



From the Principal's Desk



It gives me immense pleasure to pen a few words as prologue to our in-house journal, which will be published as bimonthly from this year onwards.

Today education means much more than merely acquiring knowledge. It is acquisition of knowledge and skills, building character and improving employability of our young talent, the future leaders. Empowerment of students for their all round development by integrating truth, service and divinity is our cherished motto. Our commitment is to endow the students with innovative, in-depth and high level learning, develop their moral values, and empower them with skills and attributes of an ingenious problem solver and critical thinker. We prepare our students to confidently face the challenges of the highly competitive world and career progression, and also nurture them to become responsible human beings who are able to effectively deliver the needs of a developing nation.

Being a rural College, we definitely understand our responsibility to the local community for their overall socio-economic development, preserving the rich cultural and ecological heritage. The college initiated several programmes and projects in this line and many more are on the anvil. This newsletter bears testimony for these efforts.

I wish a fruitful and enjoyable academic year 2016-2017 for all members of St. Mary's family.

Dr. Punnen Kurian

A Memorable Experience



We the students of Zoology Dept. were fortunate enough to have a lecture on "Recombinant Biopesticides" by Dr. W. Rajendra, the Chairman of the NAAC peer team. It was indeed a rare opportunity for a college to have a lecture by the Chairman of the NAAC team himself during their college visit. The lecture focused on a technology adopted by the scientists to evolve microorganism species with economically useful aids. It encouraged the students to explore the opportunities in the field of Biotechnology.

Sneha Elsa Paulose, D2 Zoology

At the Peak of Excellence



NAAC peer team along with Principal Smt. Rachel Thomas and NAAC co-ordinator Smt. Anna John

The academic year 2015-'16 was an year of accomplishment for the college family. The peer team members of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council, visited the college during the first week of March 2016. The peer team members were Dr. W. Rajendra, former Vice Chancellor of Thirupathy Venkateswara University, Dr. Rajnalker Laxman, Dean of Gulberga University, Karnataka and Prof. K. Rammohan, former Principal Govt. City college Telangana. They made a detailed assessment of the Curricular aspects; Teaching-learning evaluation process; Research consultancy and extension; Infra-structure and learning resources; Student support and progression; Governance, leadership and management; Innovations and best practices of the college.

Based on their evaluative report submitted to UGC, the college is accredited with B Grade (2.71). The visit made an awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the college. Though we have so many challenges ahead, we focus on our opportunities and are determined to achieve greater heights in the years to come. This achievement is the result of the collective effort carried out by the college management, teaching and non-teaching staff and above all the whole hearted co-operation of the students.

SMC PSC Coaching Centre Inaugurated

The inauguration of PSC coaching centre, a novel initiative of the college to equip the students to qualify various competitive examinations conducted by governmental and non-governmental agencies was held on 29 July 2016. Sri. Roy Paul IAS former UPSC member and the one who held several positions in State and Central sector officially inaugurated the programme in the presence of Panchayath President Smt. Lissy Babychan and Panchayath Member Shri. Biju Thomas. Sri. Roy Paul shared his ways to success in an inspiring manner. Dr. Punnen Kurian Principal and Sri. Gigi Joseph Asst. Prof. History Dept. took initiatives of this unique programme. The coaching classes commenced on 6 August 2016. Besides regular lectures using smart classroom facilities, classes for personality development and interview skills are included. The coaching programme is primarily meant for regular students of the college but special batches will also be conducted for the public. The duration of the course is 6 months, ie. starting from August to January every year.



Madam Curie Memorial Day

The Madam Curie Memorial lecture was conducted on 5 July 2016 in the college auditorium. The lecture was jointly organised by the Departments of Physics and Chemistry in association with Break Through Science Society. A lecture on Madame Curie's life by the Chief Guest Dr. PV Thankachan, Secretary of Break Through Society and a documentary on Marie Curie were the highlights of the programme. Sri. Thankappan (KSEB Retd.), member of the Society was also present.



