

Department of English
St. Michael's College, Cherthala

Reports of Activities Conducted During 2023-2024

1. Observation of the Reading Week (19-20/06/2023)

Reading Week- Day 1

Collaborating with the Malayalam and Hindi Language Departments, the Department of English organized a two-day observation of the Reading Week on the 19th and 20th of August, 2023. On the first day, an expert motivational session on “E-Reading and Real Reading” (“E-Vayana, AaVayana”) was conducted in the Fenicio Digital Seminar Hall at 1.30 pm. The major objective and focus of the event was to promote reading and the genuine love for books, among the students and thereby brightening the prospects of building up an enlightened society itself. The resource person for the day had been befittingly chosen to be the college librarian herself, Dr. Patricia Robin. She earnestly covered areas ranging from the pros and cons of E-Reading and the visceral experience and bliss one attains while reading a bound book. Students were spell-bound by the words and expressed their curiosity to hear the story of Oliver Twist that was engagingly narrated to them. The story was abruptly cut short with the intention to make them read the book and the session came to an end at 2.45 pm. More than 100 students (104), from the English and Commerce departments participated in the session. The expert session was followed by the ‘Reading Experience Sharing Contest’ conducted under the auspices of the Book Club and students offered their active participation for that as well. Leyanole Sebastian (II BCom) and Akhila M. (II BSc Zoology) won the first and second prizes respectively. The programme got wrapped up at 4 pm.

The outcome of the event was quite positively conspicuous, within the enhanced use of the library resources, a remarkable rise in foot-fall and also within the students’ rekindled interest in knowing about and going through books.



Reading Week - Day 2

The cynosure of the second day (June 20th) was the talk by the celebrated wildlife photographer and writer Sri. N.A. Naseer. The meeting commenced at 10.30 am, with prayer by Kumari Donna Sonnet (I BSc Zoology). Dr. Patricia Robin (Librarian) rendered a warm welcome to the gathering and most specially, the chief guest. Dr. Antony Kuriakose (Vice Principal) presided over and delivered the presidential address, followed by felicitations from Fr. Nelson Thaiparambil (Manager), Fr. Celestine Puthenpurackal (Associate Manager) and Dr. Vimsy Geo (HoD of English). This was followed by the proud moment of honouring the former student Sri. Akshay K. Ashok (BA Economics) who is now an acclaimed writer in Malayalam. Dr. Mary Reema, the master of ceremonies, welcomed the Sri. N.A. Naseer in a warm yet beautifully vivid manner. Sri. N.A. Naseer delivered a spell-binding session on “Forest, the Unexplored Book” (“KaadennaPusthakam”) and made the audience feel lost in the mesmerizing realm of the wild. He boldly deconstructed the binaries of Forest-Cities and Animal-Man and emphatically underscored the need to learn compassion and dignity from the forest culture. With the vote of thanks proposed by the Head of the Hindi Department, Dr. Seena Kurian, the meeting came to an end at 12.15 pm. Almost 116 students from the English, Economics, Physics, Chemistry and Zoology departments took part in the session.

The feedback collected from the students showed their renewed interest and stimulated curiosity to explore the wild and also, following the steps of Akshay K. Ashok, to give a try to their literary inclinations. There was another suggestion too, to organize an exclusive session by Sri. N.A. Naseer, wherein he would be given ample time and a platform to share his rare and valuable forest-experiences, photographs and videos.



2. Tribute to Artist Namboodiri – (10.07.2023)

In association with the College Library, the students of the Department of English gathered for a commemorative meeting and drawing competition, paying tribute to the late Artist Namboodiri. The students of the First Year BA English Batch formed the chosen audience for the session and this was particularly because, the students had a paper within the second semester titled, 'Art and Literary Aesthetics'. The college librarian Dr. Patricia Robin delivered the welcome address and extended her tributes to the great artist. The key note address was delivered by Rev.Fr. Nelson Thaiparambil, College Manager and an acclaimed writer. Fr. Nelson shared with the students, his expert perspective on the style and nuances of late Namboodiri's artistic prowess. The students of the English stream, who were about to appear for the University exams, found it a very useful and beneficial session. With the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Vimsy Geo, (Head of the Dept. of English) the meeting came to a closure and was followed by the Drawing Competition.

The entire second year BA English batch (39 Students) attended the session and got themselves actively involved in the interactive session. They even voiced the idea of organizing an art exhibition within the campus.



3. Library Tour for the Fresh Batch

Perpetuating the best practice of familiarizing the fresh batch with the library facilities and resources, the department scheduled and organized a conducted library tour for the first-year students on 25th July 2023 at 10.30 am. The library tour is a joined venture organized by the Department of English and the college library for the first-year students every year. The objective of the tour is to equip the students with essential information to make the most of their academic pursuits during their time at college. The tour commenced with a warm welcome by the friendly library staff. Mr. Janeesh K James who is the Library Assistant, took up the role of the tour guide and provided a brief overview of the library's services, rules, and regulations. The students were introduced to the librarians, who emphasized their availability to offer assistance in finding information and navigating the library's resources.



