



**GREGORIAN
COLLEGE OF
ADVANCED
STUDIES**

Alathara, Sreekaryam

AESTHETICS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of English

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MESSAGES



H.G. Dr Gabriel Mar Gregorios

(Manager and Metropolitan of the Orthodox Diocese, Thiruvananthapuram)

The Department of English, GCAS, plans to bring out a Quarterly News Letter bearing the name *Aesthetics*. Right at the outset I express my deep appreciation for those who have laboured towards bringing out this news letter.

Speech is powerful but writing is more powerful since the latter forms part of literature. Humans when compared with sub-human species are gifted with a special brain-hand correlation which makes its best expression in literature, art and architecture. This News Letter we hope, would inspire many to write and thereby develop their human hood Every opportunity is a challenge to grow and move forward, lead and lift up the society. So take this up seriously, I would implore you all and hence, all the best to this publication and to you all ! God bless.



Dr. R. Gopakumar
(Principal)

I am happy to know that the students and teachers of the Department of English are bringing out a Newsletter entitled *Aesthetics*. Creativity and imagination enable the students to grow up as balanced individuals. We have talented teachers who are capable of bringing out the best in the students.

I am sure that the Newsletter would provide a platform for the students to engage in their creative pursuit which, in turn, would promote originality of thought and faculty for self-expression.

Best wishes for your new endeavour.



Rev. Fr Joseph Chacko
(Administrator)

As the Administrator of our College, I feel privileged to be associated with the education of our students. The College is on the right track in shaping the destiny of our students. In order to keep pace with the technological and social changes taking place around us, bookish knowledge alone will not suffice. It is essential to inculcate right thinking and provide the students with ample opportunities to express their literary and aesthetic perceptions. I extend my warm wishes to the teachers and the students of the Department of English in bringing out the Newsletter. God bless you...



Dr K. Manoharan Nair
(IOAC Co-ordinator and
Head, PG Dept. of Commerce)

I am glad to know that the Department of English is bringing out a Newsletter for the academic year 2022-23. It is a productive material and a skill developing tool for the students. I wish all the faculty members and the HoD a huge success in this venture. I also applaud the co-ordinator and the effort of the team behind this venture. All the very best.

T H E C A M P U S

Gregorian College of Advanced Studies, situated in a serene and eco-friendly campus at Hermongiri Vidyapeetam at Alathara, Sreekaryam, Thiruvananthapuram, is a postgraduate college. It aims at a value-based education which has predominant significance in the context of erosion of values today in all spheres of life, familial, social, cultural, etc. The college has been providing integral and inclusive education for the younger generation since its inception. The college takes care of the academic capabilities of students, besides nurturing and promoting their tastes and talents for sports, games and arts and their aptitude for service-oriented activities so as to develop their personality. The word 'Gregorian' evokes the names of great Saints of the Church with the name 'Gregorios' who lived a life of holiness and wisdom as the proverb says, "the Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Knowledge." (Proverb 1: 7) The adjective 'Gregorian' is counted as a synonym for both devotion and knowledge. Thus it indicates that the College symbolises the noble objective of value-based and holistic education.

Mission

Introduction of diverse courses of studies for imparting academic knowledge, creative thinking, excellent communication skills and for contributing towards moral, ethical and social values in the student community by making them involved in NSS, NCC, Youth Parliament, ED Clubs, Film Clubs and other service-oriented activities for solving societal issues.

Vision

Gregorian College of Advanced Studies envisages an institution for enlightening and enriching our society by fostering academic excellence, moral integrity, social commitment and noble values among the youth and make them competent to address the challenges in the world at large.

Aim

The College aims at imparting theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of English Language and Literature, Commerce, Economics and Psychology. The College has plans to introduce diverse courses in the self-financing stream of higher education in the years to come.

