized by the students of III BA English.

ONAM AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

On 06th September 2019, the department celebrated the cultural fiesta of Onam. Onam gathering at Fr. Punnappadom Hall was made more festive by the department choir and their rendition of several vernacular Onam songs. Head of the Department, Prof. Varghese P. J., distributed sweets among the students and roused the spirit of the festival with his speech. Students of the department actively partook in the *Athapookkalam* and *Onappattu* Competitions, and Mr. Abhijith Sajith of I BA English participated in the *Maveli Mannan* Competition.



A special Christmas gathering was held by the department on 20th December 2019. Ms. Neethu Mary Tomy, Assistant Professor, presided the meeting and gave the Christmas message. A Christmas cake was cut and distributed by the students. The department encouraged its students to participate in several interdepartmental Christmas competitions such as *Christmas Song*, *Christmas Father*, *Christmas Angel* and *Crib Making*. Ms. Arathy Krishna (I BA English) won third prize for the Angel Competition and department won the second prize for Crib Making Competition.



LECTURE ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & BRIDGE COURSE

Dr. Gem Cherian of the department engaged the students of the department with her interactive lecture on "Research Methodology for Literature: Intellectual Property Rights, Authorship, Plagiarism and Documentation" on 20th November 2019 at Fr. Punnappadom Hall. The purpose of the lecture was to enable the students, especially final year students, to do proper research and to inculcate research ethics among the students.



On the 25th November 2019, the department conducted a bridge course for the first-year students to introduce the curriculum. An entry-level test and a post-course test were conducted. Ms. Sherin Elizabeth Georgewas the coordinator.



ANNUAL ALUMNI MEET 2019

English Graduates of St. Aloysius' College [EGOSAC] met for their annual get-together on 23rd November 2019 at 3pm in Fr. Punnappadom Hall. Prof. Varghese P. J., Head of the department presided over the meeting. Former students then occupied the podium with their fond memories of yesteryears. Ms. Siya Prathap J. (2013-16 batch) Ms. Ann Maria Joseph (2015-18 batch) and Ms. Aleeshya Aloysius (2013-16 batch) were selected as the office bearers.



ENGLISH LECTURE SERIES 2019-2020

The Department envisioned a two-part Lecture Series to enrich the literary and theoretical foundation of our students. It was inaugurated on 16th December 2019 with the lecture on "Introducing Phonetics for Beginners in Language and Linguistics" by Mr. Basil Thomas, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Christian College Chengannur. The Principal, Dr. Jochan Joseph attended the lecture and released the department newsletter 'Gazetta Anglorum 2018-19' along with the invited speaker Mr. Basil Thomas. Dr. Gem Cherian was the coordinator of the series.



The second lecture in the series was held on 28th January 2020 with Dr. Raju Sebastian, Associate Professor, Department of English, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery as the resource person. He spoke on the topic "Making sense of ELT in Rural Kerala."

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YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2019

On 21st December 2019, the students of our college participated in the 'Youth Parliament Competition' conducted by the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs (INPA), Trivandrum. A total of fifty-four students from various departments were part of this event organized by the Debating and Elocution club of the college. The event, that lasted the length of a forenoon session, began by 10:00 AM and was held at Fr. Punnappadom Hall. The competition featured students performing roles such as the President, the Speaker, Ministers, MPs and other parliamentary staff. They enacted a parliamentary session



by strictly following the procedures and practices that correspond to the actual proceedings of the Lok Sabha. The college won second prize in the state-wide competition.

It was an added joy for the department that sixteen of our students participated in the event, the most from any department. Our faculty members Ms. Gem Cherian, Mr. Justin J. Thomas, Ms. Cibyna Thomas and Ms. Sherin Elizabeth Georgewas gave training and leadership for the students.



OUTREACH PROGRAMME AND COMMUNITY LECTURE

It is the duty of any Higher Education Institution to reach out to its neighbouring communities to foster an egalitarian model of education and to provide an opportunity for them to be stakeholders in the process. Considering the ever-rising demand for proficiency in English language and communication skills, the Department of English had undertaken an outreaching programme named “A Gateway to Better English” for the school students in and around Kuttanadu. The school chosen this year for the highly applauded project was St. Aloysius’ High School, Edathua. From 7th January to 17th January 2020, the students of the department, after proper training, were directed to deliver classes on the basics of English language and communication. The programme received high praise from different quarters of the society.



School, Edathua, on 23rd January 2020 at Fr. Punnappadom Hall. Around 50 students participated in the event and the lecture was given by S. Lt. Paul Jacob of the department on the topic “English is not a Phonetic Language.”



On the same day a book fair was also organized by the department in collaboration with DC Books, Thiruvalla. Students and teachers, from and outside the college, participated in the event.



STUDENTS’ MANUSCRIPT MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

The students of the department expressed their various literary and artistic talents by releasing two manuscript magazines and a photo journal last year. *Go Nomad* was the manuscript magazine prepared by the first-year students and it was released on 22nd January 2020 during the inaugural ceremony of the Literary Fest – *Rhapsodia Literaria* 2020. They also prepared a photo-journal titled *Biotic Broods* and it was released on 19th February 2020 by Vice Principal Prof. Mathew Gregory. The department Manuscript magazine was named *Finesse File* and was released on the same day by Principal Dr. Jochan Joseph.



