

Punjab association's

ANNA ADARSH COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Affiliated to University of Madras
(Re- accredited by NAAC with A+ Grade)
2(f) Status under UGC Act

THE TIME MACHINE

The Official Newsletter of
The Department of English

From the Principal's desk

The achievements of the Postgraduate Department of English always offer me, as a beholder, reasons to feel jubilant. The department has once again proved that persistent effort to make small steps in the right direction takes you a long way in the pursuit of success. The newsletter accounts for the illustrious track record the department maintains in terms of scholastic and non scholastic activities. It documents the efforts taken by the department to kindle the students' creative capabilities and also the earnest endeavors initiated with the aim of widening their horizons by awakening in them an unquenching thirst for knowledge and the desire to go beyond.

From the HOD's desk

A mind that is stretched by new experiences can never go back to its old dimensions" ---Oliver Wendell Holmes. It is a moment of pride and gratification for the Department as we bring out this issue of Time Machine. An impressive array of events was organised for the students with the aim of providing them experiential learning opportunities. These pages reveal how the events have touched upon innumerable aspects outside the realm of academic education, that gifts our students with important life skills. The newsletter details how the department follows a multidisciplinary approach, beyond what is expected from traditional collegiate education. The pages of the newsletter project the department's deep rooted commitment to ensuring quality education by embracing such inventive approaches and methodologies that makes education a truly meaningful experience.

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The best view
comes after the
hardest climb.

BLOOMING FLOWERS

A LIGHT IN DARK TIMES

- Ananya Mangaleswaran

Over the last two years, as a race, as a population, as a civilization we have been through a seemingly never-ending global pandemic, a consequent economic recession, and perhaps the most profound of all: a deeper understanding of ourselves, both as individuals and as a species through isolation and introspection, for better or for worse. This has been a very unusual and jarring period; there is something positively dystopian about it, and it will definitely go down in history as a darker time, in relativity. During the second wave, we saw the failings of late-stage corporate capitalism as hospitals were stuffed to the brim with no vacancies, and as oxygen and treatment was scarce even for those who were fortunate enough to be admitted. Vaccines had just started being distributed, but even then it hadn't been enough. Our healthcare workers were at the forefront of this battle, from hospital administrators who had to make the difficult decision of who they could and couldn't treat, to doctors and nurses who were anguished and overexerted but still did everything they could to save countless lives. But the most common experience we can all relate to is the feeling of helplessness we experienced when we were stuck at home with no way to help those who were afflicted.

It is the human condition to empathize. Homo-sapiens as a species cannot just sit around and do nothing when someone is in need of help, even if we are not able to provide it ourselves. It is an evolutionary fail-safe to promote a sense of belonging with other humans in order to ensure our longevity, so that we may survive in case of an extinction event. For millennia, we as a species prioritized community living, from our own geographic subsets of hunter-gatherers in the early ages to ancient civilizations such as the Aztecs, the Babylonians, and even the Indus-Valley civilization. So it is no surprise that we, even in this digital age, with all the advanced technology we possess, still wish there was something we could do to better the lives of those we share this planet with. There is something so purely and inexplicably human about having evolved for years and years and years and still possessing this longing for community and bonding that we seem to share with our prehistoric ancestors.

Some of us did what we could by helping with data collection and verifying resources, while some others started small businesses that helped those infected, such as those who cooked for home quarantine patients, and those who would pick-up and drop supplies for Covid patients on bicycles. More than an enterprising business opportunity, this is an expression of humanity. There is no way to completely overlook monetary gain in any situation because of this materialistic, capitalistic world that we live in, but there is something so profoundly and undeniably humanitarian and compassionate about doing what you can for others. While governments all around the world were thrown into chaos and finally exposed for their false promises and inadequacy, it can be said that the one thing that undoubtedly alleviated the deeply tragic period that was the second wave of this ongoing coronavirus pandemic, was a show of humanity. It was people in local neighbourhoods getting groceries for their afflicted neighbours, it was local places of worship handing out free food and water, it was food delivery and public transport drivers who had the closest contact with everybody not knowing who could potentially test positive and doing their jobs anyway. It was all the people that we as a society deem irrelevant and dispensible doing the most significant and notable work. Truly, not all heroes wear capes.