The Department of English has been an integral part of the College since its inception. It has been catering for teaching English Language and Literature and promoting communicative skill. Besides the UG students of English Language and Literature, the UG students of various streams- Commerce, Economics and Psychology- are learning General English as part of their curriculum. The department capacitates the students in addressing the demands and issues of the times with humanitarian concern. It also enables them in co-relating literature with contemporary issues, thereby inculcating a flair for aesthetic appreciation and expression. The faculty, comprising highly dedicated, competent and committed teachers, helps students voice their altruistic concerns through honing their communicative skills.



The department strives to satiate the various linguistic needs of the students from different academic levels by providing them with ample exposure to the language, thereby enabling them to acquire language competence. The faculty is pledged on keeping abreast of the latest trends in teaching methodologies by attending workshops and seminars.

ARTS DAY 2023 RESULTS

Sneha Lal Prabhat
(S6- English)
English Recitation
Poetry Writing
- English



Suraj Babu
(S6-English)

Essay Writing
- Malayalam



Eryn Jones
(S3 English)

Water colouring



Abhrami U.V
(S3-English)
English Recitation



Anzil Raju
(S6-English)

Essay Writing
- Malayalam



Sreedhin
(S1 English)

Pencil Drawing



Lekshmi S
(S6-English)
Essay Writing - English
Short Story - English



Aina Zubair
(S6-English)

Short Story
- Malayalam



Rahna Beegum
(S3 English)

Pencil Drawing



P O E M

EASY v/s DIFFICULTY

Easy is to get a place in someone's address book.
Difficult is to get a place in someone's heart.
Easy is to hurt someone who loves us.
Difficult is to heal the wound.
Easy is to set rules.
Difficult is to follow them.
Easy is to enjoy life daily.
Difficult is to give its real value.
Easy is to pray every night.
Difficult is to find God in small things.
Easy is to say we love.
Difficult is to show it every day.
Easy is to make mistakes.
Difficult is to learn from them.
Easy is to think about improving.
Difficult is to stop thinking it and put it into action.
Easy is to receive.
Difficult is to give.
Easy is to read this.
Difficult is to follow this...

-Parvathy.M
S6 English



S. Muraleedharan
HoD, English
Chief Editor

Editor's Musings

Dear readers,

It is indeed a matter of great pride and satisfaction for the Department of English, Gregorian College of Advanced Studies, to bring out our Quarterly Newsletter. This newsletter, like a mirror, will reflect the clear picture of all sorts of activities undertaken by our department. It aims at developing the writing skills among our students in particular and our teaching faculty in general. The wide spectrum of creative writings, published in this first issue in different sections bears testimony to their creative potential and original thinking. I appreciate the efforts put in by the contributors for voicing their stimulated thoughts in varied hues in their articles and poems. I hope that this small piece of creative work shall not only develop the taste for reading among the students but also develop their sense of belonging to our prestigious institution as well. We are confident that this newsletter would cater not only for the needs of the students of the Department of English but also of the students at our college in general. I acknowledge with gratitude the unstinted support extended to me by my fellow faculty members and students right from the moment I took the initiative for bringing out the newsletter. Thanks are due to our dear Humayoon of S3 English who has worked day in and day out for designing the beautiful layout. Let me express my sincere gratitude to our Guide and Mentor, H.G. Dr Gabriel Mar Gregorios, our Principal Dr R. Gopakumar, our Administrator Rev. Fr Joseph Chacko and IQAC Co-ordinator and Head, PG Dept. of Commerce Dr K. Manoharan Nair for their encouragement, motivation and support for translating our dream into a reality.

Students from the department to the College Union



Parvathy.M (S6)
(General Secretary)



Kaushik.G.J (S3)
(Univ. Union. Councillor)



Eryn Jones (S3)
(Magazine Editor)

On the way to Sportsdom...



Vaishnav S. of S3 English won the second prize in all the three throw items- Javelin Throw, Discuss Throw and Shot Put- in the Trivandrum District Athletic Meet. Congratulations, Vaishnav. He also participated in the South Zone Air Gun National Championship.