CERTIFICATE COURSES OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

In the months of January & February 2020, the department organized two certificate courses - “Open school for better English” under the ‘Rural English Literacy Programme’ (RELP), and “Freelance Writing for Beginners” under the Vocational Training Programme (VTP). The department started the RELP initiative in 2014 to equip the students of our college with better communication skills and adequate training to score high marks in the language categories of competitive exams. Vocational Training Programme was founded this year to motivate students who wished to make a living out of their linguistic skills. Under the coordination of Dr. Gem Cherian, the programmes found great success.

MOVIE DISCUSSION

The Final Meeting of the Literary Club was held in collaboration with the Film Club on 26th February 2020 in Fr. Punnappadom Hall to discuss the Movie “Ottal,” directed by Jayaraj. The discussion was



led by Mr. Aswin K Dev, Faculty, PG Department of English. He also delivered a lecture on “Understanding the Film Art.” Students from various departments participated in the discussion. Dr. Gem Cherian and Ms. Sherin Elizabeth George coordinated the event.

LITERARY FEST – RHAPSODIA LITERARIA 2020

The department hosted its first All Kerala Intercollegiate Literary Fest – *Rhapsodia Literaria 2020* – on 22nd January 2020, featuring 7 events and over 60 students from several colleges from different parts of the state. The event, which was the first of its kind in the history of the college, was conducted to honour the memory of two former teachers, Prof. Oommen Mathew and Prof. Sebastian Joseph. The event comprised of diverse events such as *Whip the Gab* (Extempore), *Hit the Shot* (Photography), *Roll the Reel* (Short Film), *Polemista* (Debate), *Histrionomania* (Soliloquy), *Ad Lib Rimer* (Poetry), and an online event *Petit Fabulist* (Flash Fiction). The winners were awarded cash prize and certificates and St. Berchmans College, Changanassery won the ever-rolling trophy for overall Champions. S. Lt. Paul Jacob and Mr. Justin J. Thomas served as the coordinators.



LITERARY QUIZ – RAPIDE LITTERATURA 2020

Pathiparambil Prof. P. V. Joseph Memorial Intercollegiate Literary Quiz competition – “Rapide Litteratura” was conducted on 19th February 2020. More than 12 teams participated in the event. Ms. Neethu Mary Tomy and Ms. Cibyna Thomas were in charge of the event. MA English Department of St. Aloysius’ College, Edathua won the first prize. The winners were awarded an ever-rolling trophy, certificates and a cash prize.



DEPARTMENT VALEDICTORY AND FAREWELL CEREMONY

The Valedictory Meeting of the English Association was held on 26th February 2020 at Fr. Punnappadom Hall, marking the end of the eventful yearlong activities, also bidding farewell to the outgoing UG students. Prof. Varghese P. J., Head of the Department, presented Mr. Ribin Varghese and Ms. Arya Prathapan of III BA English with mementos to acknowledge the valuable services and contributions rendered by them to the department. After the Valedictory Meeting, II BA students orchestrated a colourful ceremony to celebrate the friendship, love and memories of the outgoing students. Dr. Gem Cherian, class-in-charge of III BA, spoke at the ceremony, followed by many of the students who shared their memories.



STUDENTS’ INVOLVEMENT IN UNION 2019-2020

Alan Kuriakose of II BA English was elected as the Students’ Union Chairman for the academic year 2019-20. Pooja Subash and Akshay Suresh of III BA English were elected as Arts Club Secretary and Third Year Representative respectively.

STUDENTS’ ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Students from the Department participated in the Intercollegiate Drama Competition organized by Kristu Jyothi College, Changanassery, and performed from the first act of Tom Stoppard’s *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* on 26th July 2019.
- ❖ Jojo Mathew of II BA English secured Second Prize in the intercollegiate Malayalam Elocution Competition held at Assumption College, Changanassery on 11th December 2019.
- ❖ Students of the English Department won the Interdepartmental Volleyball Championship held at the college on 13th February 2020.
- ❖ Department’s former student Ambady Suresh (2014-17 batch) was selected to the Indian Taekwondo Team in December 2019.
- ❖ Ananthakumar A. of III BA English won Third Prize in the Inter-Zone Taekwondo Competition at MES College, Marampally.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND IN-SERVICE COURSES

Ms. Neethu Mary Tomy

- Presented a Paper titled “Representing the Contemporary Home: Luxury meets Status” in the National Seminar on ‘Post-Truth and Literature: New Perspectives on Postmodern Reading’ organized by the Department of English, Government College, Kottayam on November 18, 2019.
- Chaired a Session in the National Seminar “Theory Spectrum” organized by St. Cyril’s College, Adoor on 28th February 2020.

Dr. Gem Cherian

- Attended a Short-term Course on ‘ICT Enabled Learning in Law’ organized by Government Law College, Trivandrum, in collaboration with Academic Staff College, UGC-HRDC, University of Kerala, from 18th December 2019 to 24th December 2019.
- Presented a Paper titled “Geriatric Spaces: Representation and Response” in a Two-Day International Conference on ‘Ethnicity and Literature’ organized by the Department of English, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abhishekapatti, Tamil Nadu.

Annual Edition, Volume 2 Pulished by the Department of English, St. Aloysius’ College, Edathua October 2020
Chief Editor: Dr. Gem Cherian Sub-Editor : Mr. Justin J Thomas Student Editors: Mr. Ashlin Joison, Mr. Jopy George Sunny
Mr. Jojo Mathew, Ms. Rosemary K. J. , Ms. Steffina Maria Thomas, Ms. Sharon Celin