Orientation Programme

The academic year 2015-16 started with an orientation class for all the students except first year UG by Sri. Siju Thomas, renowned motivational speaker. The session helped the students to have a good beginning.



PSC Orientation Class

An orientation class on 'How to Prepare and Qualify a competitive Examination' was held on 13 June 2016. Sri. Jaiker T.S., Limca Book of World Records Winner and author of several books was the Chief Guest. During the programme several motivational videos were screened. He encouraged the students by sharing some easy memory tricks. It was really an inspiring as well as informative class.



An orientation programme was organised for the first year Undergraduate students on 27 July, 2016 at 10 am. The programme started with a prayer. Rev. Fr. M.I. Thomas Mattathil, the Asst. Vicar of St. Mary's Cathedral Manarcaud, invoked the blessings of God. The Chief Guest Dr. Varghese C. Punnoose Head of the Dept. of Psychiatry, Medical College Kottayam gave an orientation to the students and their parents. He exhorted the students about the importance of logical thinking and asked not to indulge themselves in the futile activities of the modern era. The Principal Dr. Punnen Kurian gave instructions to the students regarding the etiquettes which are to be followed in the college campus.

NSS

NSS started this year's activities with various programmes. A survey on plastic disposal, waste management and life style diseases was conducted on 26 June 2016.

Anti Narcotics day was observed on 2 July 2016. A programme named 'Black Treasure Hunt' was organised, in which the volunteers collected all types of materials which may cause addiction such as Pan Masala, Cigarettes and disposed it, in order to make the students aware of its danger. On 15 July 2016 'World Youth Skill Day' was observed.

PSC Onetime Registration

The Career and Placement Cell of our college with the assistance of NSS volunteers conducted PSC one time registration programme on 26 and 27 July, 2016. The entire students of the College are now registered in the official website of Kerala PSC.

Yoga Day Celebrations

The International Yoga Day was celebrated in the college on 21 June 2016. The lady teachers of the college are being trained in yoga by Asst. Prof. Jiji Thomas, Dept. of Botany. Yoga acharya Dr. A.V. Vijayan, former HOD, Dept. of English, St. Albert's College Ernakulam, made the keynote address in the gathering on yoga day. He demonstrated certain positions in yoga which will help to gain concentration and mental relaxation. NCC and NSS unit of the college also observed yoga day.



Plastic Free Campus

Nature Club took the initiative to collect the plastic waste for recycling purposes. Everyone in the campus can bring plastic wastes from their home to the campus and it will be sent for recycling process. Dr. Shiby Susan Kuriakose, Dr. Sholly C George and Remi Anna Sunny are the co ordinators of the Club.

Know Your Medicinal Plants

The College Library Organized an exhibition of medicinal Plants on 22 July, 2016 in the Reading Room. The Objective was to make the students acquaint with the Medicinal Plants. The students were asked to identify the plants, most of the girl students were able to do so. They are from D2 History, D2 Physics and D2 BCom.



Retired Faculty 2015-'16



Asso. Prof. Rachel Thomas (Principal), Department of English



Asso. Prof. Rosamma Sebastian Department of English



Asso. Prof. Mariamma Oommen Department of Physics



Asso. Prof. M.G. Sreenivasan Department of Mathematics

Upland Rice Cultivation

The Department of Zoology started upland rice cultivation in the College premise with the support of the Krishibhavan, Manarcaud. The 'Uma' variety seeds were sowed on 21 July, 2016 and the crop duration is 120 days. The guidance given by Ms. Reena John, Agricultural Officer, Manarcaud Krishibhavan and the support of the faculty of Zoology Department are indeed the driving force behind this programme.