4. Two-Day International Multidisciplinary Virtual Conference on ‘Artificial Intelligence: Recent Trends, Impact and Scope’

A Two-Day International Virtual Conference on ‘Artificial Intelligence: Recent Trends, Impact and Scope’ was organized by the department of English, in collaboration with the PG Department of English, Naipunnya School of Management, Cherthala on the 19th and 20th of August 2023.

Day 1

The event commenced with an inaugural session scheduled on the first day, at 9 am. Prof. Josy Joseph, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, SB College Changanacherry delivered the keynote address that covered various relevant aspects like the desired outcome and legacy of the conference. This was followed by an expert session on ‘AI and Social Science Research: Prospects and Possibilities’ by Dr. Arindam Das, Professor, Alliance University, Bangalore. The second session commenced at 12 pm and was on ‘To AI or not to AI: Levelling the Playing Field in an English Language Classroom’ by Dr. Anej Somaraj, Dept. of English, Christian College, Chengannur. This was followed by paper presentations and 11 presenters from various colleges within India and abroad presented their papers and answered the queries from the expert point of view. The Group A presentations were chaired by Dr. Harsha Viswanath, Assistant Professor, MSM College, Kayamkulam and Group B, by Dr. Patricia Robin, Librarian, St. Michael’s College. The next invited talk commenced at 5pm and Dr. Ammu George, Research fellow, National University of Singapore spoke on “Will the Invisible Hand Become Artificial: Exploring the Risk and Potential of AI” The final session of the day was on ‘Prompt Engineering for Educational Purposes: Effective Techniques for Leveraging Generative AI Tools in Higher Education’ and the resource person was from Columbia University, Ms. Michelle Stabler-Havener, Research Scholar in Applied Linguistics. The proceedings of the day were concluded with an interactive session and concluding address.

Day 2

Dr. Aravind Nair, Assistant Professor of English, S.H. College, Thevara had been the resource person for the morning session and the lecture was titled, ‘Science Fiction in the Age of AI’. After the vibrant Q &A session, the next session started by around 12.30pm. Mr. J.S. Ananthakrishnan, Senior Research Fellow, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Calicut, spoke elaborately and informatively about ‘AI All the Way: An Introduction to AI Assistance on Every Stage of Research’ and introduced several AI tools that would be of tremendous help during the course of research. This was followed by the second session of paper presentations in two groups, chaired respectively by Dr. Sharon D’Cunha (Assistant Professor of English, St. Joseph’s College, Alleppey) and Dr. Dhanya Johnson, Assistant Professor, St. John’s College, Anchal). The following expert session commenced at 5pm and Dr. Raisun Mathew, Assistant Professor of English, Chinmaya Viswa Vidyapeeth delivered an enthralling lecture on ‘AI and the World, Post-Truth, Education and Society’. The final session of the event was on ‘AI Tools for Research Purposes’, a truly enriching lecture by Sri. Jasimudeen S., Librarian, St. Stephen’s College, Uzhavoor. With a brief valedictory session, the event got wrapped up by 9 pm. Almost 150 participants attended the various sessions and there were 23 paper presentations altogether. The conference was a quite rewarding experience for the student populace as well as the faculty when it comes to the utilization of technological aids to supplement the teaching and learning experience.

CHIEF SPEAKERS



Two Day International Multidisciplinary Virtual Conference on **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** Recent Trends, Impact, and Scope

Organized by
The Department of English, St. Michael's College, Cherthala
and
The Postgraduate Department of English, Mahatma School of Management, Cherthala
(19th to 20th August, 2022)

"Prompt Engineering for Educational Purposes"
Michelle Stalder-Havemann
Assistant Professor in Applied Linguistics,
Teachers College, Columbia University,
and a Senior Instructional Designer at
Educational Testing Service

**"To AI or not to AI: Leveling the
Playing Field in a English Language
Classroom"**
Dr. Anuj Somnaji
Asst. Prof. & Research Design,
Dept. of English, Christian College,
Changanassery

**"AI and the World: Post-truth,
Education, and Society"**
Dr. Rajan Mathew
Asst. Prof.,
Dept. of English,
Christiana Vidya Vidyapeeth,
Ernakulam

"AI Tools for Research Purpose"
Jasminudevi S.
Librarian,
St. Stephens college Uththapur
Kottayam

**"Will the Invisible Hand Become
Artificial- Exploring the Risk and
Potential of AI"**
Dr. Aranya George
Research Fellow with
The Asia Competitiveness Institute,
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy,
National University of Singapore