Sooraj Babu of S6 English participated in the Kerala University South Zone Inter-Collegiate Badminton Tournament. Well done, Sooraj.

MAJOR EVENTS



1. The World Environment Day observed (June 08, 2022)

Our department joined hands with Bodhi, the Nature Club of GCAS and observed The World Environment Day on 8 June 2022.

2. Litter-free Campus Campaign (August 15,2022)

As part of celebrating the 75th year of India's Independence, students from our department joined the students from the other departments in collecting litter from the campus in waste bins and in handing it over to the cleaning staff for recycling. 10 students from our department, along with Asst Prof. Sabarinath S, NSS Programme Officer, participated in the programme.



3. Litcast 2022 (August 27,2022)

The Department of English conducted an English Literary Fest Litcast 2022 on 27th October. As part of the Literary Fest, a "Harry Potter" themed in-house departmental programme was conducted to commemorate the Silver Anniversary of J.K.Rowling's magical classic "Harry Potter. An exhibition of beautiful Harry Potter scenes, artistically portrayed by the literature students, was a treat to watch.

4. The Cinéastes (November 09,2022)

The Cineastes, the first official campus film club of GCAS, consisting of faculty members and students who share enthusiasm towards cinema, was inaugurated by a renowned writer/director Shri Ajai Rahul. Our Asst Professor Sabarinath S, the President of The Cineastes, deserves a special word of congratulation in translating a dream unto a reality.



5. Army for the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking and Anti-Drug Abuse (November 11, 14, 2022)

GCAS has constituted an 'Army for the prevention of illicit trafficking and anti-drug abuse' as part of observing the International Day Against Drug Abuse and illicit trafficking on 26 June. The army is headed by our Asst Professor Navami. Three awareness seminars, with senior police and excise officers as the keynote speakers, were organized in November for the benefit of the students.



6. Quiz Club (November 29,2022)

On 29 November, the Quiz Club of GCAS observed the National Constitution Day to commemorate the Day of Constitution and to highlight and reiterate the values and principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution. 65 students participated in the competition, open for all, and Shivraj of S3 English and Anzil Raju of S5 English won the second and third prize respectively. Asst Prof. Archa B was the coordinator.



Flights of Imagination Students' Corner

Childhood -Sneha Lal Prabhat



Who was I being you?
A spirit of awe
Devoid of pain
Spreading joy
Make them thaw
And easy gains
In a world of toys
Where are you now?
No more innocence
Smiles are fake
Heart is heavy
Lack of essence
Serious mistakes
And feeling empty
What have I become?
A sombre ocean
Where emotions swim
Memories thrive
And waves are blue
But new boats sink
Under the moonless sky
Why did you leave me?
The blood turned colder
I was left charred
No one heard my shout
Your spikes grew longer
Which pricked them hard
And drove me out
When will I meet you again?
At the dawn of benevolence
With the drizzling of bliss
Enhanced by fondness
I stand there as the evidence
That these virtues
Still reside in your conscience.

An Unknown PHILOCALIST -Anjitha, S1 English



Alas! Deep inside the quivering sea
Numerous untold stories are here
And here I'm shrieking out in a lee
Trying to seek it and purposefully lear
Fallen raindrop never wished for a go
back
I think it fell in love with the sand
Isn't it blissful to be widely enthusiastic
about this attack
Here I'm still longing to crawl inside their
love land
It's truly interesting to hear a mortal's lie
Yesterday he talked about his immortality
form
And today I'm here at his sepulchre, pity
guy
But still I know, no one ever could
comprehend this norm must be cleansed.
I need to change.