Film Club

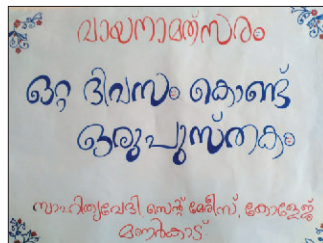


An open discussion with the film crew of the film 'Ozhivu Divasathe Kali' [An Off Day Game] was conducted on 18 June 2016 in the seminar hall. The Film Club secretary John P. Joseph (2 MCom) welcomed the gathering and Asst. Prof. Shine O.V. introduced the team members. The Director of the film Sri. Sanal Kumar Sasidharan, Producers Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, cameraman Sri. Indrajith and actor Sri. Murali Nair attended the function. After the official meeting an open discussion was held and all the film club members actively participated in the discussion.



Sahityavedi

Sahityavedi a literary gathering of St. Mary's College has celebrated the death anniversary of Shri. P.N. Panicker who had led the Malayalees to the realm of the mysterious world of letters. The ceremony was held on 24 June, 2016 at the college auditorium. A competition named "Otta Divasam Kondu Oru Pusthakam" was conducted. The active participation of students from various departments created a new awareness of reading. In the competition Jiss Mariya (D2 Zoology), Chippy George (D2 History) and Indu C. Anil (D2 English) won the first, second and third place respectively



Basheer Anusmaranum

Basheer Day was conducted on 5 July, the day of his demise. An exhibition was arranged in collaboration with the college library to familiarize his works. Moreover the volunteers of Sahityavedi rendered leadership for poster exhibition and discussion based on the life and writings of this renowned person.



Debate-Youth and Media

The State Women's Commission in association with Sahityavedi conducted a debate on the topic 'Youth and Media' on 28 July 2016 in the college auditorium. Dr. J. Prameela Devi member Woman's commission Govt. of Kerala led the programme. Asso. Prof. Suja Susan George and Asst. Prof. Manjusha C.G took the initiative to conduct this programme.



Environmental Day Celebrations-2016

The Department of Chemistry, on its Silver Jubilee Year organized the programme "Better Environment, Better Tomorrow" on 16th June, 2016 in connection with World Environment Day 2016 celebrations. The programme was supported by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE). Tony Francis Assistant Professor of Chemistry Department was the coordinator of this programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. C.T. Aravindakumar Director, School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and he gave a lecture on "Green Technology: For a Better Future". Mr. Jose Louise, Member, National Tiger Conservation Board, New Delhi and also a former student of our College handled the second session.

An intercollegiate powerpoint presentation competition was also conducted on "Green Technologies: Solution for Environmental issues". Fourteen teams from eight colleges participated in this competition. Dr. Sunish Suganan Post Doctoral fellow of School of Chemical Sciences MG university and Dr. Jiji Thomas Associate Professor Department of Botany, St. Mary's College were the judges of this event. Archana Johny of Alphonsa College, Pala won the first prize. Sneha Elsa Paulose of Zoology Department of our college won the second prize. Rini Chacko Roy of Baseliouse college won the third prize.

The programme which was a grand success, helped to create an awareness on the importance of Environmental Protection and Care among the students.

Congratulations

St. Mary's College family congratulates Dr. Punnen Kurian, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology on assuming the position of the Principal. He has won the Ayashe and St. Berchman's Awards for the Best College Teacher in addition to several accolades for his social service activities. As a research guide in Environmental Sciences under M.G. University he has completed over 10 research projects on Rodent Control and Waste Eradication. He has several paper publications in National and International Journals to his credit. He is also an expert committee member in various government projects related to environment and currently is the Secretary of Tropical Institute of Ecological Studies, Velloor.



NAAC Visit - Glimpses



▲ Dept. Visit - Physics



▲ Library Visit



▲ Interaction with Alumni



▲ Dept. Visit - Zoology



▲ Dept. Visit - History



▲ Welcome by NCC Gadets



▲ Dept. Visit - Commerce



▲ Presentation by the Principal



▲ Dept. Visit - Chemistry Lab



▲ Dept. Visit - Chemistry



▲ Dept. Visit - Oriental Languages



▲ Dept. Visit - English



▲ Visit to Archeological Museum