**"AI and Social Science Research:
Prospects and Possibilities"**
Dr. Arvindam Das
Professor,
Dept. of Language and Literature
Programme Director
M.A. in Creative Writing & Ph.D. Liberal
Arts, Alliance University, Bangalore, India

"Science Fiction in the Age of AI"
Dr. Anaxind Nair
Asst. Prof.,
Dept. of English,
S. H. College, Thiruvananthapuram

**"AI all the Way: An Introduction to
AI Assistant for every stage of
Research"**
Mr. J.S. Anantha Krishnan
Senior Research Fellow
Department of English,
Sri Sankaracharya University
of Sanskrit, Kollam

"Art and Literature in the Age of AI"
PLENARY SESSION
Prof. Josy Joseph
Asst. Prof.,
Dept. of English,
S. B. College
Changanassery



A screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. The main window shows a man in a blue shirt speaking. The right sidebar lists participants: Durga Nair, Jasminudevi S., Josy Joseph, Ananda Nair, Anaxind Nair, Ananya George, Aranya George, Arvindam Das, and Josy Joseph. The bottom status bar shows the time as 10:15 AM and the meeting name as 'AI VIRTUAL CONFERENCE(Sessions)'.



A screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. The main window shows a presentation slide titled 'AI Assistant for every stage of Research' by Mr. J.S. Anantha Krishnan. The right sidebar lists participants: Ananya George, Ananda Nair, Anaxind Nair, Ananya George, Aranya George, Arvindam Das, Jasminudevi S., Josy Joseph, and Josy Joseph. The bottom status bar shows the time as 12:23 PM and the meeting name as 'Up-level-Topic'.

5. English Association Inauguration and Cultural Programme

The English Department commenced its annual activities with the grand inauguration of the English Association (Literati) and the celebration of Freshers Day on November 29, 2023, at the College Auditorium. Led by the Second and Third-year students, the event showcased scholarly enthusiasm and creative fervour, setting the stage for an intellectually stimulating academic year. Dr. Sharon D'Cunha, Assistant Professor from St. Joseph's College for Women, delivered an insightful keynote address, 'Embracing Future through Literature', emphasizing the relevance of literature in contemporary society along with its future prospects. The chief guest honoured the outstanding achievers of the department, Mr. Muhammed Bilal R. (III BA English, Powerlifting champion) and Miss. Gowri S. (III BA English, Logo Designing for a prestigious Cultural Event 'Thirayilakkom', organised by the institution). Dr. D'Cunha was honoured in return by the III BA student, Mr. Anoop E.N. by presenting a sketched portrait of hers, a work done by Anoop himself. The event featured a series of engaging activities, including cultural programmes, poetry recitations, and interactive sessions, fostering camaraderie and intellectual exchange among attendees. The culmination of the event left a palpable sense of anticipation for the year ahead, reaffirming the department's commitment to nurturing a vibrant literary community.



6. English Alumni Get-together

St. Michael's college English Alumni Association organised an annual get-together on 30th December 2023, at 2.30 pm, in the college auditorium. The second BA English students made all the preparations for this get together. They prepared a memory Christmas tree by collecting various photos from different batches. The meeting started with a silent prayer. It was followed by the handing over of Alumini Records to the new HOD who is supposed to be the ex-officio president of the Association. Fr. Titus Augustine made the welcome speech. Ms. Anjali K. Mathew, the Vice- President presented the report in the absence of the Secretary Mr. Yari Christeen. Dr. Vimsy Geo delivered the presidential address. The principle Professor Dr. Sindhu S Nair inaugurated the session by cutting the cake. Shri Sam Johnson presented the various activities of the department throughout the yesteryears. Fr. Titus Augustine read out the first draft of the by-law before the General Assembly. Reshma Chandana the vice chairperson of the college proposed the vote of thanks. The organisers also prepared an alumni board by framing its boarder with photos and they made all the members do self introduction and by posting their handprints on the board. The meeting ended by 5:45 p.m.



7. Beautification of the College Library

The third year and first year BA English students, who are gifted with drawing and painting skills, volunteered to beautify the library interiors with their portrait and abstract painting skills. Gowri S. and Anoop E.N. (III BA English), Dhanu S. Raj, Saniya S. and Akash I.G. (I BA English) were the students who transformed the library into a mesmerizing realm of beauty and inspiration, under the guidance of a Sri. Simon, the trainer. The students were lauded in the meeting conducted thereafter and were given prizes.



8. Excursion for Final Years

An excursion for the final year students was organized in order to make their final days in the campus, most pleasurable and memorable. 31 students, led by two teachers started from college on the 7th of March and visited the destinations, Wonderla, Wayanad and Ooty and returned safely on March 10th. The crew had a great time at the spots of entertainment and scenic beauty and came back with sweet memories to cherish for a lifetime.