An Old School Tragicomedy "All the Best", 'Best of Luck" -Kaushik, S3 English



These words had faded into his ears, the first time he heard those words again was at 4:00 in the morning, when his mother shook him awake from his deep sleep which lasted for how long, nobody knows. He was supposed to study all night. It was a hard and rough year for him. A death in a house definitely shakes your stability. Similar was his case for his grandmother had passed away, although he didn't shed a tear at her funeral, which till date, no one knows why. All these vague and un-connecting thoughts had flooded into his mind. In his semi opened eyes he saw his mother with a glass of milk. "All the best", "Do your best", those were the words she spoke. Then as time passed on, the number of wishes had increased, the corridor echoed with those wishes. How could there be not? For it was the last exam of 12 th standard and everyone had huge drops of tears just waiting to be unleashed. He had studied in that school for the past 12 years and having satisfactorily touched his patchy beard, he just knew how time flew! It was his mathematics exam; there was a great deal of gestures and pointless pondering over the hall. The invigilator had been a bit lenient as even she felt their agitation and sadness. Integral a/b is equal to... all the formulae he had studied just vanished into thin air and he stood there blank, his head as clean as a whiteboard. He knew it was pointless. Many had already given up, three hours is an immensely huge time to do nothing for he knew not what to write. He had a quick glance at some questions in the one mark section. He had seen them before, probably knew the answer too. But his mind was not there. He didn't even write anything on the paper, if he failed he had to repeat an entire year again. Many of them were weeping and were sitting with swelled up, reddish, watery eyes. Was it the question that hurt them? Or was it something else?

He slowly started reminiscing. He had joined this school as a toddler holding onto the hand of his mother and rolling his body into the loose ends of her shawl, he wanted to do back. Now he cannot, as his heart and soul lay buried in the many places in his school - their normal spot in the cafeteria, the shady tamarind tree where they used to hang out. He and his classmates, had made "hocruxes" and buried them deep in places which meant something to them. All the sweet and bitter memories he had, the thrashing he had received, the girls he had a crush on, the ones who loved him back, all these thoughts flashed into his mind. The class topper they had relentlessly made fun of and the class teacher who saw them as her own children, suddenly all was illuminated, as if under a spotlight. All the laughter he and his friends had shared together, the many lame jokes they cracked, echoed through the room. He could constantly hear and see glimpses of it, like a retro classic film reel rolling over their heads. Then there was silence, it was treacherous, many held their breath. They all stopped the act of writing down sensible answers and took a deep breath, relaxed their hands and put their pens down. Never had there been so much synchronization of putting pens down, it was all instantaneous and just the sound of each pen being put down could be heard. They all looked at each other and saw something precious in the ones sitting next to them, the ones in the front and the back, the ones they fought with and the ones they clearly loved. It was a great loss, wasn't it? They would lose all in a minute. Their watery eyes could not hold their emotions. There were streams of tears. They knew what to do. They all turned their heads up, looked up to the heavens, but there was a ceiling that blocked heaven Or did it really? What if heaven was below? The thought was highly overwhelming. All their eyes rested upon a drawing, sort of a logo; which said "Batch of 2021". They had made it together during the Christmas celebration. It was too great a loss, they knew.... It was 2020! Not 2021! That misrepresentation had gone unnoticed in all the distraction, turmoil and chaos. Nobody saw it, the end! But it was always there. They all looked down, there was a sense a relief throughout the hall.

Everyone had a beautiful happy smile embedded on his face. They were happy. Did they get all the answers? Did they finally learn to derive the quadratic equation they seemed to worry about? No. They didn't, instead they all took their pens up again, wrote their name, standard, division, roll number and stopped. They looked at each other and some devil influenced thoughts, they knew what to do, maybe it was there for a reason. Maybe they really were, "The batch of 2021". They all smiled, it was like spring and flowers had blossomed. There suddenly was warmth. They got up and returned the blank piece of paper. There was no surprise, after all they really were "The batch of 2021" and everyone left the hall with 'a beautiful smile on the face'.



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We regret to inform our dear students and fellow teachers that a few of your creative writings could not be published in the first issue as we are constrained to cut short the number of pages.

-Associate Editors