This pandemic period has also taken a great toll on everybody mentally, so mental health has finally been brought to the forefront. We have all spent a lot of time in isolation, most of us with family, and whether by choice or circumstance, we know a lot more about those we were quarantined with now. Some of us lost a lot of family over this time. Some of us have relatives who recovered from the virus, but didn't quite recover from the despair and uncertainty of their life and death situation. Maybe they'd battled a particularly aggressive variant, or maybe they suffered complications, or maybe they were diagnosed with something entirely else. Most of us have seen a loved one suffer from this incessant and virulent pandemic. Some of us may have been exposed or infected ourselves, and had to wait to recover fully before getting vaccinated. But all of us had to practice social distancing. In this time, some of us picked up hobbies, like reading, or learning a new skill, or finally starting something we previously didn't have the time for. Some of us became religious or spiritual, because it helps to have faith in something larger than ourselves, especially in such trying times. But mostly, I think we learned a lot about ourselves. We learned to work on ourselves, and to care for ourselves. We learned who we missed and who we didn't. We learned to make peace with being constantly bored. We learned to show affection without physical touch. We learned to enjoy our own company. And while we may not have won the battle against the virus yet, we learned to have hope.

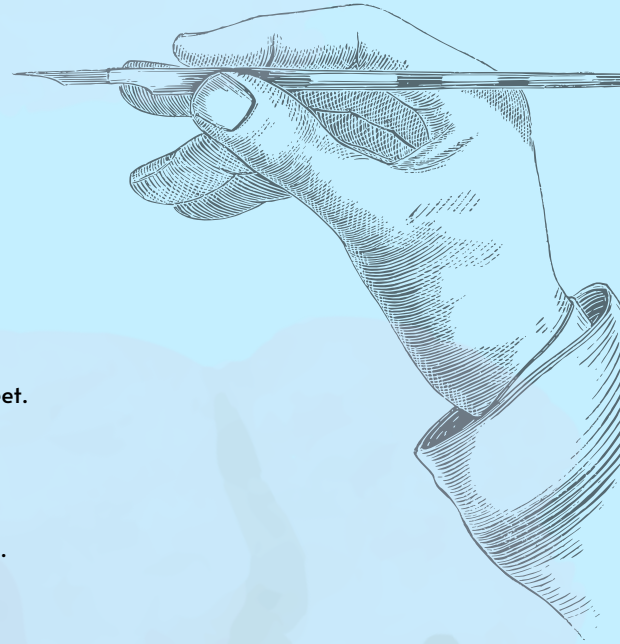
We learned to keep fighting.

BLOOMING FLOWERS

Stuck in a Novel

- *Jothi T*

Tempted to start,
 Started, I did.
 Slowly I begin,
 Fast it seems, time.
 Things I've dreamt,
 I saw it, here.
 Wanting to explore,
 Here I did, the places.
 Curiosity I build,
 Fascination, it grew.
 Fingertips traced the words,
 Connection connected me.
 A long novel I read,
 Long chapters, awaited.
 Burst out-of laughter,
 Attention on me,
 I never bothered.
 Tissue in my hand,
 Tears I wipe, sad I met.
 Fortunately, I escape,
 Unfortunate, the characters meet.
 Life was so simple,
 Just after this book...
 ...its just after.
 Dreaming of him in my life,
 Having him, just imagination.
 A character I become,
 Changes, my character.
 Escape of reality,
 Tunnel, it is.
 Up's and down's,
 Made me, I met.
 Neverland I found,
 Where dreams are made.
 Reached till sunrise,
 Sea of thousand places, I see.
 Time stops when
 Our time begins.
 Ambiguous colored eyes,
 Vague figures, I see.
 Comes the endgame,
 The endgame of the pages.
 "Why?" I groaned.
 Earth isn't my cup,
 Novel is my luxury.
 "So we bid...",
 I want to say
 But I'm stuck.
 'Love' I felt for you,
 Just you and me
 Is just never enough.
 You are more
 Than words, temporary fix.
 My dear,
 You are my temporary fix.



EVENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

CITY SENSE' - THE MADRAS WEEK CELEBRATIONS



The Department of English of Anna Adarsh College for Women in association with Women's Voluntary Services (WVS) of Tamil Nadu celebrated 'City Sense'- The Madras Week Celebrations on 18th August 2022 at the college Auditorium

The Book 'Leading Women of Madras -A pantheon of pioneers' was released on the occasion, with Dr. Yashodha Shanmugasundaram, President, WVS delivering the concept Note. Dr. Sridevan spoke on the need to understand the legacies of the women within our families.



Dr. Sudha Seshaiyyan elaborated on how Madras has always been a progressive city championing the cause of Women, delving on interesting anecdotes of the yesteryear pioneers of the city. With an assortment of entertaining snippets with dramatic twists and turns, Sriram kept the audience enthralled with the history of the Women of Madras

EVENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Heritage Walk to Anna Nagar Tower



The Post-Graduate Department of English, in association with the Community Organisation 'Nam Veedu Nam Oor Nam Kadhai', went for a heritage walk on 23.08.2022 with the students and the faculty of the Department through the lanes of Anna Nagar to revisit the history of the place. Ms. Thirupurasundari met the students at the Tower Park where she enlightened them on the political significance of the establishment of the 'monumental' tower for an International Trade Fair held in the year 1968 and the gradual development of Anna Nagar into a cosmopolitan residential area with the tower as its centre.

She explained how the tower became a prominent identification mark and a tourist attraction for the city. The students were taken for a walk around to visit the landmarks like murals and arches that remain from the International Trade Fair and the Tamil Conference held the consecutive year.

Student Volunteering Services

The Arts Council of India in association with NGOs a hundred hands conducted an artisan collective exhibition at Co-optex grounds, Pantheon Road, Chennai. Eighteen students of the department were involved in volunteering exercises for the smooth conduct of the event. Students were at the help desk, interviewed artist, created content for social media and helped in logistical arrangements.



EVENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Workshop on Madhubani Painting



Vidushini Prasad, an acclaimed artist began the workshop tracing the origin and evolution of Madhubani Painting. She demonstrated how the colors need to be mixed to bring the right kinds of pattern in the painting. The drawing of intrinsic motives and the common ones like birds and animals were explained. The students created their own small pieces of art using her instructions and support.

EVENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Poetry with Prakriti

The Poet shared his Verse Inspiration during the pandemic. He also highlighted the need to see 'art' as a necessity rather than a diversion. The uplifting power of poetry and its emotional appeal were some aspects he touched upon. The nuances of writing a poem was elaborated by him during the question and answer session at the end of the reading.



Student Volunteering In NGO'S



Ms. Mecheri spoke on the extensive volunteering services that the students can take part in through a wide variety of NGOs functioning in the city. She pointed out how people need to spend their time and not just look at financial support for social causes. From teaching English skills to underprivileged students to caring for the elderly, the work of Chennai volunteers to the wide spectrum of community oriented activities was highlighted. She urged the students to choose to support one cause and volunteer.



EVENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Alumnae Meet

An alumni meet of the UG and PG students was organised on October 15, 52 alumni participated in the event. They shared their experiences and learning from the college. They also discussed how the skill sets and hands on training exposure enabled them to overcome their inhibitions and gain confidence. They interacted with the current students formally and informally during the meet. The student presented a small cultural show on the occasion. The meet ended with the promise of financial and source support by the alumni.



Universal Being- Values & Holistic Development Program" - Extension Activity



The Workshop was held as an extension of the online session held during the pandemic. Students were involved in series of engaging on interesting tasks that led them to explore the ideas of leadership, team-building, creative and critical thinking. The tasks were followed up with discussions about the learning experience of the students and their outcomes.